

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 16, 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 5:02 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 Pettie
✓	2.	Angela Stegmaier - Girl Scout Troop # 2171 leader
✓	3.	Ken Brown – Light Show Pro

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

2. CITIZEN'S ASSISTANCE FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Ken Brown is owner of Lights Show Pro. He creates light shows for public enjoyment, holidays and events. Cherie explained the commissions needs and some of the things we want to accomplish with lighting during the holidays. In the past, we purchased an assortment of decorations and donated lights. These did not have the impact we intended.

- We would like a LED light show that could be seen from the street.
- We would like it to have a theme and have a sequence of lights.
- We would like the company to be able to store, install and take down this lighting show.
- We would like a show that has the ability to be able to build an event around it and be interactive with the visitors.
- We would also like to decorate the city hall.
- We wanted a large lighted tree structure.

Costs were discussed. Light controllers and lights are not that expensive, about \$25.00 for 50 lights. Installation have fees and storage are extra. Costs are as elaborate as you want to make it. A simple light show could start at \$1000.00 and go up. He could reduce some of the costs if we market his company.

Ken will send us links to some of the projects he's done. He will also send a variety of packages with different costs. Lee and Ken left the meeting to look at possible areas for the holiday light show.

3. GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

Angela Stegmaier and troop created The Educational Pollinator Garden, a presentation which includes a scaled drawing of the pollinator garden. It started off with a group picture of the 8 troop members. The presentation included:

Reasons why they were building the garden.

- Environmental awareness
- Enhanced wild life
- Education

Key points about why they chose certain plants.

- Native and adaptive plants are used because they are sustainable and low maintenance.

- These plants are drivers for pollinator support.

- Plants are mostly perennial or annuals.

- A bug motel in the middle will be home to bees and other bugs that will enhance pollination or provide a food source for wild life attracted to the garden.

- Plant identification signs will create a learning environment.

- A QR code will link visitors to a video explaining all about pollinator gardens and how to create one.

The concept of the garden Design

- The planting design is informal and has a natural layout. There are 8 types of plants, one for each troop member. The 2 larger shrubs, Spirea and Butterfly Bush anchor both sides of the garden. The pollinator hotel is in the center of the garden. Perennial and some annual wild flowers are loosely planted around the shrubs and pollinator house. Plant names will be identified with signage. The plants were chosen for their blooming time.

- Some will bloom in the spring and others in summer and again others in the fall. Signs note the types of pollinators attracted to each plant. and a QR code to a link explain how to create a pollinator garden.

A tentative time line was established to construct the garden, weather permitting.

- A target date of April 27th is set to till and amend the soil in the garden plot. Cherie will stake out the perimeter. The soil will rest for a week to let the nutrients be absorbed into the ground. Planting and mulching the plot may take 1 or 2 days depending on the availability of the scouts. A watering schedule will be set up. Each girl will water every 2 days for 2 weeks until the roots are established. The girls will come back in the spring and fall to weed and maintain the garden. Parks and Recreation will provide the edging.

- The troop was encouraged to document the creation of their garden. Pier sent all committee members a copy of the presentation.

4. KEEP AMERICAN BEAUTIFUL - EVENT DATE CONFIRMATION

It was noted that early voting was starting on the same day as our cleanup event. Donna is going to call the schools for volunteers to help in this event. Advertising for the event is posted on the city web site and uniquely Parker. It is also on FaceBook. Donna is contacting the surrounding schools for volunteers to help with this event. Lee will send another e-blast out this week.

5. GARDEN AND HABITAT CERTIFICATIONS

Pier found out that we can certify our wildflower and pollinator garden as well as the wild life habitat in our preserve.

The North American Butterfly Association website has an application form to certify your garden. It is a one-page form and seems very simple to fill out. We should try it. Also, the Texas Conservation Alliance and the National Wildlife Federation and Texas Parks and Wild Life Department have application forms to certify your wild life habitat. We can do this for our preserve. These certifications let everyone know that our preserve is special and should be treasured. Pier will send the committee the links to review. Frank was going to try and find the biodiversity report and ask Billy Barron.

6. CITIZEN SURVEY

Lee put a copy of the Citizen survey in the newsletter. Cherie had already closed the survey but will open it up again to allow more opportunity for input. We had 83 responses out of 4000 citizens and 12-15 of those expressed interest in volunteering opportunities.

7. PARKERFEST UPDATE

The face painter and balloon artist has been booked. We have standing contracts for the bounce house and petting zoo. Frank has a contract from last year's vendor for the tents, tables and chairs. As far as donors, Frank has reached out to Rick Burnes at Republic for donations but he has not responded up yet.

8. GAZEBO REPLACEMENT

Cherie provided a spread sheet of some gazebo options. We must decide on the size, shape and building material first. She provided different links to some companies and pricing from 5 different companies. We will all review her document and discuss this information at the following meeting. We all might try to location some at local parks we could use as an example. There is one in Frisco just off of the north Dallas toll road and Cotton Gin Road. Go west on Cotton Gin. Turn right on Canal Street and it's a block down in the little park.

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 May 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm. at Parker City Hall, located at 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas 75002.

Chairperson DaCosta adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.

Minutes Approved on 14th day of MAY, 2025


Chairperson Frank DaCosta


Secretary Pier Burgess

Attest:


City Secretary Patti Scott Grey