MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSAL CITY, TEXAS

Regular Meeting, Tuesday Evening, 26 March 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Westerfield at 6:16 P.M.

2. **QUORUM CHECK:** Chair Westerfield

Commission Members Present:	**Also Present:**
Harry Westerfield, Chairperson	Randy Luensmann, Public Works Director
Mary Eddy, Member	Maribel Garcia, Deputy City Clerk
Janet Tennis, Member	Kris England, Former Member

Absent:
Nick Ferguson, Member
Judy Schindler, Member

Chair Westerfield noted a quorum was present.

3. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

- Patty Garcia, 132 Rosewood, complimented the great parks and thanked Public Works for grass maintenance; the ballparks looked great.

4. **OLD BUSINESS – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

A. Consider the Minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Eddy moved to approve the minutes with noted changes reflecting Mr. Ferguson's leadership of the meeting in the absence of Chair Westerfield. Ms. Tennis seconded the motion.

Motion to approve carried unanimously.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Update on Red Horse Park playground and pavilion improvements.

Mr. Luensmann reported progress and presented photos showing the pavilion, barbeque pit, and playground improvements. He said fence replacement was funded by Parks Partners. He presented specific completed pavilion-area improvements including gutters and drainage, bird nest mitigation, handrails, and landscaping. He stated a concrete cornhole area requiring guests to supply cornhole bags would be added outside the pavilion in the grass area.

B. Update on the Red Horse Park parking lot improvement project.

The Commission received an update of the project with pictures presented. Parking lot delays due to asphalt supply were explained. Progress photos of the basketball court were shown, including the installed retaining walls that double as seating around the court. A representative diagram was shown of the basketball court demonstrating the color of the court.

The Commission discussed lighting and hours of operation in relation to the surrounding community.

Mr. Luensmann and Ms. Eddy discussed water fountains and the installation of doggy bag stations. These stations would be installed at four parks including Red Horse and Meadowland.

C. Discussion on Veterans Park playground improvements.

Mr. Luensmann reported progress and next steps. He showed pictures of the finished swing set. Grass would be planted to mitigate mud on the walkway.

D. Update on the Athenian Park walking trail improvements.

Mr. Luensmann reported progress; he noted sidewalk widening and showed pictures of work and trail routing. He explained that the thin asphalt path was replaced with a wider concrete path at least eight feet wide.

E. Discuss future park improvement projects City-wide.

Mr. Luensmann explained that the City would begin budget talks in the next month and asked Commission Members for input on budget prioritization. He listed large parks projects that would be included in the FY 2025 budget, many of which were discussed during the Parks Masterplan meetings. He would work with Council to receive grant matches but noted that grants cannot be used to fund parking lot projects. He mentioned Kimley Horn engineers engaged to do design for Northlake Park; Kimley Horn has a good record of acquiring grants. Trail connectivity from Northlake to 1st Baptist Church would provide means to apply for a "Safe Route to School" grant. Mr. Luensmann also noted the Cibolo Trail Project which would require a grant match of approximately $75,000.

Ms. Eddy asked for Veterans Park parking. The Commission discussed reasons why it was not possible and noted parking only seems to become a problem during events. They mentioned alternatives through surrounding areas' parking availability.

Ms. Eddy questioned efforts to provide lighting at parks. Mr. Luensmann noted bollard lighting for walking trails at Veterans park along with security lighting at the UC Park pavilion. Lighting would continue to be funded, especially for trails. Mr. Luensmann mentioned lighting design efforts.

Chair Westerfield asked that UC Park be prioritized due to its use for community events.

Ms. Eddy asked about sign branding and standardization for parks.

Mr. Luensmann shared plans for space reorganization at UC Park. This included building a maintenance storage area for equipment used to upkeep parks. UC Park provided centrality and access to other parks. He reported he would wait for sign standardization design to consult Brent Luck, who worked on the Parks Masterplan. He would also be consulted for the UC Park reorganization and development.

After the Commission requested Mr. Luensmann thoughts for budget priorities, he presented a plan for the UC Park pavilion, currently used as a basketball/pickleball multi-use court, to be converted into a dedicated covered basketball court. He presented seating layouts. Pickleball would be moved to a different spot in UC Park. He noted that Mr. Luck's plan for UC Park keeps the pavilion in the same spot, making it possible to separate improvements to the pavilion from the overall reorganization of the park. The pavilion improvements would be funded from a budget line item for playground replacement. He also noted that walking trails were also a priority.

The Commission discussed recent pavilion projects and how finished pavilion improvements incentivize improvements for other parks' pavilions.

6. COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS:

Ms. Eddy asked about ribbon cuttings. She was told that a ribbon cutting for Red Horse Park would need to follow completion of the parking lot and basketball court.

Commission Member vacancies and reappointments were reviewed; no incumbents would term-out during this cycle.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

With Commissioners' consensus to adjourn, Chair Westerfield adjourned the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

Harry Westerfield
Chairperson