

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE  
CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS  
HELD IN THE CITY HALL 4301 CITY POINT DRIVE  
FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Copeland called the meeting to order February 6, 2023 at 6:02 p.m.

**Present:**

Vanessa Copeland, Chair, Place 4  
Tracye Lewis, Vice-Chair, Place 1  
Kate Beck, Place 2  
Russ Mitchell, Place 3  
Casey Daniel, Place 5  
Brad Evans, Place 6  
Russ Murdock, Place 7  
Sammy Robison, Alternate

**Staff Members:**

Adrien Pekurney, Director  
Antonio Evangelista, Assistant Director  
Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director  
Michael Wilson, Park Planning Manager  
Stephanie Hee-Johnston, NRH2O Assistant General Manager  
Matt Johnston, Parks Superintendent  
Cindy Dobbs, Office Coordinator

**A.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no requests to speak from the public.

**B. ACTION ITEMS**

**B.1 APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING.**

**APPROVED**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER MITCHELL, SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER DANIEL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING.**

**MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED 8-0.**

**C. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**C.1 YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS FOR 2022**

Chair Copeland introduced Mr. Steven Linford, Fields Director for Birdville Area Youth Futbol Alliance (BAYFA). Mr. Linford presented BAYFA's annual report to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chair Copeland introduced Richard Stutheit, Director of Recreational Baseball for Richland Youth Association (RYA). Mr. Stutheit presented RYA's annual report to the Parks and Recreation Board. RYA's Vice-President, Ben Earley was also in attendance.

**D. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

**D.1 NRH2O FAMILY WATER PARK UPDATE**

Ms. Stephanie Hee-Johnston, NRH2O Assistant General Manager, provided an update on activities at NRH2O Family Water Park.

-Interview process will begin to hire 400 plus seasonal team members for the upcoming season. They will hold a rehire party on February 9. Staff training will begin in late February and early March. Full time and supervisory team will attend management training, leadership training and then general orientation for all seasonal team members. All team members will see an increase of \$1 an hour to their starting salary. These salary increases will be paid for by an increase to the season pass prices.

-NRH2O hosted the annual Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 4. Fifty eight plungers braved the chilly 40 degree waters and raised more than \$10,000 for the Special Olympics of Texas - Greater Fort Worth Area.

-Heading into the water park's 29th season, staff continues to work at achieving new levels of professional development and furthering the name and reputation of NRH2O within the surrounding community and water park industry all season. Numerous members of the team were recently asked to present and teach at Association of Aquatic Professionals conference (AOAP).

-Bryon Bustamante was recently promoted to Water Park Revenue Manager. Bryon has

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served as the Food and Beverage/Retail Coordinator for 16 years.

-Park staff continues to work on many improvements and additions for the 2023 season, such as a makeover in the ice cream shop with new tile floor, new Dippin' Dots signage/decals as well as new countertops. Piper's food area has also had a new non-slip, concrete stained floor installed. Lastly, park staff continues to replace old and worn furniture and picnic tables with new items over a four-year period.

## **D.2 PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Mr. Michael Wilson, Park Planning Manager, provided an update on Parks Capital Projects.

-Cross Timbers Playground Replacement is underway. Construction began mid-January and is expected to be completed by the end of February.

-A contract was recently signed with Aguirre & Fields for the City Point Trail Development in Oncor Easement. Design for the project is scheduled to be completed in July 2023.

-CHPL (Custom High Pressure Laminate) Sign Replacement project will help to give signage a more unified look throughout the city.

-Weather Stations and Inclement Weather Alert Systems are moving forward through the proper channels of the approval process. This is being funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant Funds.

-NRH Active Transportation Projects for Trails/ On-Road are complete except for a few close-out items that are being addressed.

-Bids for the Green Valley Raceway Historical Area came in significantly over-budget. Staff will revisit the design to look for additional cost-saving measures.

-Staff is preparing for the Dr. Pillow Playground Replacement.

-A purchase of materials for the Cross Timbers Bleacher Shade Replacement is in the works and staff anticipates installation of the new fabric to begin in February.

## **D.3 PARKS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director, provided an update on parks maintenance and operations activities.

-The winter season has kept staff busy. The EF-1 tornado on December 13 caused significant damage at Tipps Canine Hollow. Several large oak trees were removed that had been uprooted by the storm. Damaged fencing caused by these falling trees was also repaired.

-Staff performed repairs around the pond edge at Linda Spurlock Park, including concrete around some erosion issues, grading of topsoil and the establishment of new sod. Park water fountains and irrigation pumps have been winterized to prevent damage

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as temperatures consistently drop below freezing.

-Sections of worn fencing on the south fence line at Tipps Canine Hollow has been replaced. This fence is 15-20 years old with plans to replace it in an upcoming budget year. Staff has also re-stripped the park lot at Liberty Park and will stripe Tipps Canine Hollow and Norich in the coming weeks as weather allows. Pull-up/somersault bars were recently added at Faram Park which replaced an older playground piece that had reached its life expectancy.

-Athletic crews have been performing fence replacement on various fields at Richfield and Walkers Creek Park after storm damage and straight-line winds in the Fall. Field 4 at Cross Timbers will be receiving an artificial pitching mound in the coming weeks.

-There have been some recent staff changes and promotions within Parks Maintenance and Operations. Matt Johnston has replaced Gary Bechthold as Park Superintendent. Michael Salazar has filled the Athletic Field Supervisor position; Cody Lewis has filled the Irrigation Supervisor position and Scott Pearce has filled the Landscape Supervisor position. Chris Lamar has been in a supervisory role and will continue to serve as the Infrastructure Supervisor.

#### **D.4 NRH CENTRE, GRAND HALL, ATHLETICS, SENIOR CENTER, RICHLAND TENNIS CENTER, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE**

Mr. Antonio Evangelista, Assistant Director, 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 offering New Year Membership Specials through February 2023. The 31st Annual Daddy Daughter Valentine Dance will be held on Saturday, February 18. Youth classes for Winter/Spring 2023 kicked off the week of January 9.

- The Grand Hall is already off to a great start in the new year. In February, they will host a handful of city events including the annual NRH Police Banquet, Daddy Daughter Dance and more.

-Adult Softball will return to Northfield Park on Thursday, March 2. Field rentals are in full swing at various parks. Rental requests can be made through [www.nrhcentre.com/fieldrentals](http://www.nrhcentre.com/fieldrentals) to check field availability.

-Senior Center Monthly Luncheons are very well attended and the participants always enjoy the entertainment offered.

-Richland Tennis Center will manage the first reservations for Pickleball League at the

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recently renovated Pickleball Courts at Richfield Park. Staff is managing these new reservations with league access to three courts so that there is always a fourth open play court available.

-Parks and Recreation will host an Open Trail Ride at the Fossil Creek Mountain Bike Trail on Saturday, March 4.

**E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**E.1 COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTHLY REPORTS (NOVEMBER - DECEMBER)  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD UPDATES (DECEMBER - JANUARY)**

There are no other informational items.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Copeland adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

  
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Vanessa Copeland, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Cindy Dobbs, Secretary