

City of Alpine
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
November 11, 2020
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, Bibi Gutierrez, Darin Nance, and Alex Tackett. City staff present was Marci Tuck.
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (October 14th, 2020)
Bibi Gutierrez moved and Kirsten Moody seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.
4. Announcements from Board Members
Kirsten announced the grant was put into Texas Parks & Wildlife for the Pueblo Nuevo Project on November 6th. The total project is about \$400,000 with half covered locally and half by the grant.
5. Citizen Comments
None
6. Information and Discussion Items
 - a. Welcome new member Alex Tackett.
Alex has been in the area for 4 years. She has visited Kokernot often and wants to get involved in the maintenance and beautification of the area. She is the appointee from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids.
 - b. Update from Big Bend Parks and Recreation for Kids
BBPaRKs was talking to the city about a possible Christmas movie night in conjunction with the Midweek Mercantile. This was cancelled due to COVID concerns but it may be reintroduced in the future. They also just finished working with Sul Ross Theatre doing weekend drive-in movies at Kokernot Park. The end of the year fundraisers have been cancelled as well due to COVID issues. A letter of support was signed for the Pueblo Nuevo Project by BBPaRKs.
 - c. Update from Parks Crew
No updates on the Baines Park shade structure.
 - d. Review new parks maintenance schedule.
The Texas Parks & Wildlife grant that the city just applied for requires a current parks maintenance schedule. Marci worked with the parks crew to create an updated schedule for this purpose. Possible additions to our schedule may include vandalism & graffiti, sports court inspections, and re-seeding /

overseeding of grassy areas. Also questions on the current disinfecting schedule due to COVID. It currently states 'As Needed'.

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

None

- f. Update about Apache Tree Grant Program

The Apache Tree grant trees arrived and all 250 free trees earmarked for community members were picked up. Fifty going to the Pueblo Nuevo Project have not been picked up as they are delayed until that project moves forward. Fifty more trees are being held to be distributed at other parks in the city as well.

- g. Update about the Kokernot Park / Lodge / Poet's Grove Project

Discussion on repopulating the riparian area around Kokernot amphitheatre, lodge, and surrounding area with native plants. A project map was created by the group leading this project. An early project on the city side could be getting the effluent water from the wastewater plant to the ponds to help restore them. The project would like to use runoff from the northern loop (street) to irrigate plants that abut the road. Bird watching areas have been placed on the map to drive bird tourism to the area as well. Possible use of more effluent water for the golf course as the storage tank where the effluent water goes is currently used for this purpose. Some of the effluent water from the wastewater plant gets dumped into Moss Creek near the water treatment plant. Possible plans to capture more of this water to be used at Kokernot for the riparian area, golf course, or other projects. The trails grant due February 1st, if granted, will allow more trail use through this northeastern part of Kokernot Park as well. This would require a formal interlocal agreement with Sul Ross. Discussion on the possibility to tap into effluent water for other projects that abut the linear pipeline carrying the water. Also discussion of sign standardization for this project with city parks and the possibility of its integration into an interconnecting trail system.

- h. Discuss Centennial Park improvements proposed by Councilmember Ramon Olivas

On November 3rd, City Council approved \$6,050 in improvements to Valentin Lujan Park. Improvements include the below.

- i. The sitting area has rough edges so those will have bench caps installed. A railing will also be placed on the back and sides for safety.
- ii. The water fountain will be updated and replaced with one that includes multiple spigots; one for adults, one for kids, and one for pets.
- iii. The dugouts will be re-slabbed and made more attractive and comfortable. The step-down may be removed for safety reasons. Safety railings alongside the dugouts are another consideration.
- iv. Four soccer field goals will be purchased. The fields will be practice size instead of competition size to ease up on costs.
- v. Planting more trees alongside the fence line and around the baseball field to provide shade and beauty.

- vi. Installation of two more night lights on the field. There is currently one security light behind the backstop. The new lights will also be security lights. They will be placed one on each side of the current pole to extend the lit area. Stadium lights are very expensive (to extend the playing time into the night) so it's unsure if those will be proposed in the future - possibly using hotel occupancy tax funds.

Also discussed the possibility of adding lights to the basketball court at Centennial Park in the future. Bibi mentioned the use of water bottle refill stations instead of water spouts for city parks, especially because of COVID and health concerns. This could be a project for Adelina to look into. Also mentioned the dearth of younger child play equipment at Centennial Park. This could be something for BBPaRKs to look into.

- i. Discuss board members' selection of three work areas from Chapter 8 (Recommendations) of parks master plan.
 - i. Kurt Mannchen (updates by Kirsten Moody)
American Legion Park updates may include T-Ball field renovations, walking loop renovations, new play equipment, grills, picnic tables, and shade structures.
 - ii. Darin Nance
Kokernot tennis and basketball court updates. This is currently AISD property. Possibility of the school district ceding this property to the city. Tennis courts could need resurfacing, wind nets, and possibly a new ADA entrance on the backside instead of the steeper sloped front. The basketball court would also need resurfacing, new nets, and a missing basket. Marci mentioned waiting on transferring the property until it could be gifted as a matching portion for grant purposes.
Old Town Square bike share and trail head. Property owner requested a second trash can if possible that matches the currently placed one.
Possibly mulching the plant area that abuts 5th street. She also inquired about fixing the electrical ornamental pole that is caddy corner to Porter's. Reached out to a Marfa contact that started their bike share program but have not received word back yet.
Climbing equipment. Have not looked into this yet.
 - iii. Kirsten Moody
Kokernot dog park. Alpine Humane Society is partnering on this project and could share some of the costs in adding a shade structure. Some of the Apache grant park trees will be added to this area. The high school welding program has volunteered to help as well with an estimated cost of \$4,000-\$8,000 for a 10' to 12' by 40' tin roof shade structure.
Signs in parks. Chris Ruggia has a format and theme for signage to be used in parks based on the one he's done for the Hancock Hill trail system. Kirsten will be working with him to move this project forward and implement the same signage design at other parks.

ADA upgrades to parks. Kirsten will begin organizing where ADA modifications are needed so they can be pursued in the future.

iv. Bibi Gutierrez

Looking into outdoor opportunities for young people and college-aged. Board could look into surveying youth to get some feedback. Options might include climbing opportunities at the parks, such as trees, or updating the skatepark if any needed. Opportunities for connecting paths and parts of the city so that kids would be able to get to parks they enjoy. One option could include a path from Sul Ross to the new high school.

v. Alex Tackett

Getting more shade into the parks. Alex will get in touch with Adelina to discuss the planting of the Apache grant trees and other options. Alex will also work with Kirsten on the shade structure for the dog park and with Kurt for shade options at American Legion Park.

7. Action Item

a. None

8. Items and locations for coming meetings.