

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSAL CITY, TEXAS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday Evening, 24 January 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Harry Westerfield at 6:07 p.m.
2. QUORUM CHECK: Chair Harry Westerfield

Commission Members present:

Harry Westerfield, Chairperson
Alexis Adams, Member
Mary Eddy, Member
Nick Ferguson, Member
Janet Tennis, Member

Also Present:

Randy Luensmann, Public Works Director
Maribel Garcia, Deputy City Clerk

3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Patty Garcia, Russwood Circle, wanted to recognize the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of the Commission. She also expressed her excitement for the following year and thanked everyone at the meeting.

Bernie Rubal, 635 Balboa, addressed his desire for Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA improvements for walkways in Universal City Parks. He used new Live Oak improvements at their parks as an example. He would like to hear the commissions plan, if any, for ADA improvements.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the November 22, 2022 meeting were unfinished. This item was pushed to the next meeting.

5. BUSINESS:

A. **Discussion on the City Parks master plan.**

Mr. Luensmann explained that this item would need to be moved to the next meeting seeing as the consultant was absent. He stated this put them further behind and the schedule would be updated.

Chair Westerfield clarified that the second public workshop cannot be held until the recommendations and priorities are set.

Ms. Eddy asked whether Ms. Adams could just read the minutes aloud to then approve them.

Mr. Luensmann said they could not because everyone should have time to read them before voting.

B. **Update on Cimarron Park Improvements:**

Mr. Luensmann stated that the contractor had begun setting up equipment, though they could be setback due to rain. He said next steps would be laying concrete, then turf, padding, and drainage.

He expressed his want for the park's completion at the end of February.

Mr. Ferguson asked about the concrete coming in over budget.

Mr. Luensmann clarified that this is a dispute between the contractors and the playground company, not between the City and the contractors.

C. Discussion on the Feb. 18, 2023 Snowfest Event

Mr. Luensmann conveyed that all vendors had been contracted and all stage events had been secured. He said Ms. Eddy had secured approximately 35 Air Force men and women to volunteer.

Ms. Eddy asked whether they would have only one bus to the event.

Mr. Luensmann said that the number of buses depended on the number of Air Force volunteers.

Ms. Adams asked if Snowfest is still signing up volunteers.

Mr. Luensmann said that volunteer spots are almost full, but they are always accepting sponsors. He said that Snowfest had \$25,550 in sponsors. He clarified volunteers only need to be 16 years old.

Ms. Eddy asked if the Air Force volunteers would be receiving \$10 per member.

Mr. Luensmann stated that they would be receiving \$20 per person.

Ms. Eddy asked if Air Force volunteers would be able to get their certificates from the Mayor.

Mr. Luensmann assured her he would work on getting these certificates before the event so that they could be handed out at the end Snowfest. Furthermore, all the Snowfest banners had been put up. He added that Snowfest has been advertised on Facebook by Regina Carmona, Director of Events. He urged everyone to not expect the number of attendees that attended last year.

Ms. Eddy asked if the commission could rely on ticket counts for a prediction of attendees.

Mr. Luensmann explained that online ticket sales had not gone live yet. He warned that resellers are already trying to sell fake tickets to Snowfest, and asked members to keep vigilant. He expressed his concern that the resellers would ruin public trust in the event.

Ms. Eddy inquired whether Snowfest would get more buses this year to accommodate a possible increase in attendees.

Mr. Luensmann explained that though he tried, due to rising costs, the cost was too high to increase buses. He said that they would mitigate bus shortages by rerouting buses to back roads sooner.

Ms. Eddy suggested that one person be dedicated to doing the job of traffic mitigation.

Mr. Luensmann clarified that there is already a dedicated person to the First Baptist lot as well as a person doing traffic mitigation. He stated that he met with different staffers of Snowfest to resolve

issues from last year with restructuring. He will have the assistance of an officer for foot traffic.

Ms. Eddy commented on the traffic light that was out last year.

Mr. Luensmann thanked her for reminding him to go check on the lights as he planned to check on both traffic lights and lights at First Baptist.

Ms. Eddy asked if there could be a counter at the bus station to ensure that the correct number of people get on a bus so that they would not slow traffic having to let people off.

Mr. Luensmann clarified that this should be the job of the bus driver, but assured her he would talk with bus drivers and helpers at those stations about counting to avoid this issue.

Ms. Eddy asked what the event hours were this year and what time volunteers should be arriving.

Mr. Luensmann stated that Snowfest is from 1pm-8pm and that he would like volunteers to be at their stations by 12pm since ticket sales onsite will start at that time. He would like volunteers to arrive anywhere between 11am and 12pm. He said that ride ticket sales would stop at 7pm. He stated that the snowslide would be brought in a week early with a new, more efficient design.

Ms. Eddy commented that they should have more tubes to accommodate more people.

Mr. Luensmann stated that they have talked about doing this. He commented that Universal City Snowfest is the showcase for the snowslide for other places.

Ms. Eddy asked whether there would be overnight police at the park while rides are there.

Mr. Luensmann answered yes, starting at 5 pm. He also stated that the volunteer meeting would be on February 8th in the Public Works building starting at 6 pm. 7pm would be when the vendor meeting starts. He asked for commission members' help especially with new vendors.

Ms. Eddy asked for Mr. Luensmann's opinion on how lines would be.

Mr. Luensmann shared that their solution for long lines was adding more rides with no single-person rides. He said duplicates would help with lines. He shared that tickets are \$15 per kid or adult. He mentioned the promotion of online ticket sales with a QR code to be posted everywhere. He clarified that everyone would be stamped regardless of if they paid in-person or online.

Ms. Eddy asked about volunteer resources.

Mr. Luensmann clarified that there would be a volunteer table and volunteer parking in fields 4&5. He also stated that a local karate place would help with parking and providing shows. He said the focus right now is advertising and the goal is for food trucks to be inspected and approved by the Fire Marshal before the event to avoid any problems.

Ms. Tennis inquired about a possible vendor, Gathering Brewery.

Mr. Luensmann stated they had not applied, but that Siplt had. However, they only want to offer

their children's drinks, or drinks without alcohol.

Ms. Adams and Ms. Eddy expressed concern over Sipit's reputation as an alcohol vendor.

Mr. Luensmann explained that this is being worked through.

Mr. Fergusson asked about sidewalks and foot traffic mitigation with increased attendance.

Mr. Luensmann stated that this was a first-time problem from last year and that they are preparing for it with crosswalks and floodlights.

Ms. Eddy asked if there is a set occupancy number for turning people away at Snowfest.

Mr. Luensmann said that occupancy is monitored by onsite authorities. He added the commission would have a short meeting after the meeting on February 8th, but they should arrive at 5:30pm.

D. Discuss Feb. 8, Snowfest volunteer/vendor meeting.

Chair Westerfield reiterated details of the February 8th meeting.

Mr. Ferguson asked about selling extra volunteer wristbands at the meeting and asked to notify vendors prior to the meeting so that they can be ready to buy extra wristbands.

Mr. Luensmann indicated he would relay the information to Ms. Carmona for the meeting.

6. COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS:

Ms. Eddy asked how the pickleball courts are doing.

Mr. Luensmann stated that he had not heard of any issues.

Ms. Eddy asked about the Cibolo Crossing park donation.

Mr. Luensmann stated that they had already donated park land.

Ms. Eddy made comments about park improvements.

Ms. Adams stated that her group had used Universal City parks and commented positively.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

With Ms. Adams moving to adjourn, Chair Westerfield adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Harry Westerfield
Chairman