

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE
CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS
HELD IN THE CITY HALL 4301 CITY POINT DRIVE
JUNE 7, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kusmierski called the meeting to order June 7, 2021 at 6:02 p.m.

Present:

Marty Kusmierski, Chair, Place 5
Mike Filis, Vice-Chair, Place 7
Tracye Lewis, Board Member, Place 1 (present at 6:04 p.m.)
Kate Beck, Board Member, Place 2
Vanessa Copeland, Board Member, Place 4

Absent:

Russell Mitchell, Board Member, Place 3
Diane Spradling, Board Member, Place 6
Kenneth Reeves, Board Alternate

Staff Present:

Adrien Pekurney, Director Parks and Recreation
Frank Perez, NRH2O General Manager
Joe Pack, Senior Park Planner
Gary Bechthold, Park Superintendent
Antonio Evangelista, Recreation Operations Manager
Christina Lopez, Office Coordinator
Cindy Dobbs, Secretary

B.1 CITIZEN PRESENTATION

There were no requests to speak from the public.

B.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests to speak from the public.

C. ACTION ITEMS

C.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2021 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING.

APPROVED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER BECK, SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER COPELAND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2021 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING.

MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED 4-0.

D. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

D.1 YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Adrien Pekurney, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced the two representatives from Richland Youth Association that were in attendance at the meeting: Mr. Ben Earley and Ms. Blair Armfield. Ms. Armfield presented RYA's annual report to the Parks and Recreation Board.

D.2 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) GRANT PROJECTS FOR TRAILS, ROADWAY AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS PRESENTATION

Mr. Joe Pack, Senior Park Planner, gave an update on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Project known as North Richland Hills Active Transportation Projects for Trails and On-Road Systems. Projects include bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements at various locations throughout the city. Bids have been opened and construction is anticipated to begin at the end of summer.

E. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

E.1 COMMON GROUND NRH COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Ms. Adrien Pekurney, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided an update on the NRH Common Grounds Community Garden.

In January 2021, the City of NRH explored the possibility of purchasing the property from the Davis Boulevard United Methodist Church where the Community Garden is located. The City is in the final phase of purchasing the property located at 5301 Davis Blvd. As a result, the Community Garden will continue at its current location.

Current Park Board Member Ms. Dianne Spradling has been the garden's coordinator for over 11 years. She will be stepping away from the coordinator position and has passed

on the responsibility to Ms. Rachel Howe.

E.2 NRH2O FAMILY WATER PARK UPDATE

Mr. Frank Perez, NRH2O General Manager, provided an update on activities at NRH2O Family Water Park.

-NRH2O opened on May 8, 2021 for its 27th season. Sales are on-track with their 2019 season,

-NRH2O's annual Music Festival returned in 2021 with a reduced schedule. Overall attendance reached 2,500 guests. Registrations for the 2022 festival are in-line with the 2019 festival, which was the largest overall event at the water park.

-Fireworks are planned at NRH2O on June 12, July 10 and August 7, 2021. A variety of featured music is planned with a summer theme. Dive-In Movies will resume playing on Friday nights at the NRH2Ocean.

-The 2021 World's Largest Swim Lesson will take place on June 17, 2021. This will be the 12th year for the global event. NRH2O Family Water Park has been participating in this annual event since the first year in 2010. The water park will be partnering with local radio station 96.3 KSCS to include a live remote during this event.

E.3 PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Joe Pack, Senior Park Planner, provided an update on capital projects.

-Fossil Creek Mountain Bike Trail is complete. There are a few touch-up items that need to be addressed once the area dries up after the rain.

-Linda Spurlock Park Renovation is complete. Mr. Pack expressed his appreciation to Dunaway & Assoc. as well as park operations staff for their hard work in completing and maintaining this project.

E.4 PARKS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Gary Bechthold, Parks Superintendent, provided an update on parks maintenance and operations activities.

-Fountains at HomeTown (north pond) and Green Valley Park have both been in need of repairs. The HomeTown fountain was struck by lightning and has to be replaced. The fountain has been ordered and will be installed soon. The motor went out on the Green Valley fountain and has already been replaced. The HomeTown dock has also been

June 07, 2021

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Page 3 of 6

repainted.

