

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

February 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

The Parks and Recreation Commission met on the above date at the Parker City Hall, located at 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas 75002. The meeting was open to the public.

Chairperson DaCosta called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Chairperson Frank DaCosta determined there was a quorum.

<u>Parks and Recreation Commissioners</u>		
✓	1.	Frank DaCosta (Chairperson)
✓	2.	Cherie Ware (Vice Chairperson)
✓	3.	Donna DaCosta (Treasurer)
✓	4.	Pier Burgess (Secretary)
✓	5.	Cyndy Lane
<u>Parks and Recreation Alternates</u>		
x	1.	Richard Pratt - Resigned January 2025
x	2.	Shauna Warmbrodt - Resigned January 2025
x	3.	Vickie Pilgrim - Resigned January 2025
<u>Public Attendees</u>		

✓	1.	Lee Pettie
✓	2.	Girl Scout Troop # 2171

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Girl Scout Troop # 2171 presentation and request for assistance for a pollinator garden project.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November minutes for P&R meeting were reviewed. Pier made a motion to accept the minutes of January 8, 2024. Cyndy seconded the motion. The motion was passed 5 - 0.

2. WELCOME CITIZEN ATTENDEES

Frank welcomed Troop # 2171 to the Parks and Recreation meeting. The troop consisted of 8 girls, Holly, Alice, Aniyah, Aubrey, Avery, Callie, Stella and Claire. They are 8th grade students attending Hickey and Dooley Elementary schools. Their troop leaders are Angela Stegmire and Tarrah Lance. Nathan, one of the girl's dads also attended.

3. PROPOSED GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

The scout presentation was very well thought out and each girl shared a part.

Stella explained that they were doing this project to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award. This award is the highest award they can achieve. To do this, a troop has to create a "Take Action" project. This is a project that is a long-term project that helps the community.

Alice explained the kind of project they decided to do which was to build and educate the community about wild life gardens. The type they chose to build was a pollinator garden. The scouts want to build this garden in a public place like the Parker Preserve, so that others can benefit and learn about wild life gardens.

Aniyah described what a pollinator garden is. Pollinator gardens help pollinators and other beneficial insects by providing food, shelter and a place to reproduce and thrive. She explained that the benefits to the community are that these gardens

provide a cool place to gather, reduce the heat index due to global warming and stop soil erosion. This space will not only help beautify the park but also inspire others to plant their own gardens. The scouts will plant native plants that are drought tolerant, heat tolerant, perennial, and low maintenance. Some examples of these are blue bonnets, butterfly bush, milk weed and salvia.

Avery continued with the definition of pollinators and their benefits. Pollinators are organisms that move pollen from one plant to the next. This is part of the process that helps produce seeds, fruits and young plants. This benefits the area by creating a cool place to relax, increased wild life and a home for pollinators.

Callie further explained the requirements needed to create this garden.

- Land – Provided by the City of Parker
- A location that is close to a water source and can provide shelter for nests – Provided by the City of Parker
- A food source such as plants – Provided by the Girl Scout Troop # 2171.

Aubrey described the major goals for the pollinator garden.

- Help wild life live and pollinate our area
- Teach people about wild life and pollinators in our garden.
- Create plaques with information about the plants, animals and habitats and other aspects of the garden.
- Addition of QR codes that link videos, which explain the aspects of the gardens and how to create one's own pollinator garden.

The girls concluded by thanking the commissioners for hearing their presentation and asking if the commission might consider their request for creating a pollinator garden. Needless to say, the commission was excited about this project. The presentation was followed by a photo session and time for Q&As.

- Project needs. - Plot of land, water source and trees to build nests. Need to tour the preserve.
- Area size - Size easily manageable for the girls maybe 4' x 6'
- Who will maintain the parcel? The girl scouts.
- When is the project due? This fall
- Would you prefer planter boxes or on ground plots? In ground plots
- When do we start planting? March or April.
- What kind of information would you put on the signs? They would talk about local wild life and habitats that live in the garden and preserve.

The commissioners responded with possible locations and recommendations. More discussions are forthcoming as we get more information from the scout leaders.

Mayor Pettle will help with any special needs that might need approval from the city council. Angela will be the point of contact going forward. At the conclusion, the commission accepted the proposal wholeheartedly!

Cherie mentioned that the troop might consider partnering with us with other activities organized by the commission such as the Keep America Beautiful projects. The scouts could combine their efforts and put together an educational presentation in the wild flower area on the same day as our cleanup day. They also might also want to participate in ParkerFest.

4. SET DATES FOR PRIMARY EVENTS

Keep America Beautiful Event

After discussion, it was suggested to set a tentative date for our Keep America Beautiful event for April 26, 2025, the first weekend after Earth Day. A date of May 3, 2025 was proposed for a rain date. Cherie made a motion to set April 26, 2025 for the Parker Keep America Beautiful event with a rain date of May 3, 2025 for a rain date. Clean up of the preserve will start at 9:00 am and end at 11:00 am. Donna seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Cherie was speaking to Larry Beal from the American Textile Recycling Service. It was suggested that we could do a textile drive and talk about sustainability and recycling during our clean up event. Larry would provide a bin for the rags or other material. We may also get a percentage of the fee per weight of fabric collected. The collected fabric is often used to create insulation and other materials. A boy scout troop used an event like this last year as a fund raiser for their troop. This along with the girl scout wild life presentation would expand our activities during Keep America Beautiful Event.

