

**City of Carrollton**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**December 7, 2020 Minutes**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Annette Reese	Nancy Stallings	Scott Whitaker, PARD Director
Gerald Blase		Kim Bybee, Parks Mgr.
Suzanna Dooling		Heather Smith, Recreation Mgr.
Meghan Monds		Kara Dickson, Admin. Specialist
Willadean Martin		
Andrea Macaluso		<b>Park Board Liaison Present:</b>
DeWayne Tallmon		Steve Babick
David Taylor		

- **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Annette Reese called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
- **VISITORS** – Chad Averett - Park Board alternate
- **APPROVALS OF MEETING MINUTES** - Minutes from **October 26, 2020** were motioned for approval by Gerald Blase and 2<sup>nd</sup> for approval was given by Willadean Martin. All members for approval.
- **JOSEY RANCH POCKET PRAIRIE DISCUSSION**
  - Annette Reese gave a summary of what was discussed at the previous meeting.
  - Additional discussion about forming a subcommittee for the Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie. Annette Reese shared a questionnaire that Suzanna completed to clarify the specifics of the potential subcommittee. The questionnaire covered number of members, function, and scope of the committee. Dates and stages of the project were also discussed.
  - Scott Whitaker provided the location; what staff has done to maintain as well as history of Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie. Scott also explained the process of the committee recommending to the Park Board. After which the Park Board would decide what to take forward to City Council and the timing of the budget as well as developing the project.
  - Willadean Martin asked what are the issues that need to be fixed at Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie. Scott Whitaker would like a better plan in place to meet the needs of the land and how staff would like it to look. Suzanna discussed the weeds that have taken over, as well as adding small paths to improve access to the Monarch stations. Suzanna would like to transition the area into more of a learning garden and enhance the area to promote the butterflies.
  - Gerald Blase asked for more details on the members of the subcommittee. He also asked how the process would work with regards to the subcommittee recommendations. Scott explained the normal process would be for the subcommittee to present recommendation to Park Board for approval. If the

recommendations are no within the budget or are more costly then staff would take the Park Board recommendations to City Council. If the project is a bigger scope, then the project would be included in the Parks & Recreation budget process for approval by City Council. If the projects are smaller and considered more maintenance, then it would be handled by the Parks department. Suzanna also expressed the need to till the area and start over with planting more native plants.

- Annette Reese was concerned that the area be kept as natural as possible.
- Annette Reese asked if any members are interested in being on the subcommittee. Meghan Monds volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
- Willadean Martin has a concern about there being a member on the subcommittee that has some expertise as well as making sure the volunteers stay interested.
- Suzanna Dooling confirmed she is a Master Naturalist and she is interested in being a member of the subcommittee.
- Gerald Blase motioned the creation of the subcommittee to explore recommendation for the design and upkeep for the Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie and Annette Reese 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Park Board members were for the committee.

● **JOSEY RANCH FITNESS EQUIPMENT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

- Scott Whitaker explained the playground at Josey Ranch has been approved for replacement. He also explained staff discussions and what concepts have been considered so far.
- Kim Bybee presented a PowerPoint presentation about potential replacement options for a playground that would serve as an exercise option for adults at Josey Ranch park closest to the trail and football field. The options included fitness equipment and playground options from multiple companies. The current playground was built in 2005. In 2018, the playground was graded as a D. Over time there have been issues with the surfacing and drainage. The surface is a poured in place surface which has broken down over time from use and weather. In 2016, another playground was added in the nearby ball fields. The options varied from cross fit or fitness machines for ages 13 and older to options for younger children but still more of a fitness playground.
- Kim Bybee opened discussion by asking the board if they liked the idea of replacing the playground with an outdoor fitness area.
- Andrea Macaluso likes the concept of individualized fitness equipment. She asked about the individualized fitness equipment maintenance requirements, wear & tear and ability to be sanitized. Kim Bybee explained that the equipment is built to withstand the elements and take a beating and that some of the equipment is rated for use in prisons. Kim Bybee explained that staff does not currently sanitize all 29 of the existing playgrounds. It just isn't possible to get to all the playgrounds to sanitize. There are some new options becoming available such as sanitizing stations that staff can investigate.
- DeWayne Tallmon likes the idea of having individualized workout equipment that is located right off the trails.

- Kim Bybee explained that the new restroom building is also located right next to the area under consideration. There have also been discussions about dispersing individual workout equipment along the trails but since the playground is up for replacement, staff feels this is a good central location.
  - Gerald Blase also agrees and likes the idea of individualized equipment. Another consideration he brought up was about an option that appealed to both adults and kids by incorporating a small playground and individualized workout equipment.
  - Suzanna Dooling asked what options that could be included for Senior Citizens. Kim Bybee explained that the equipment that is rated for 13 and older means that it is for ages 13 to Senior Citizen age. Suzanna also expressed safety concerns for children on the workout equipment. Kim Bybee explained the design of the equipment is to help eliminate pinch points and that the smaller child would not be able to physically reach a lot of the equipment. There would also be signs posted just as there are at current playgrounds.
  - Annette Reese is concerned that the target audience won't be interested in utilizing the equipment at that specific location. She doesn't feel that your typical runner would use the trail, would also be interested in working out during their run. Annette believes a hybrid installation. The National Fitness Campaign offering is what she liked the most.
  - Willadean Martin likes the of the outdoor area for working out due to COVID. She is concerned about taking away a playground and making it strictly an adult area. She also likes the hybrid option.
  - Gerald Blase asked if there was talk about putting the areas around the Senior Center Lake. Kim Bybee explained that this playground is up for replacement, so it eliminated the extra expense involved in leveling the ground. The extra work required is too much for the budget we have right now.
  - Meghan Monds gave feedback from a perspective of a mother of younger children. She feels there are a lot of parents that are looking for ways to work out safely so she can see where it would be a benefit if the area would be kid and adult friendly. She believes she would utilize it no matter where it is located.
  - Kim Bybee and Parks staff would collaborate with Heather Smith and the Recreation staff to include new programming for the area as well.
- **CAMP WONDER SUMMARY**
    - Heather Smith presented the Camp Wonder 2020 summary to satisfy the state requirements. She provided details on how Camp Wonder started as a virtual camp and then transitioned to a social distanced in-person 6-week camp. She provided information on the Standards of Care details. She also covered the staff to camper ratios, parent communication policies, as well as changes that occurred due to COVID requirements.
    - Heather Smith described how the staff responded to the challenges experienced due to COVID. Details on how campers had their own supplies, tables were socially distanced, field trips were brought on-site rather than the kids going out for field trips. Drop-off and Pick-up was also changed to provide for social distancing.

