

City of Alpine
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
March 3, 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, Leticia Carrillo, Ben Struthers, and Bibi Gutierrez. City staff present were Marci Tuck and Robert Llanez.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Bibi moved that we approve the minutes from the last meeting and Leticia seconded. All members were in favor.

4. Welcome to New Board Members Ben Struthers and Letty Carrillo

Kirsten verified Letty's email address. Members were introduced in the last meeting.

5. Announcements from Board Members

Bibi discussed the trees being cut down on the Sul Ross campus. SRSU contracted with an arborist from El Paso on this project, but is also working with Dr. Powell for future consulting. SRSU discussed removing the cottonwood trees at Poet's Grove in Kokernot but Chris Ruggia said this has been taken off the table as SRSU advanced with plans on the renovation.

6. Citizen Comments

None.

7. Information and Discussion Items

a. Update from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids

Nothing new and the organization is still in a holding pattern.

b. Update from Parks Crew

The park's crew received fox urine to remove gophers and it seems to be working. They are also filling in gopher holes with topsoil at the fields.

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

Ben mentioned small trash items at Kokernot that may need to be picked up. He also discussed adding recycling cans in far areas of Kokernot park. Marci mentioned Adelina with the city could have a parks clean up event at Kokernot.

d. Update on playground equipment removed from Baines Park.

This was equipment removed from Kokernot when BBPaRKs purchased updated equipment. Pete Gallego has requested the old equipment to be used at married student housing at Sul Ross. It will need to be refurbished first.

- e. Update on Kokernot Lodge / Poet's Grove project with Sul Ross.
The city, SRSU, and local scientists are working on a trail system and adding recovered grassland throughout Poet's Grove. A Texas Parks and Wildlife grant will be utilized for this in four phases. Another purpose is to repopulate the ponds with effluent water and add bird blinds to the area. Pipe will be added from the treated water area to the ponds to move treated water for this purpose. This water is treated but not potable.
 - f. Update on submission of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Trails grant.
The TxDOT alternate set aside fund has a 2 step process. Initially the first process was due on March 1st but they extended the deadline. Marci learned that Hendryx Loop is a state highway and the current shared-use loop trail was done with TxDOT funds; from Hendryx Rd to Brown St. Phase 1 will close gaps in school routes and widen a shared use path along the western side of Kokernot Park. Improvements to sidewalks will also be made along Gallego St. Phase 2 will create a multimodal path along Sul Ross Ave. Phase 3 will work to update connections between the north and south. This includes 5th St, 11th St, and Cockrell and will make them accessible and bike friendly. TxDOT funds every other year so work will begin in 2021 and could finish within a 6-7 year time frame. These grants require an approximately 20% match from the city and would need to move to council to be formally approved before beginning.
 - g. Discuss "Questions to Ask When You're Stuck".
Discussed a PDF containing a list of questions from Kirsten.
 - h. Discuss board members' selection of work areas from the parks master plan.
Darin Nance got in touch with Erik Zimmer and the city. They currently don't have an interest in taking over ownership of the Kokernot tennis courts and basketball court from Alpine ISD. The bike share bikes from Marfa are still with the city of Alpine and Bibi may reach out to Sul Ross to see if they have an interest in them.
Kirsten Moody checked with Robert, but he hasn't had time to talk to Mr. Mesker about purchasing the leftover metal roofing for the dog park. Kirsten will research Juan Medina and the history of that park to get signage ideas for the park. She will talk to Chris Ruggia about what this looks like and how it will be done. No updates on ADA improvements.
Bibi Gutierrez is researching trail opportunities between SRSU and the new high school. She needs to view the public SRSU trail plan they have coming which is not complete yet. She'd also like to inventory the collaborative projects SRSU is working on to get more clarity on where each project is and who is involved. Marci learned the gravel road and bridge near the Country Club in Kokernot Park are public according to TxDOT. Ben Struthers and Leticia Carrillo will be choosing items from the master plan for future meetings.
8. Action Items
- a. None
9. Items and locations for coming meetings.
- a. Next meeting will be online on April 14th, 2021.