

AGENDA
LAKE ALFRED PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MAY 16, 2019

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order: Chairperson Gary Johnson

Invocation: Chairperson Gary Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Gary Johnson

Roll Call: Those in attendance were Chairperson Gary Johnson, Vice Chairperson David Fawcett, Board Member Brent Eden (6:02pm), and Board Member Ron Schelfo.

Chairperson Gary Johnson made a motion to excuse Board Member Jones for not being there. New Alternate Seat Rocco Pilieri filled in for him.

Also in attendance were Parks and Recreation Director Richard Weed and Administrative Assistant Anaeli Quinones.

Meeting began at 6:02pm.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed covered the announcements. He thanked everyone that came out to Community Cleanup this past weekend. He also recognized the City crews with the upkeep of trash pickup since there were not that many trash bags picked up as in previous years. He mentioned the upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt at the Library and also at the Lions Park, Boat Races at the end of April, and the Sunrise Service. There were no more announcements.

Chairperson Johnson announced the recognition of citizens. Seeing no one, meeting moved on to the approval of minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: JANUARY 17, 2019

Chairperson Johnson asked to make a motion to approve the minutes for January 17, 2019; **Board Member Fawcett** made the motion, seconded by **Board Member Eden** and motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the next item on the agenda.

AGENDA
LAKE ALFRED PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MAY 16, 2019

NEW BUSINESS

1) DISCUSSION ON CDBG GRANT.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed stated that with the new Parks Master Plan and the CDBG money you can only do a certain amount of things. This is federal money that the county draws up and then looks to partner with the cities. Last year, \$30,000.00 was received and was put towards the Lake Echo Park. With a new playground, a new pavilion and mulch all round, that project was \$64,000.00 in total, with the \$30,000.00 from the CDBG Grant going towards it. You can only apply for this grant for areas that are economically distressed or ADA Handicap projects. Currently, we are working on moving installing the new playground and pavilion at Highlands Community Center, waiting on TECO to move the lighting pole to be able to put the playground with the pavilion. As part of the master plan, this will relocate the playground at Lake Swoope making this park a passive recreational park. This year, there will be a dock there, put a few benches in, and we want to add another pavilion to the existing one. Certain companies were contacted to get the specs done and the \$30,000.00 is enough to have everything mentioned done. This project was also approved by the City Commission and it will submitted to the County once those minutes are done.

Chairperson Johnson asked how long has the existing pavilion been there. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said since about 2010.

Alternate Board Member Pileri asked if the \$30,000.00 were just for one park. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** stated it was just for one park.

Board Member Eden inquired about the Lake Echo Terrace playground because it is still taped off. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** stated that there are a few safety concerns and still waiting on it to grow a bit more. Also a sidewalk needs to be put in for the pavilion and the basketball needs to be done. The playground was opened for the kids to play on it but once everything is done we would like to do a grand opening for it. This should be within a month.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the next business item.

2) VOTE AND APPROVAL ON PARK SITE SPECIFIC PLANNING.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed explained that there needs to be site specific planning for Central and Lions Park because they are the two biggest parks in the City. He stated that a lot of data was collected and he went to a class last year with the Parks and Recreation Association put on and he took the map for Central Park to know the footage, etc. He was not able to draw out everything that we want in the park. He introduced GAI Consultants Sheeba West and Ian Molgaard, who developed the Parks Master Plan to the podium. Sheeba came up

AGENDA

LAKE ALFRED PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

MAY 16, 2019

to the podium and talked about it being a privilege to be in front of the Board and how beautiful this town is. She gave a summary of the work she has done in other parks and history on their office. She then went to explain the visual presentation on Central Park (7 acres) and Lions Park (18 acres). Starting with Central Park she went over the assessment of it with the residential area that is around it, the elementary school on the northeast corner and explained why it is below its expectations. The concession building is worn, the fields are dated, basketball courts are aging, there is no specific area for parking, it does not comply with wheelchair accessibility, and it is harder to maintain. For these reasons, the site specific plans were recommended. She shared that the plan will still accommodate for softball, baseball, football, and basketball leagues. The biggest constraint is the size of the block, with trying to have everything already on there plus add more parking and better accessibility. She explained each element of the plan and said that we are going from having one ball field to having two, also a grand concession main building. There will be multiple entrances into the park and formal parking with about 60 spaces. There will also be a playground under the trees that are there now. They met with the local league teams to get their input and feedback to be able to incorporate everything into this plan with practice areas, maximize the ball fields, easy entry points, restricted vehicle access, etc. She summarized everything she went through. She asked if there were any questions. **Board Member Schelfo** asked if there would be a buffer on the outer edges. Sheeba answered there would be a low fence because they say how the turf was being eroded by the driving on it. **Board Member Eden** inquired about the dimensions of the baseball field. Sheeba said it is about a little league softball sized field. **Board Member Eden** also asked if the football field was regulation size as well. Sheeba said it was. **Board Member Eden** asked about the scoreboard as well since there were some issues with the last one. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said that the issues with the last scoreboard were with the remote and the charging portion of it eroding. The company that made the scoreboard, Colorado Gametime was nice enough to have it replaced for free but it had to be shipped to Colorado and it was not received in time until the last game of the season. He also said that because baseball was going into Central Park, it would be taken out of Lions Park. This is due to concerns with the marsh growing by the field and it cannot be mowed. He said this plan is going to be great and not cheap so it might have to be phased out. He will try to apply for as many grants as he can to try and get it done quickly. **Board Member Eden** asked about what looked like a utility shed or pavilion on each corner of the plan for the plan. Sheeba said they are pavilions with possibly fitness equipment.

