

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

March 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 5:05 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)
x	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 Pettle
✓	2.	Girl Scout Troop # 2171 leader Angela Stegmaier

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Girl Scout Troop # 2171 approve plants for the pollinator garden project.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February minutes for P&R meeting were reviewed. Donna made a motion to accept the minutes of February 12, 2024. Cherie seconded the motion. The motion was passed 4 - 0.

2. KEEP AMERICICAN BEAUTIFUL - EVENT DATE CONFIRMATION

It was noted that The City of Murphy was having their clean up day on the same day as The City of Parker. The question was, "Would this deter from Parker's event?". Alternate dates were discussed, April 12th and the 19th. After further consideration, both dates were not suitable due to one being Easter weekend and the other being spring break for our girl scout volunteers. The commission agreed to keep the date as is, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

3. GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

Scout leader Angela Stegmaier attended the meeting to discuss the pollinator plants the troop chose to plant in the garden. (See Exhibit 1). Due to the size of some of the plants chosen, the size of the plot would need to increase. The question asked was would the commission be agreeable to that? It was agreeable as long as it could be maintained.

In reviewing the plants, the Desert Spoon was the most questionable. The large spiked leaves might be a hazard if anyone was accidentally knocked into it. Other plants such as the Bridalwreath Spirea and Butterfly Bush are more permanent shrubs. They would need to be placed in an area where there is room to grow, possibly along the fence.

The question again was asked, should we make a space within the garden for the scouts or should the scouts have a separate plot to do their own garden? If a create a separate garden was created, there would be a need for edging. We would need

to revisit our earlier discussions for edging. Pier recently visited The Butterfly Park in Frisco and showed examples of some temporary edging that was used in their garden. It is a rolled mesh stuffed with hay or bark chips. It is usually used for soil erosion control. The edging can be taken out when the wildflower season is over so the area can be mowed. There were also examples of signage as well. We agreed to get together with Angela and the girls, at the site, to create a plan outlining the area and location of the selected plants. Cherie and Pier will set up a time with Angela to meet for further discussion. There are so many possibilities. Angela gave us her contact information. Her most available times are on weekends and evenings.

Angela Stegmaier angela.stegmaier@gmail.com
214-684-5036

The girls are also researching costs for bird feeders to put in the Preserve near the garden. The commissioners welcomed this idea.

4. REFURBISH THE LEGACY BOY SCOUTING STRUCTURES

The Frost brothers are wanting projects so they can earn their Eagle Scout designation. They have been talking to Gary about building bat houses. There are also some previous scout projects that are in the Preserve that have been weathered with time and not functional anymore. The scouts could refurbish the exercise stations, replace existing bird and bat houses, and mark the walking trail distance markers with something durable and long lasting. It would be greatly appreciated. There is no time frame for these projects yet.

5. CITIZEN SURVEY

Cherie was delayed in getting the survey out but will get it out this weekend. She is going to add a question asking if our community goes to neighboring events and why. She will send the first surveys to the committee as a test batch to make sure everything works, then Lee will send the email blast out to the community.

6. GAZEBO REPLACEMENT

Gary obtained a quote from the JD Turrentine for a new gazebo of around \$50,000.00. The question was asked, it is the city's responsibility to maintain the gazebo? Originally, it was given to the city by the Parker Woman's Club. It was Stacy Patrick's project that year. At the time the city agreed to maintain it. Lee suggested that maybe the city might partner with the Parker Woman's Club or other donors to pay for the cost a new gazebo. When the time comes, and the details, contracts and such have been worked out, Frank will present the proposal to city council. There may be a possibility that the city may reject the proposal pending other priorities. Lee feels confident that won't happen.

Lee agreed that many great photo opportunities have taken place at the gazebo, even weddings, so much so that she recommended a signup sheet be created to manage and monitor its use. The gazebo is such a part of the character of the preserve. It is hoped that we will have the opportunity to build a sturdier, similar structure, with the same character as the original gazebo.

We have 2 options available when building a gazebo. We can hire someone like Turrentine to build one that is custom, or, build one from a kit that has all the drawings and materials. Since Mr. Turrentine has never built one and has no drawings, we might get another bid from someone who's background specializes in building a gazebo type structure for city parks. The other consideration is to purchase a kit and hire someone experienced to put it together for us. This might be less expensive. More research is needed to make this choice. Cherie volunteered her husband to do some research for us in this regard. Pier was also asked to research who the arboretum uses to create their gazebos.

On a side note, Lee mentioned that the barn is also a danger to anyone who enters it. There is conflicting information regarding the history of the barn. One scenario says that the barn was built around 1886 and was part of the old Gray homestead. This version is on the website and also on preserve signage. Lee mentioned she thought the Bob ___?___ found it and brought it to the preserve in 2008. He and Ed Standridge rebuilt it where it stands today. More research is needed to verify its history. At some point we may consider some restoration of the structure.

7. PAVILIAN AND GRANT PROJECT

We tabled this topic for next time. Frank did want to remind everyone that the information and examples for the grant application forms are on google drive. Everyone has access to it and hopefully will work on it.

8. COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

We need to keep soliciting volunteers.

9. PARKERFEST

People are starting to schedule vendors for festivals and craft shows. Frank gave the go ahead to contact the petting zoo, face painters and balloon artists. He will let us know when the website is updated for this year so the vendors can fill out the application. Donna agreed to cut checks for any deposits needed. We have approximately \$5000.00 available in our account presently.

It is a good time to contact our previous donors. We think Republic, Knights Bridge and South Fork will donate again this year. The City of Allen has said they will loan us the stage. It's a good start.

ROUTINE ITEMS

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Continue with grant process
- 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
- Update about holiday lighting with Ted Brown

2. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Continue to monitor expenses.

3. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee will be April 9, 2025, at 5:00 pm. at Parker City Hall, located at 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas 75002.

Chairperson DaCosta adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Minutes Approved on 16 day of April, 2025


Chairperson Frank DaCosta


Secretary Pier Burgess

Attest:


City Secretary Patti Scott Grey