

**Park Board Meeting
February 10, 2022
Meeting called to order 5:34 PM**



I. ATTENDANCE:

A. Park Board Members Present:

Board Member, Jacob Powers
Board Member, Lori Wood
Board Member, Michelle Musgrave

B. Park Board Members Absent:

Board Member, Don Mitchell
Board Member, Gregory Webb

C. Staff Present:

J.C. Kennedy, Parks & Recreation Director

II. Agenda Approval: Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mrs. Wood. Second by Mrs. Musgrave. Agenda Approved.

III. January 6, 2022 Minutes: Mrs. Wood noticed that Mr. Powers was listed as Present and Absent in the minutes presented. Motion to approve the minutes with attendance correction was made by Mrs. Wood. Second by Mrs. Musgrave. Minutes approved.

Highland Village Park Update: Mr. Kennedy provided an overview of correspondence regarding the project status since the last Park Advisory Board meeting:

Email Correspondence, Monday 1/24/2022 3:54PM

Hi J.C.,

My apologies for the belated follow up. We've been plagued by COVID and a number of other things that have slowed us down. I have received tacit agreement from our board that the City providing the funds for the second structure will work well. We do still have some concerns about prevailing wages regarding the City's contribution and a minimum we'd want to separate out the contract for the second play structure so the City's contribution doesn't trigger state prevailing wages on the entire park project.

We have a Zoom board meeting this Wednesday and we will talk more about this then. If you have specific concerns other than the not to exceed number please let me know. The not to exceed number that works in our budget is \$50k. My board may have some concerns if Community Frameworks and Habitat have to absorb all cost increases our way, but we are already working hard to try mitigate this risk.

John

John Chatburn

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Mr. Kennedy also informed the board that Lisa Patrick, with Allplay Systems, LLC reached out to him regarding the project stating that she was contacted by the Landscape Architect for a quote and playground design. Mrs. Patrick forwarded the packet that she created for Community Frameworks. This packet included site furnishings that are different from what we requested. This does not mean that this is what Community Frameworks is going to install, however they have stated that they are attempting to save money on the project wherever possible through value engineering. Mr. Kennedy reminded the board that we had requested specific site furnishings for the benches, trash receptacles and picnic tables.

Correspondence from previous messages to Mr. Chatburn:

We do request the flexibility to be able to utilize some alternates if we find an equal that is of a better value or if supply chain issues make a piece of equipment difficult (or impossible) to obtain. **As discussed with Michael Terrell Benches and tables and garbage cans selected are what the City has selected and installing in all upgrades to the parks system to provide uniformity across the system so we would want these to remain the same and yes they are taking a while to ship, we can be patient.** Other comparable substitutions would be fine. If you like, we can set up an approval process with you like a General Contractor would send submittals to an architect.

Our current plan is to have most of the expenses flow through a single contractor. If this is the case will you require invoices/receipts beyond those from the contractor? **No as long as you can show us something certifying that this is what you actually paid. Albert do you agree with this?** Some of our state funders require invoices from the General as well as the sub invoices to make sure everything is above board.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he will continue to provide updates on this project.

- IV. Department Update:** Mr. Kennedy provided an update to the Shorty Combs Park Project and the Landreth Park Project.
- Shorty Combs:** Mr. Bro has completed the removal of the old playground and site furnishings at Shorty. Most of the old fall protective material has also been

removed. Mr. Bro had difficulties removing the material with the backhoe sinking into the mud. The area will need more work to level out. The new playground has been delivered and is being staged at the Wastewater Treatment Facility pending coordinating the installation weather permitting.



Landreth Park: Site Furnishings have been pushed back again. We expected them to go into production on January 20th, on the 21st Mr. Kennedy reached out to the sales team and found out that it has been pushed back to March 21st.

Mr. Kennedy updated the board on the latest on the Mask Mandate. We expect the Governor to make an announcement very soon, hopefully as soon as next week regarding the removal of the mandate. This is a very welcome development and all staff are looking forward to no longer having to enforce this as it creates hostile situation with members. People seem to have moved beyond Covid Fatigue to hostility in more situations now and more often than not want to enter into a debate with staff instead of complying with the state law.

Mr. Kennedy provided information on incidents at the facility:

- Had an issue with 2 families that had to be escorted out of the facility for refusing to follow the rules in the aquatic center and, when asked to leave, refused to do so.

- Had an issue in the women's locker room where one member has filed a complaint about being verbally and physically accosted and assaulted. Also stating that she has been discriminated against because of her disability. Her membership was refunded except for the charge for the day pass for the day she used the facility.

Mr. Powers asked what preparation/training the aquatics staff receive to help deal with these situations and noted that he has experienced instances where overzealous lifeguards can ruin an experience with excessive enforcement of certain rules. Mr. Kennedy emphasized that life safety is the number one objective for staff and that Mrs. Amick reinforces processes during the In Service Training sessions she conducts with her staff. The next Aquatics In Service Training will focus on:

- Practice CPR, Recognition and response to Heart Attacks, Strokes, and Overheated Sauna Users.
- Importance of wearing PPE and keeping tabs on your work surroundings
 - Paying closer attention to potential exposure to trash, liquid or powder remnants left over from someone using the locker rooms and or bathrooms.
 - Moving back toward a routine cleaning every hour of used and or high traffic surfaces.
- Use of "The Buddy system" – Arriving, during and leaving work.
- Use of a "Kind Approach" from an educational standpoint to prevent an accident/incident/life threatening situation. Not every member or guest is going to agree with our rules and policies. It is our job to recognize and further respond to safety rules, and unsafe practices/actions. We will do our best to accommodate, and or make exceptions based on the demand and within reason. The main goal of the Aquatic team is working to gain better consistency and support to our operations.

With the amount of turnover and the young age of the staffing that Mrs. Amick supervises these issues are going to happen. She continues to focus on providing the best possible guest experience possible while also focusing on making sure that life safety is the highest priority. Refusing to follow instructions from the Aquatics Staff is not an option and when it occurs guests will be asked to leave. Mrs. Amick continues to focus as stated above on the "Kind Approach" however when people are being asked to adhere to rules that they don't agree with they take liberty with following our guidelines. Unfortunately this seems to be something that is becoming more common instead of the exception.

V. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Powers. Second by Mrs. Woods. **Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.**