

ELGIN PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, August 18th, 2022 | 5:30 PM CST

Elgin Public Library Civic Center

404 N Main St, Elgin, TX 78621

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Vice Chair, Tiffany Finley.

Members Present:

Elizabeth Marzec (Program Manager)

Tiffany Finley (Vice Chair)

Brad Kilgore (Secretary)

Stacey VanLandingham

Carlos Gandia

Members Absent:

Katherine Salmon (Chair) - Excused

Charles Brown - Unexcused

II. Approval of Minutes – May 2022

Motion to approve by Carlos, seconded by Brad; all approved.

III. Citizen Communication

Tree folks rep, Valerie, expressed her concern about preserving the post oak trees at the new park entrance. The tree provides great shade and planting new trees will take many years before they provide adequate shade. The tree in question is conveyed in the handout that was presented at the Parks meeting for the new Thomas Park Entrance and parking lot. Living in that neighborhood she would also like to see the flag lot converted into a dog park and not all parking lot.

IV. Review

A. “Art in Parks” Public Art Plan Update

Stacey & Carlos received responses from the survey and they results were shared w/ the Board. The responses are available for review from supplied printouts. The survey is going to be kept active and a QR code is being created to be dispersed throughout the city to help get more participants. The current goal from the Art Committee is to continue to gather responses from the surveys and continue to gather information about the parks. Reaching out to the Elgin Art Association may assist the Art Committee to gather more information.

B. Park Histories Update

A handout was supplied at the Board meeting which outlines the updates. Stacey is continuing to coordinate and gather information about the parks. The project is forecasted to be completed in the fall.

V. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

A. Thomas Park New Entrance Proposal

On the community feedback responses, Thomas Park has shown that upgrades and more amenities are needed at the park. A large parking lot about the size of a football field is being proposed to be constructed on the new flag lot entrance. Adding such a size of parking lot would take away from

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available space for more future park amenities like small & large dog parks, a splash pad as well as a walking trail around the flag lot. The city arborist visited the flag lot site and is concerned about keeping the large oak trees on the flag lot. One of the trees is dead and will need to be cut down, but the remaining are healthy trees and should be retained. The Board worries that cutting too many trees and removing shade from that park would be detrimental especially since Thomas Park lacks shaded areas and the city arborist agrees.

The immense size of the proposed parking area is also a concern since drainage is already an issue at that park and adding that much impervious covert will make matters much worse as well as adding extra heating surfaces to the neighborhood and city. Large areas of impervious cover are to be avoided as outlined in the Parks Master Plan. The width of the proposed park entrance is 24ft wide. Madison St, which is the street used to access the entrance is only 20ft wide. A variance to the ordinance is requested to limit the 24ft to 12ft single direction lanes. A 20-40 foot buffer is needed around each post oak tree and this is the opposite of the parks master plan as beautiful and inviting. From the park survey responses, we have received input that Thomas is needing more trees and a large parking lot is the exact opposite of what the community is requesting.

The Board is requesting if there can be a study completed to justify the amount of parking that is being proposed. Is it possible to use extra concrete on a park trail that is needed and outlined in the Parks Master Plan? Briarwood and Stone Creek proposals were denied due to the amount of impervious cover and lack of trees and softscape suggested from the Parks Master Plan. All Board members are vehemently opposed to the proposed entrance and parking lot to the flag lot and would prefer one third to one fourth of the lot be used for parking. The Parks Board will need to be prepared to also show their support at the city council meeting about the new Thomas Park entrance if no changes are made to the current proposal. Tiffany Finley has volunteered to reach out to council members to discuss the scope of the new entrance being proposed for the flag lot.

B. Review and Update Recreation Center Guidelines

See handout provided at Board meeting. Times to accommodate high school students work schedules. Hours of Operation to be extended to account for the availability in the work force. Homework – Look over the document and see if there are any issues, missing information or if any information is unclear. Have responses back to Elizabeth by August 24th.

C. Review and Update Rental Contracts and Guidelines

See handout provided at Board meeting. Homework – Look over the document and see if there are any issues, missing information or if any information is unclear. Have responses back to Elizabeth by August 24th.

D. Robert Miller's Eagle Scout Proposal Final Draft –

Robert was unable to attend the Parks Board meeting on account of the weather. Revamped plan and made changes as presented from the board. He has decided to push the construction dates back to a more temperature friendly timeframe as well as change materials to materials that don't need painted.

E. Vendor Process – Forms and in writing with a plan to sponsor/sell

See handout provided at Board meeting. Homework – Look over the document and see if there are any issues, missing information or if any information is unclear. Have responses back to Elizabeth at earliest convenience. Things to keep in mind: Is there an added benefit

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from the vendors that positively impacts the community? Is there a mutual benefit to both parties and appropriate to the target audience? Is the vendor related to the event being applied for? Denials can be made at the discretion of the Parks Department if a vendor is deemed inappropriate to the event.

F. Recommendations for insecticides and other poisons in Recreation Center gardens.

A Formal recommendation by the Parks Board is being made to not spray insecticides on the gardens.

VI. Reports from Parks Director and Staff

A. Veterans' Memorial Park Status Update

City council advised the Parks Department that we get at least 30% of all construction documents completed for all four blocks. This was the most expensive option, but also yields the most improvements/amenities. Grants are still available to apply to help offset costs and improve the likelihood of winning that grant since costs would be accurate based on construction estimates. Elizabeth is meeting w/ 1619 & Kompan on August 19th to order the train playground. There is a 32-week delay for the company to design and build the playground. Fundraising will help with costs associated with the improvements.

B. Founder's Day Event and Gala

25 tables at \$1500/ea have been sold out for the event. A silent auction is scheduled of items w/ a starting bid of up to \$10,000. Members of staff are located throughout tables at the event to talk with local area banks to discuss the possibility of funding from community funds from the banks.

C. Recreation Center and Park Operations Update

Pool is closed for the season (kids went back to school). Rec Center aiming to be open later due to school schedule. A Recreation Manager may be added to the department on October 1st. The new Rec Manager will manage the front desk staff, recruit new class instructors, filling out the class schedule as well as hosting sports teams. A senior agility course was suggested for the Wildcat Walkers.

D. Parks & Recreation Events, Programming and Classes

See handout provided at Board meeting.

VII. Announcements

A. Upcoming Events:

See handout provided at Board meeting.

Next meeting date: September 22nd, 2022 at 5:30 PM @ Civic Center (Elgin Public Library)

VIII. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Brad, seconded by Carlos; all approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

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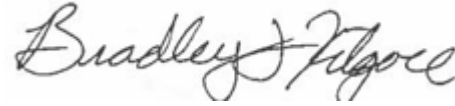
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Attest,

Tiffany Finley (Vice Chair)
Parks and Recreation Advisory
Board



Brad Kilgore, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Advisory
Board