- **PROGRAM UPDATES**

- **Scott Whitaker** presented a PowerPoint to show photos of what programs are still running even with COVID. The PowerPoint provided photos on:
  - Rhoton Park upgrades
  - The Nancy Lieberman Charity basketball clinic which took place at Martha Pointer Park basketball court
  - Trunk or Treat in Downtown Carrollton was a great event that was adapted so that trick or treater could drive through for trick or treating and see how staff decorated their vehicles and dressed in costumes for the event.
  - Saturday on the Square – Cocoa for Coats was a big hit, almost 500 coats and jackets as well as scarfs and mittens were donated at the event for Metrocrest Services.
  - The Veterans Day drive-thru luncheon at the Senior Center was very successful with almost 100 people registered.
  - Hot Dog Day Drive Thru luncheon is very popular.
  - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new playground at Harold Bessire Park took place.
  - Santa on the Square was very different this year. The reindeer was still downtown for photo ops, staff also set up a scavenger hunt and a virtual Santa visit. Staff provided take home crafts for the kids who came out.
- **Heather Smith**
  - Old Fashioned Christmas was switched to Christmas at the Perry
    - There was an elf theme and attendees registered to stay within the COVID requirements. Lights were also put up outside.
    - Registration was required and all spots were filled for the event.
  - Staff has started the AW Perry Outdoor Restroom project. Staff plan to take a proposal to City Council for approval the first of the year. The plans will keep with the time period. The design of the building will look like some of the other outbuildings on the property. The new restroom building will also have a storage area.
  - The rec centers have not seen a lot of change to attendance since reopening. For the most part, those that visit have been accepting of the mask policy and other restrictions in place. Outdoor programs continue to be successful with the cooler weather. The Senior fitness classes have been moved outdoors to Josey Ranch Field #6. The Seniors who are attending have enjoyed it and have requested the classes continue at that location after the Senior Center is open. Staff is open to considering the class at the location. Virtual classes continue utilizing Zoom.
  - Amanda Alms is the new Senior Center supervisor. She has a lot of great ideas for the Senior Center and is getting the facility ready for when we can open back up. A date has not been determined at this

time. Staff has started a Senior Facebook Group which the Seniors really like.

- This weekend Christmas Music Tunes will be happening in Downtown Carrollton from 5:30-7:30pm.

- **Kim Bybee**

- Staff has been busy getting all the Christmas decorations up throughout the City. Downtown and City Hall are decorated, and they are making their way around to all the monument signs.
- There were about 15-20 kids that came out for the Nancy Lieberman Basketball clinic. The turnout was great because the instructors were able to interact with all of them. The Community Engagement division from the Police Department has police officers there interacting with the kids.
- Mowing is starting to slow down. The contractor is down for the season. Staff is switching over to getting trees pruned as well as planting new trees, cleaning up landscape beds.
- Rosemeade dog park will have some sections closed for the next two weeks as staff fill in holes and replace or aerate the turf. Since the dog park is a smaller space it does get a lot of use which requires some additional work.
- It is tournament season, with soccer tournaments happening almost every weekend. This weekend is the close of the season. Once tournament season is complete staff will start focusing on some of the field maintenance projects before games start back up in February.
- Dan Gregg has started work on adding solar lights around the Senior Center lake. There will be about 12 solar lights going in around the lake. This will provide some lighting to walk with around the lake.
- Rhoton park renovations are almost complete. Community development grant funding has been used to convert the tennis courts to pickleball courts and a soccer court. Lieberman Charities updated the basketball court to a Dream Court. Lighting was updated and security cameras were added. The security cameras are live monitored at night. If inappropriate activity is observed, the security staff can hit a button and let the offender know they are being watched. The security staff can contact the police and request a dispatch to the location, if necessary. A new playground is also being added. The equipment has been replaced, and the surfacing will be complete in the next couple of weeks. Staff would like to schedule a small grand reopening sometime later in the Spring.

- **Scott Whitaker**

- Indian Creek Golf Club is doing well. There are quite a few restrictions, but people are still getting outside and golfing. The Clubhouse is open, and food is being served following the State restrictions for food establishments.

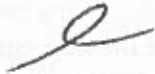
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Heather Smith**

- TexFest is coming up in March
- Run for Rover will be in February.

- **ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Macaluso and seconded by DeWayne Tallmon. The vote was unanimous with eight for. Annette Reese adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Andrea Macaluso  
Chairperson



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Scott Whitaker  
Parks & Recreation Director