She moved on to the Lions Park plan. It is not bounded by residential or a school like Central is. She talked about the Lions Club being on the grounds as well as all the festivals and events the City holds there. They met with the local people on how the park and the lake were used, and how maintenance takes place. She discussed everything that is around the park such as the railroad, the ponds, and the fertilizer company. Just like with Central Park, they want to keep every element that is there but improving it. She moved closer to the screen to point things out. The orientation remains the same except for the ball fields due to the sinking situation. For this plan, most of the infrastructure is not on the lake, it is pushed closer to inland, closer to the railroad. This is so that they are in a safe spot. Green space was shown, which is where the ball fields are currently sinking in. There would be a buffer planting area and a system of walking trails by the lake. The main entrance would be revamped, screen the railroad and have a formalized parking area. With the new plan, it would be around 160 spaces, which is still not enough for the Bluegrass Festival but more than what is there now. There will be an expansion to the Lions Club with a community center right next to it. The walking trail system would be about half a mile long. The drop off area would be resurfaced. Some of the walkway would be 6

AGENDA
LAKE ALFRED PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MAY 16, 2019

inch thick just in case you needed to drive on it, for example, the bands when they would go to the band/shelter location. On the other side you would find the splash pad and bathrooms, pavilions, boat ramp and a dog park. They're trying to keep the same programming on ample space and shaded area. Sheeba summarized everything that she went over. She asked if there were any questions. **Board Member Schelfo** asked about the backdrop for concerts in the green area shown. Sheeba showed on the map how they could drop off the equipment following the concrete to get to that backdrop site. **Chairperson Johnson** inquired about the type of lighting. Sheeba said there was no lighting drawn in on neither of the plans but there would be lighting at the parking lot and along the walkway as well. **Chairperson Johnson** asked Director Weed what time does Lion Park close now. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said it closes at dusk, that there is lighting throughout the park, for official vehicles, and at the parking lot for the Lions Club. **Chairperson Johnson** asked if that would remain the same. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said that with more lighting it is something to consider in the future. The splash pad would have to be shut down early. He stated that 10pm is when the basketball lights and the tennis courts lights go off. He also stated that our police officers check the parks frequently. Maybe something to consider in the future is to leave everything opened until 10pm. **Board Member Eden** inquired about the existing playground staying the same. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said it is in the same spot because we want to utilize the natural canopy there. **Board Member Eden** asked about lighting at the baseball fields. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said that they will be there. Sheeba said that all the fine details like lights, trash receptacles, etc are not shown on there. **Chairperson Johnson** asked if the oval circle at Lions (for drop off) would be gone. Sheeba replied by saying it is the same layout, just resurfacing it. **Board Member Schelfo** asked about parking down by the boat ramp area. Sheeba pointed to where they would be able to park. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said that they would be able to take their boats from that parking area to the ramp. He also spoke about the boat races. **Board Member Fawcett** explained about the process to have the boat races. He also spoke about CSX parking. Sheeba did not use their space on the plan. **Board Member Schelfo** asked about fencing to keep kids away from the railroad since there is fencing now. Sheeba stated that there will be fencing all throughout the appropriate areas and she showed it on the map. **Alternate Board Member Pilieri** inquired if the Lions Club building would remain the same. Sheeba said it would be up to the community. **Alternate Board Member Pilieri** asked about there being enough hurricane shelters in the community. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said the City does not have any hurricane shelters because most of the time those take place in the schools. He praised the Lions Club with how supportive they are with the City with all sorts of events. Moving forward with the plan, there are slopage issues that have to be looked at and the Lions Club having to remain active while the first phase takes place, then move in to finish out and continue to operate their bingo and everything else they operate. It would have to be based on demand as well. He used examples like the Mackay House and Highlands Center. The Lions Club will always be incorporated.

Chairperson Johnson requested the motion to get the approval on the site specific plans for both Central and Lions Park. **Board Member Schelfo** made the motion, seconded by **Board Member Eden**. Motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any other questions.

There were none.

AGENDA
LAKE ALFRED PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MAY 16, 2019

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the recognition of citizens again. Seeing no one, he moved to adjourn.

Chairperson Johnson made the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,



Anaeli Quinones
Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant