



PRC PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly Meeting

MEETING DATE: August 9, 2023

LOCATION: Rose Park Pool Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

PRC Board Members: Jami Clark, Jon Thomson, Laura Drager, Maia Dickerson, Melissa Henderson, Mark Sulser, Chuck Platt

PRPL Staff Members: Mike Pigg, Director; Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent; Cole McQuillan, Parks Project Manager; Jake Milliron Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator

City Staff Members: Tamm Rodier, Community Development; Elyse Monat, Planning

City Council Member: Denise Joy

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman Jami Clark called the meeting to order at 11:00AM

INTRODUCTIONS:

Citizens; Elyssa Leninger, Terri Porta, Phil Bell, John and Janice Roberts, Vince Long, and Mike Mathew

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Vice-Chairman Clark requested a motion to approve the May 10, 2023, and June 14, 2023 minutes. Board member Laura Drager approved both sets of minutes. Board member Melissa Henderson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was carried.*

DIRECTORS REPORT: Director Mike Pigg asked the board to move next month's board meeting to a different date so that Thom MacLean could attend. The board decided to move the meeting to September 6.

Mr. Pigg distributed a foldout of the PRPL semiannual report highlighting some of the things going on in the department. A QR code was included in the foldout to download the complete report.

Mr. Pigg gave an update on the department's current open positions: interviewing for the Park's

Superintendent position next week; Park Planner position is still out, currently have eight applications. Interviewing next week for two Equipment Operator Positions next week.

Board member Jon Thompson asked if the Park Planner position has been redone. Director Pigg said yes, it will include more planning, project management and engineering.

PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Recreation Update-Kory Thomson:

- Fall sports start this coming Friday
- Summer camps end soon; camps were 97%-98% full
- Rose Park Pool closes the 19th and South closes the 8th

Board member Thompson asked about the effects of staff leaving before the end of the season. Mr. Thomson said he hired over 200 seasonals so there should be enough to cover the end of the season.

Director Pigg asked Kory to give an update on how the “Rec2U” program did this year. Mr. Thomson said Hawthorn Park averaged around 30-50 kids and Highland averaged around 15 kids. It was a great success. He added that staff will look over the program at the end of summer and evaluate it for next year.

B. Projects and Parks Update-Cole McQuillan:

- Currently working on multiple playground projects; Castlerock, Arrowhead, Commanche Parks
- North Park playground is in the works
- Central Park Tennis courts final work is being done
- Ponderosa automated irrigation is done, staff will be doing a final walk through
- Arrowhead demolition is done and ready for the new playground

Board member Mai Dickerson asked if there will be any ribbon cutting for all the projects being done at North Park. Mr. McQuillan said yes, he believes so.

Director Pigg mentioned there are plans to do a grand opening at the Central Park tennis sometime this later year.

Board member Laura Drager asked if the slide at Castle Rock Park was done. Mr. McQuillan said it is on order.

Public Comment: Council member Denise Joy congratulated the department for providing great projects and conservation goals. She also commented on how great it was to see city departments working together.

C. Art in Parks:

Elyse Monet from the Planning department presented the “Mobilize the Magic City project”. This art project is funded in part by the grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and local contributions.

Arts in Residence Terri Porta presented a sketch of her art piece to be installed in the triangular park near McKinley Elementary at Avenue C and North 32nd. Her rendering shows a purple, lime green and

pink piece that will hold art pieces from students attending McKinley School.

Board member Thompson asked if the art pieces will be in the pink framed looking area. Ms. Porta said yes. Mr. Thompson asked if it was three dimensional. Ms. Porta said yes, they are angles welded together and within those angles are 6-8 faces that artwork can be placed in.

Board member Drager asked if the neighborhood was polled to make sure they were in favor of having contemporary artwork in their historic district. Ms. Monet said they have done some outreach in the area. There are plans to send out postcards to residents when it is going to be installed.

Board member Laura Drager made a motion to approve the art piece near McKinley Elementary.

Vice Chairman Clark asked for discussion.

Public comment:

The art piece is colorful, cheerful, positive, and uplifting.

It is a terrific idea!

Question: How tall is the piece and how is it funded.

Ms. Monet said the project is funded by the Endowment of the Arts and local contributors. No cost to the department. Ms. Porta said it is made of 4-inch steel tubing welded together, signs are made from durable signage materials, it is about 10ft tall and the whole piece will be bolted into the concrete.

Ms. Clark asked staff if they had any comments on the art piece. Director Pigg said the staff's only concern is with safety and maintenance.

Board member Laura Drager restated her motion to approve the proposal for the art piece at the McKinley triangle park at Avenue C and North 32nd and recommend that the City Council approve it.

Board member Jon Thompson asked if Council needs to approve it. Mr. Pigg said is still doing some research on the city's art policy. Ms. Monet said they are trying to get clarity on the policy. She suggested getting approval for the piece now until she hears back from Administration.

Board member Thompson seconded the motion. Board member Melissa Henderson abstained from the vote. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Tam Rodier from City Planning presented a second art project from Terri Porta that is to be placed in Pioneer Park along the trail closest to Senior High School.

Ms. Porta said this is an abstract art piece, made of 7-8 steel eye beam poles cemented into the ground with aluminum framed Plexi-glass lite panels attached to the beams.

Board member Platt wanted to know the whole size of the piece. Ms. Porta said is 15'-20' wide and 20' tall.

Board member Drager wanted to know the strength of the Plexi-glass. Ms. Porta said they will get as strong as material as possible.

Board member Thomson asked if there was any thought on landscaping around the beam poles. Ms. Porta said she had not thought about it. A public comment was made to add flowers around the base of the beams.

Mr. Thomson said he was not sure if he liked this piece in the park.

Director Mike Pigg expressed his concern for his mowers trying to mow around this piece without

damaging it. He said staff is going to have to figure out how to maintain around the posts. He did feel the location of the piece is in a good area of the park.

Tam said an environmental review must be done prior to its construction due to it being Federally funded and also have it go through a historic review because Pioneer Park is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Vice-chair Clark commented she was not sold on the pink for the beam poles but felt it was an amazing concept.

Ms. Clark entertained a motion on this art piece. ***Board member Maia Dickerson made a motion to approve the art piece. Board member Laura Drager seconded. Board member Melissa Henderson abstained. All were in favor and the motion passed.***

Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator Jake Milliron introduced artist Elyssa Leininger. Ms. Leininger, this art project is part of the South Side Girl Scout Silver Award. She will be doing a mural on the south side of the South Park Pool building. The mural will represent the diversity at South Park and is a symbol of hope.

Paint and supplies are being donated. The Parks division will provide primer, patch holes and pressure wash.

Ms. Clark entertained a motion on the mural at South Park. Board member Chuck Platt moved to approve. Board member Jon Thompson seconded. On a voice vote, motion passed.

D. Parks Board Discussion-Jami Clark:

Board member Thompson wanted to know what was going on with the promotion on the Parks Bond. Mr. Pigg said we are working on education materials to get out to the public.

AJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM

(Please note these are summary minutes; this meeting is recorded and available to the public for any additional information discussed)