

City of Alpine  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
February 12, 2020  
5:30 PM in Alpine City Council Chambers

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## Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM.

2. Determination of Quorum and Proof of Notice of Meeting

PAB members present were Kirsten Moody, Kurt Mannchen, and Darin Nance. City staff present were Erik Zimmer (City Manager), Cynthia Salas (City Secretary), and Robert Llanez (Parks Management Foreman).

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Kurt Mannchen moved and Darin Nance seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Announcements from Board Members

Kirsten Moody announced that many people are wanting to get involved with advancing projects in the master plan. Interest has been shown to add benches, work on the skate park, as well as help with other service projects.

5. Citizen Comments

None

6. Information and Discussion Items

a. Update from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids, if any.

Ekta Escovar said the first movie night is scheduled at Kokernot Lodge on Saturday, February 29th. This will be a fundraiser for the splash pad. She stated all major fundraisers will go to the splash pad until it's completed. In the future they will likely use the Civic Center as the location as they will be showing a movie every month through summer. Grant deadlines are coming up so it's helpful to start fundraising to initiate private donations to show progress.

b. Discuss parks issues from the parks crew, if any.

Robert Llanez said they are getting the baseball and softball fields ready. They still need to put up shades at Baines Park, but they will need a dig test to verify the ground and gas before moving forward.

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

Discussion about the Old Town Square benches rotting. Nearby businesses could sponsor metal benches that would be more durable. Until then the parks department will fix the wooden ones and seal the wood. Also discussed the possibility of putting a free library at Old Town Square. They would need to install

a slab as the libraries are top heavy and can tilt if not bracketed down. Kokernot Park and Baines Park are also on the list to have benches added.

- d. Discuss ball fields and related issues with Big Bend Amateur Softball Association
  - i. Amy Struthers represented the softball association. The city has purchased a new software package that will be coming in the next few weeks. This should make scheduling much more transparent. Groups will make their schedules which will be added online. Amy said the main use is between April 1st to September, but Little League needs the fields before that time so they can qualify for All Stars. The city agreed to have them ready for use in March. Maintenance periods will be blocked off within the new software so teams know when the fields are unavailable. The software will also integrate with the city website for ease of use.
- e. Discuss improvement project at Nopalitos Park by Leadership Big Bend and city staff
  - i. Leadership Big Bend has recently met with Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Llanez. They looked at the parks master plan and would like to add trees, a small area of grass, and possibly a picnic table. The work would be in line with the recently completed parks master plan, which suggests the future use of Nopalitos Park as a trail head for the creek trail. The parks crew have started clearing the area. They are working with Sul Ross to use local flora. Leadership Big Bend are currently raising funds for the project and have set aside two work days (March 21st and April 19th) to begin. They hope to be complete before the program's graduation on April 21st. Discussion that this could be a good park for future service projects. The city will add a water tap for irrigation - this might require a dig test and an 811 check for gas lines.
- f. Discuss new ideas for parks service projects (everyone bring at least two)
  - i. Kirsten Moody mentioned clearing weeds, planting trees, and buying equipment for the dog park. Buying or building shade for the dog park is also recommended. At Baines Park, options include weeding the grass and flower beds, removing stickers, adding plants or grass to the entry area (blanketing with Lantana or Mexican Feather Grass). Painting games on the sidewalks, such as hopscotch or numbers is another opportunity. At Kokernot Park, Kirsten recommended planting trees, fixing up the raised bed with the Kokernot signage. She also mentioned adding a mural at the pool and restoring the bathrooms at the Little League Baseball Field. For Medina Park options include painting games on the sidewalks and planting vines at the entry. We will wait on fixing American Legion as a thoughtful plan needs to be developed for that park. We are also waiting on Pueblo Nuevo because plans for its improvement are ongoing. Options at Old town Square Park include adding plants, benches, and a demonstration garden. Nopalitos Park is currently being planned in conjunction with the city and Big Bend Leadership. Arbolitos

Park is part of TxDOT so any changes would need to be pursued with their approval.

- ii. Kurt Mannchen stated American Legion could include service projects to fix the wooden chairs near the fields and to replace wiring around the flora. The horseshoe pit also needs to be weeded and re-graveled. After discussion with the city, they will pull out the horseshoe rods as they are dangerous. The planters also need to be weeded and possibly replaced with flowers or herbs such as rosemary or oregano. There was discussion of moving the big rocks surrounding the park and instead placing them in more organic, natural placements in the park. Kurt also mentioned placing a mural at the bottom of the pool at Kokernot Park, but after discussion this is a safety issue due to visibility for lifeguards.
  - iii. Darin Nance mentioned painting or tending to the basketball courts at Baines Park and Centennial Park. Basketball nets could be added where needed and stopping guards so the balls don't roll off the premise. He also mentioned possibly painting a mural on the wall at the basketball courts at Centennial Park.
- g. Discuss possible changes to parks ordinances
- i. Discussion about amending words about consumption of alcohol. Alcohol is not allowed in any city park, so this proposal was dismissed. Discussed taking opening and closing times out of Section 74-3 and amending to only use 'dawn to dusk' for times for opening to closing of all parks. Discussed changes to Section 74-36 including stipulating board members must be citizens, taxpayers, or qualified voters of Alpine or within 20 miles of the city. Also proposed was amending the language used to remove someone from the board to include if they miss 3 consecutive meetings or 4 meetings within a year. It was decided that the proposed changes to the ordinances would not address a specific number of board member absences, but instead language would be drafted by the board to state that the chair is responsible for alerting the city council to any board members whose absence creates a hardship on the functioning of the board. Discussion to change Section 74-103 concerning drinks at the city pool to allow drinks except for glassware, such as bottles.
- h. Discuss possible parks improvements that make use of what we already have
- i. Due to the late hour, this item was tabled.

#### 7. Action Items

Discuss and consider making a recommendation to Council to approve a plan to build Pueblo Nuevo Park

MOTION and VOTE: Kurt Mannchen moved, and Darin Nance seconded the motion, to recommend that Council approve the plan to improve Pueblo Nuevo Park as submitted, at a cost of up to \$375,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

Erik said that the minutes of the meeting are sufficient to serve as the board resolution. Erik said that he plans to request that Council set aside half of the cost of the project with the understanding that the other half of the funds would come to the City through grants and other fundraising.

8. Items and locations for coming meeting
  - a. March meeting is during spring break – does it matter?
    - i. After discussion, the next meeting is changed to March 4th due to Spring Break commitments.