

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING.

DATE: December 17, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
Place: City Hall Building
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicole Ekstrom, Vice-Chairman
Irene Hernandez, Member
Karen Watt, Member
Stephanie Wilson, Member
MEMBERS ABSENT: Kirsten Sippel, Chairman
Duvie Alcozer, Member
ALSO PRESENT: Ed Meza, City Manager
Ana Hernandez, City Secretary
Rendie Gonzalez, Bookkeeper
Bill Beaty, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Nikole Ekstrom at 6:08 pm.

2. Roll Call – Chairman Kirsten Sippel & Member Duvie Alcozer were absent.

3. OPEN FORUM - At this time, audience is allowed 5 minutes per person to address the Board on any topic. There is no discussion or formal action taken during this agenda item. A Speaker Request Form must be presented to the City Secretary prior to the meeting.

NO COMMENTS FOR OPEN FORUM

4. MINUTES – Consideration and potential action to approve the minutes from the Parks & Recreation meeting of April 23, 2019

Member Irene Hernandez made a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation meeting of April 23, 2019, Member Stephanie Wilson seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS – Discussion, Consideration, and possible action on any of the following items:

- a) **PRESENTATION** – William Beaty will make presentation on Walking Trail. (City Manager)

Mr. William Beaty addressed the Board about the town’s walking trail. He stated that this trail is the town’s gem. He stated how he started getting involved with the trail. He also noted how he got water to the trail. The trail is unique because it provides a natural setting; it has plants, water, shelter. Wild creatures are attracted by a natural landscape which is what we have at the walking trail. A lot of birders come to this area due to an online citizen’s science tool known as Ebird ran by Cornell University. This tool allows birders to enter their observation onto the app on Ebird for everyone can see. He has seen coyotes, rabbits, armadillo, opossums, raccoons, 179 different bird species, turtles, snakes, bobcats, deer, has not seen the Neil Guy but has seen its tracks. He thanks the City for supporting this and would appreciate if more can be done. Signage needs to be improved. He thanked the City and the Board and asks for continued support.

Member Stephanie Wilson asked if there are receptacles with bags to pick up after dogs. Answer: Yes, there is 2

She continued to state maybe more signage would help.

Mr. Meza stated that we also need better signage for the entrance.

Vice-Chairperson Nicole Ekstrom suggested we look into applying for grants for some of the things needed at the trail.

- b) **PARKS MASTER PLAN** – Discussion and update of the Parks Master Plan. (City Manager)

City Manager Ed Meza addressed the Board that at our last Town Council Meeting the Council agreed to doing the Parks Master Plan in-house which he is working on. He stated previous City Manager started with surveys and he is picking up where Mr. Vela left off. Member Stephanie Wilson asked if we have a completed plan. Answer was no that the first step was the surveys which Mr. Meza is reviewing.

Vice-Chairperson Nicole Ekstrom added that this area is growing. How can they acquire more money to get more land? How can we help? Timeline?

Mr. Meza said that we are currently working on them, but he does not have a timeline.

- c) **INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT** – Discussion and update on inclusive playground equipment. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza addressed the Board that once the Master Plan is complete, we will start applying for grants for the inclusive playground equipment.

Vice-Chairperson Nicole Ekstrom asked where this equipment would be at.

Member Stephanie Wilson replied it would be at Roloff because the equipment there right now is not accessible for anyone with any kind of disabilities plus its old and rusted and falling apart. So, it needs to be replaced no matter what, but it can be replaced with this inclusive playground equipment.

- d) **UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS** - Discussion of upcoming community events. (City Manager)
 - i. Duathlon

Mr. Meza addressed the Board that Town Council has stated that anyone wanting to have a fundraiser in our City must present their request to the City Council for approval because we were getting several requests and it takes the time from officers and city staff.

Member Karen Watt addressed board that we are having our 4th Annual Duathlon, which is run, bike, run. We get runners from all over. All activity is in the park. She gave the route and stated that there will be a kid run. All funds generated are donated to AMI Kids. At this time there are 70 registered participants once closer to the event that number will double. The event is sanctioned by USA Triathlon. Event is being

promoted on Facebook, Instagram, Laguna Vista’s Facebook page.

Stephanie Wilson added that this is a great event from beginners to more experienced athletes.

ii. Easter Egg Hunt March 28

Easter Event was discussed and the possible date. Along with planned activities and ideas.

iii. Music By the Bay April 2021

iv. Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony May 31, 2021

v. Fourth of July Celebration – Scheduled for July 2, 2021

All the events were discussed, and ideas were provided for all.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chairperson adjourned meeting at 7:03 pm.

Nicole Ekstrom, Vice-Chairperson

Attest:

Ana Hernandez, City Secretary