ParkerFest

Frank proposed a date of October 19, 2025 because it was the week before the weekend of Halloween, in keeping with last year. The rain date would be the following week, October 26th. It does not conflict with the Texas vs OU weekend. Although it is on the last day of the state fair. That had no effect on us last year.

Pier may be traveling to England and Scotland at this time on a garden tour. Frank asked to document it and do a presentation to Parks and Recreation. These hours could add to the ones necessary to keep our rating in the Keep America Beautiful program. Also, if Pier cannot attend ParkerFest, she will make sure everything is ready and can be set up for another group of volunteers.

Cherie made a motion to propose that the date be October 19, 2025, with a rain date of October 26, 2025 for the ParkerFest event this year. Pier seconded to the motion. The motion was passed 5 - 0.

5. CITIZEN SURVEY (See Exhibit 1)

Cherie passed a draft which included several topics. Selections would be ranked from best to least interested, with a 1–5-point system in a Google format.

- Programs – trails, education, fitness classes, entertainment, cultural events
- New Programs – suggestion of new activities in the preserve
- Accessibility – Very accessible, or non-accessible
- Sustainability/ Conservation – How important is it to you?
- Funding Priorities – What areas should be priority ?
Facility, Programs, maintenance, environmental or other
- Demographic information/adults – who are we talking to, age group, culture, male, female
- Children's age groups – What are the ages of the children in your house hold

Donna moved that we authorize Cherie to move forward to send out the survey after all revisions are completed and a test run are completed. Pier seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 - 0.

6. INSTALLATION OF ROSE BUSHES ALONG THE REPAIRED FENCE (See Exhibit 2)

Cherie requested we revisit the replacement of the Lady Banksia Roses along the fence in front of the wild flower garden. There were some Lady Banksia Roses (yellow, cascading branched with small flowers) that are a hardy variety that she saw at Home Depot recently. They cost \$ 43.00 per 2.5-gallon size. We would enlist Gary Machado for assistance in planting them. Cherie would like to put 3 or 4 plants along the fence in the spring so we could have more seasonal color there again. Cherie is thinking that more plant stock will be arriving at Home Depot soon. She is looking at late March to early April for planting. She will come back to the commission a more definitive price for budget approval by the next meeting. Pier mentioned that we should replace the Crape Myrtle trees that were along the fence as well. Cherie will come up with some planting options. The flowering trees and new rose plants will be a wonderful photo opportunity for people creating special memories.

Lee mentioned that both Chief Ken Price and Gary Machado would like to be invited to our meetings so they could have first hand knowledge of our projects and their needs. Frank will send out an invitation and reminder of the date and time for our upcoming meetings. They will be able to schedule our shared activities and they

can put them on their department calendars and work rosters so activities and tasks won't be missed.

A good example of this was the installation of the holiday lights during Christmas time. We missed setting them up due to conflicting commitments and tasks needed that were not on the calendar. Attendance in P&R meetings and a shared calendar of events will make projects run more efficiently.

Lee gave us an update about the road construction. There isn't news yet about TxDOT planting trees in the medians. Currently there is mixed information about when and if that might occur. The city is busy monitoring the construction and trouble shooting broken lines and wires.

7. PAVILLION AND OTHER GRANT PROJECTS

Frank recapped the last meetings items regarding the upcoming projects. The repair or replacement of the gazebo has moved to the top of the list. Frank has obtained pricing for each option and is working with his contact for further clarifications.

The commission has decided to start the grant application process knowing that we will miss the deadline. If we focus on a portion each month, we might complete the paperwork for next year. Frank created a google shared file with the application and examples of past grants.

Other items that were prioritized will be revisited such as the sound system. Frank is working with a person to develop specifications for a sound system we might purchase. A visit to the preserve to see what kind of speakers and amplification we need will be helpful. We have a budget for \$20,000.00 for a sound system. If it is more, we will approach city council for additional money.

The City of Allen should be reviewing their assets in a meeting soon. Frank will follow up to see if they decided to sell their stage. The question "Should we buy a new stage with the budget that was approved by council or should we ask to rent Allen's stage again?", was considered. Frank will ask if we can rent their stage when he meets with Allen P&R in case we cannot find one we like or if the city can't allocate the funds for any reason.

ROUTINE ITEMS

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continue with grant process

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Research gazebo project

Recruitment of commission members

Fund raising for ParkerFest 2025

Citizen survey update

Follow up with citizens request to plant poppies in the medians.

Inform citizens about bird migration patterns that cross Parker and how we can protect them. Create a Public Awareness of Bird Migration Seasons and How Can We Help Them event.

Follow up with the girl scout butterfly project

2. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Continue to monitor expenses.

3. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee will be March 12, 2025, at 5:00 pm. at Parker City Hall, located at 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas 75002.

Chairperson DaCosta adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Minutes Approved on 12 day of March, 202⁵.


Chairperson Frank DaCosta


Secretary Pier Burgess

Attest:

City Secretary Patti Scott Grey

