

City of Alpine  
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting  
Judge Val Beard Office Complex Conference Room  
203 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
April 26, 2018  
5:30 PM  
Minutes

1. Call to order – Kirsten Moody called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. The meeting was held in the Judge Val Beard Office Complex Conference Room at 203 7<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Alpine, Texas.
2. Determination of Quorum and Proof of Notice of Meeting – Kurt Mannchen, Joe Torres, and Kirsten Moody were present. Norma Olivo was absent. The meeting notice, signed by City Secretary Cynthia Salas, read that it had been posted at 1:30 PM on April 23, 2018.

Others present at the meeting were Patsy McWilliams, Keep Alpine Beautiful coordinator; Ekta Escovar and Marci Havlik, both from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids; and Gwynne Jamieson, community volunteer.

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting – The minutes were approved with no amendment.

4. Announcements

- A. Ms. Moody reminded the board to complete the online training on open meetings and public information at <https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/open-government-training>. Each section is a one-hour long video. Members should print out their certificates and send a copy, or a picture of a copy, to Cynthia Salas at [city.secretary@ci.alpine.tx.us](mailto:city.secretary@ci.alpine.tx.us).
- B. Ms. Moody asked the members if they would mind adding to the meeting schedule for May, 2018, to allow for joint staff/board training by Jamie Rae Walker, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas. Ms. Walker has offered to come to Alpine to teach two topics, Parks 101 and Trends in Parks. Mr. Mannchen said he would be out of town, and Mr. Torres said he could be there.
- C. Ms. Moody proposed that, while the board meetings are generally the fourth Thursday of the month, the board might agree not to meet in June, November, and December. In June, many people are traveling, and the fourth Thursday of November and December are during holidays. The board members agreed to this schedule, unless the board needs to meet on important business.

5. Information and Discussion Items

- A. Review and discuss Stories from Small Towns, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions, published by the National Physical Activity Society – In preparation for the coming parks master planning process, the board reviewed case studies from small towns around the country for inspiration. Many themes arose from the case studies: (1) we should build relationships with other entities (area non-profits, the

schools – public and private, businesses, the hospital, the library, and interested individuals) to get ideas, hands-on help and, at times, funds; (2) sometimes you have to follow your well-thought-out big vision even if others are skeptical at first; (3) great parks and trails benefit the local economy; (4) don't forget beauty and good design; (5) part of the parks board members' job is to tell people our plans and get people involved – our monthly board meetings are a fraction of the time and energy we'll spend on revitalizing Alpine's park system; (6) find creative solutions; (7) don't let naysayers get in the way of a plan you know is good; (8) think of ways to integrate the parks into the city's life (a few examples were the farmer's market, sunrise yoga, and scavenger hunts); (9) talk with residents early and often about what they want in the parks, and when possible, provide what they request; (10) kids will believe what they see and carry that on into their adulthood – they can see us being apathetic about our public spaces, or they can see us prove that it's important for a city to provide healthy and beautiful public places; (11) it doesn't matter who gets the credit – getting it done is what matters; (12) funding for ongoing projects can be hard to come by – find ways to do the work anyway.

- B. Review and discuss of parks and recreation budget and the City budgeting process – Ms. Moody said that the City will begin planning next year's budget very soon. The new budget will go into effect October 1. The City will begin department budget meetings in May, with public hearings to follow. She said that the board should have their ideas for budget requests into the city manager by June 1.

#### 6. Action Items

- A. Discuss and consider making a recommendation to Council about buying equipment and burning stickers from the parks – Ms. Moody moved to recommend to the City Council that it authorize a goathead burning program in the city parks to eradicate stickers, allocating approximately \$500 for new burning tools and propane. Kurt Mannchen seconded the motion.

Ms. Moody said she brought a burning tool (Red Dragon VT 2-23 C Weed Dragon 100,000-BTU Propane Vapor Torch) to give to the city parks department. She said that if they like the tool, they could buy more and work to eradicate the stickers in many of the city's parks. She said she had been told that there was always a scramble among all the ball teams in town to schedule practices at parks where there are fewer stickers. The tools are about \$60 each, without the propane tank or dolly.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

- A. Discuss and consider making a recommendation to Council about a Movies in the Park series this summer – Ms. Moody moved to recommend to the City Council that it authorize an annual family Movies in the Park series beginning the summer of 2018, allocating approximately \$9,000 for necessary equipment and (to use for many years) and approximately \$900 for movie licenses for movies to be shown on three consecutive Friday nights in August 2018, after the Theater of the Big Bend season is over and before football season begins. Kurt Mannchen seconded the motion.

Ms. Moody said the movie equipment might be used for things other than the Movies in the Park series. One example of another use is a live stream of local sports teams in playoff games (there is wi fi in Kokernot Park).

Mr. Torres asked if there was a line item in the parks budget for capital improvements. The budget was consulted, and it was determined that there is currently no line item for parks improvements, only maintenance. The board members discussed the necessity for some city-funded improvements to the parks. The only capital improvements to the parks in recent years have come from individual donations and from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids (BBPaRKs), a local non-profit created to support the city in improving parks. It was determined that funding for this equipment would have to come from unencumbered funds from either the parks budget or other department.

Mr. Torres requested that we post an action item for our next meeting regarding new bathrooms at Kokernot Park.

Mr. Torres asked if we have enough parks staff members to do the work in the parks. A discussion followed about the number of workers and their level of expertise in parks work.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Citizen comments

Ms. McWilliams said that she would soon be starting a “Yak and Yank” group for pulling weeds at the parks.

Mr. Torres asked all to do a better job of advertising the Adopt-a-Spot program. He said he would display information about the program in his restaurant, Magoo’s Place. Ms. McWilliams said she would bring him materials.

Dr. Escovar said that many members of the community continue to tell her that they would like to have a splash pad in town. She said that BBPaRKs members have studied the options and costs of splash pads and would give that information to Ms. Moody.

Ms. Moody asked the citizens present about ways to encourage citizens to get more use out of the parks. Dr. Escovar suggested that the City develop a document that suggests things to do in Alpine if one has various amounts of time to spend in Alpine: for instance, a What to Do in Alpine if you Have One Day (a weekend, a week, etc.). Ms. McWilliams said that the Visitors Center would be the entity to produce that kind of publication.

Ms. Havlik asked if youth organizations had been asked to volunteer in the parks. Ms. McWilliams said that most of the parks volunteers are children’s groups. Mr. Torres asked if City staff had contacted the probation department to see if those on probation who were required to do community service hours could be encouraged to do that work in the parks. He said he knew people in the probation office and would talk to them about doing this.

There was a discussion about the US 67 Corridor Master Plan.

Ms. Moody asked the group to suggest people she might contact about parks meetings and work. The group gave her several names.

## 8. Adjournment – Ms. Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.