

City of Alpine
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 10, 2021
5:30 PM in a Virtual Zoom Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Determination of Quorum and Proof of Notice of Meeting

PAB members present were Kirsten Moody, Darin Nance, and Bibi Gutierrez. City staff present were Robert Llanez, Marci Tuck, and Chris Ruggia. Ben Struthers and Leti Carrillo attended as members of the public.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Kirsten Moody moved and Bibi Gutierrez seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

4. Announcements from Board Members

Board members and city employees introduced themselves to Ben Struthers and Leti Carrillo who will be joining the board in the coming months. Ben and Leti also introduced themselves. Bibi announced Sul Ross is actively looking into xeriscaping to lower their water use.

5. Citizen Comments

None

6. Information and Discussion Items

a. Update from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids

No updates currently. Fundraising is on hold and they are working on filling vacant positions on the board. Mentioned that the splash pad will receive their focus in the future when positions are filled.

b. Update from Parks Crew

Parks crew are fixing water bubblers and have finished winterizing the parks. They are buying fox urine granules to help with the gopher and deer issues in Kokernot Park.

c. Discuss any comments or complaints about parks that board members or parks crew have heard from citizens.

A citizen asked if dog poop dispensers can have trash cans welded to them, as they currently do not. A citizen mentioned demarcating a bike lane on State Farm Road 1703 (Sunny Glen) and asked if this could be included in any multimodal plans. Bibi and Marci discussed tying this into a broader conversation to include gravel bike riding options. The city can only match funds within city limits, but since this is a state farm road there are possible other funding options. A citizen

mentioned creating a walk-through or bike-through under the Sul Ross Ave bridge (near 16th St). This could also be introduced in future multimodal plans.

d. Update on Rain Garden Project

Ongoing project with Sul Ross where they've determined how to catch water in Poet's Grove and other areas of Kokernot Park which can be used to plant more trees in these areas. Other parks in Alpine will be receiving the same treatment in the future. Sixty trees are being planted. The parks crew is putting concrete curbing around two areas for the Kokernot project area. The Civic Center will also have trees added behind it in the future. Educational signage will also be included in the future.

e. 2021 Calendar

Calendar lays out dates of park board meetings this year. It also lists 3 possible dates for joint volunteer workdays at the dog park. Kirsten spoke with Jeanine Bishop at the Humane Society of Alpine to add quarterly volunteer workdays in the future. The March meeting is being moved to March 3rd due to Spring Break.

f. Discuss article from Parks & Recreation magazine.

Discussion of NRPA Performance Review magazine. May compare Alpine's Parks & Recreation Department to comparably sized cities. Alpine has a similar sized staff as other cities our size. The article listed the probability of having certain amenities for different sized cities; i.e. swimming pools, tennis courts, etc. Most cities have programming but Alpine currently does not. Bibi mentioned signage as an option for passive programming which is cheaper than active programming. Discussed using this article as a benchmark for budgetary purposes. Marci mentioned the city has to match, typically 20-50%, for park grants. Board discussed the \$17,000 budgeted for lighting in the park's budget. Possibility of looking into LEDs or lower cost lighting options. The city is currently looking into the Dark Sky effort with the Big Bend Conservation Alliance and Big Bend Ranch State Park. Kirsten asked about the solar panels at Kokernot Park and Robert said they are not working. They were supposed to power the lights and the pool's general area.

g. Discuss board members' selection of work areas from the parks master plan.

Darin Nance

Climbing Equipment - Cost is \$20,000 to \$60,000. With Pueblo Nuevo taking priority this should be postponed for 3-5 years from now.

Kokernot Tennis Courts - Mentioned getting the city to look at deed boundaries for this area to verify what is city property and what is school property. Erik Zimmer and Robert Llanez had an idea to turn some of the tennis courts into basketball courts, as that is a more popular sport in our area, but the school is currently using the courts for their tennis team. A conversation between Darin, Erik, and Kirsten will be planned in the future.

Bike Share - Met with Chris Ruggia and John Kennedy and currently the city doesn't have the money or labor to move forward with this project. Consensus preference would be to build a bike culture in our area or start a bike coop. The

bike community could work on formalizing trails in our area to market to tourists. The city of Alpine currently has Marfa's old bikeshare bikes and would be interested in selling those to any interested parties.

Bibi Gutierrez

Community Paths & Activity Options for Youth - She is looking into path options to connect Kokernot Park to Sul Ross. This would help community and high school students get exposed to Sul Ross. This could include lighting and a security telephone in the future.

Kirsten Moody

Kokernot Dog Park - Kirsten spoke with Jeanine Bishop at the Humane Society and she agreed to the dates mentioned earlier for volunteer clean ups. Spoke to Adelina adding more trees to the dog park as well. They currently have 3 trees but are adding more since there is irrigation already in place. Spoke to Adam Llanez also about building a shade structure there. She will send a sketch to Robert for him to estimate costs. Coach Mesker at Sul Ross had a lot of metal roofing left over that could be used for this. Shade structure could cover a partial amount on each side and be ~40 feet long; 20' over each of the large dog and small dog sides. Metal roofing runs \$3.50 a running foot so the cost would be less than \$150 for roofing. The Humane Society mentioned running a fundraiser for the project.

Signs in Parks - Chris Ruggia and Kirsten talked about signage. Past council member Olivas talked about Baines, Medina, and Kokernot Parks having signage for historical context. Chris did the sign on Murphy St for the county sign series. Those run ~\$3,000 each but they are high pressure laminate with 10 year warranties. They are also sun and graffiti-proofed. Hotel Occupancy Tax funds could be used for this if organized into the plan.

7. Action Items

- a. None

8. Items and locations for coming meetings.

- a. Next meeting is March 3rd, 2021 and it will be a Zoom meeting.