-Park staff are systematically removing and replacing landscape and shrubs at city facilities as well as park sites that were damaged after the February winter storm. An estimated 80 established trees were lost among numerous other botanicals.

-Spring youth and adult sport leagues are complete. Park maintenance staff has begun preparing fields for summer tournaments, camps and games.

-Park staff constructed a cedar plank wall around the Fossil Creek Park port-a-lets. Improvements on the Fossil Creek parking lot continues with the addition of boulders for vehicle control, securing the parking concrete wheel stops and installing an entrance gate for emergency vehicles.

-A memorial bench and pad was recently installed near the HomeTown Dock.

E.5 NRH CENTRE, GRAND HALL, ATHLETICS, SENIOR CENTER, RICHLAND TENNIS CENTER, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Antonio Evangelista, Recreation Operations Manager, provided an update on activities at the NRH Centre, Grand Hall, Senior Center, Richland Tennis Center as well as Programs and Services.

-The NRH Centre is currently running 9th Anniversary specials. They have seen an increase in memberships recently. NRH Centre Youth Programs are open for enrollment. Camp NRH is in their second week. They are at 99% registration capacity with 862 kids registered out of a possible 870.

-NRH Centre Aquatics has continued to do well through COVID. Their Summer Swim Session recently began with 279 registered, with registration still open. A small team of swim instructors have been in training the last couple of weeks for kids with special needs. The Centre received a small grant last year to be able to add this new program. Staff is hoping this will help fill a void in our community.

-The first Mayor's Bike Ride of 2021 was held on May 4 at Green Valley Park with 82 participants. The June 1 ride welcomed special guest, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price along with 88 riders to Cross Timbers Park. The next ride is scheduled for July 13 at the NRH Centre.

-Indoor Athletics are back in full swing at the NRH Centre with Average Joes Basketball and Indoor Coed Volleyball.

-The Grand Hall hosted 37 events in May 2021 and closed out their 5th highest month in

June 07, 2021

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Page 4 of 6

the facility's history with \$54,672.40 in revenue. July and August bookings are light, as they historically have been. They are on trend for a busy fall and holiday season.

-The NRH Senior Center re-opened on June 1, 2021 after the COVID closure. Phased programming continues as well as daily engagement opportunities through Facebook, the center's webpage and the emailed monthly newsletter. They have had 34 seniors volunteer to assist with cleaning and other needed areas. Volunteer training was held prior to opening where COVID as well as day-to-day safety guidelines were implemented.

-Community Partners continue to assist with monthly programming at the Senior Center. Green Valley Healthcare and Rehabilitation, the Conservatory of Keller Town Center, Dean Owen, Attorney at Law and Nation's Insurance Solutions are businesses that have recently contributed to the Center's activities.

-Richland Tennis Center has continued to do well during COVID. The May 22-23 UTR tournament had over 193 players registered. Monthly tournaments continue later in June as well as another scheduled in July. These tournaments average 175+ players for each tournament. RTC's Summer Programs include "Tennis in the Parks" where group lessons will be conducted at Northfield Park as well as a tennis and golf camp in cooperation with Iron Horse Golf Course.

-After a postponement of the 2021 Sounds of Spring Concert Series due to COVID, live music returns to NRH City Hall with four free Friday evening concerts from September 10 through October 1, 2021. The NRH Pop Up Gallery "NRH Scenic Spot" digital art exhibition was available online between May 11 and May 27. A live and in-person gallery exhibition is being planned for November 2021.

F. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

F.1 COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTHLY REPORTS (MARCH - APRIL) PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD UPDATES (APRIL - MAY)

Chair Marty Kusmierski announced that she will not be seeking re-appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board. She is stepping down from the Board to allow others the opportunity to serve.

Ms. Adrien Pekurney expressed her gratitude to Chair Kusmierski for her 19 years of service on the board. A plaque was then presented as thanks for her support and her being an advocate for the NRH Parks and Recreation Department and park system all of these years.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kusmierski adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.



Marty Kusmierski, Chair

ATTEST:



Christina Lopez
Parks and Recreation Office Coordinator