



Mission Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, September 16, 2019

The City of Mission Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission met in the Breakout Room at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Mark Raduziner (Ward IV), Jacque Gameson (Ward IV), Karin Capron (Ward II), Mary Funk (Ward IV), Anne O'Leary (Ward I), and Nick Schlossmacher (City Council Liaison). Laura Smith (City Administrator), Penn Almoney (Parks and Recreation Director) and Kathy Lockard (Administrative Supervisor) represented staff.

Absent: Deborah Rushing (Ward III), Melissa Currie (Ward II) and Hillary Parker Thomas (City Council Liaison).

Mark called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of the August 19, 2019 Minutes

The minutes were not available for Committee review and approval and will be included on the October 2019 agenda for consideration.

Welcome and Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Director

Laura introduced Penn Almoney as the new Parks and Recreation Director and gave a brief summary of his background and what experience he brings to the City of Mission. Penn shared some additional information about his previous work in Parks and Recreation and what he hopes to accomplish as Mission's new Director.

Committee Members then introduced themselves and shared a brief summary of their interests, including how long they have served on the commission and they hope to accomplish going forward.

Upcoming Programs/Events

The sign up sheet was recirculated for members to volunteer for the Free Family Fun Night Events through March 2020.

PRT Committee Goals and Objectives

Committee discussion was held regarding four questions which had been included in

the agenda packet:

1. What do you believe are the PRT's three biggest accomplishments over the last several years?
2. What would make you feel successful as a member of the PRT Commission?
3. What obstacles do you believe stand in the way of that success?
4. If you were granted one wish for Mission Parks and Recreation, what would you choose?

Responses shared during the meeting could be summarized as follows:

What would make you feel successful as a member?

- To be able to use the money that has been allotted to our Commission
- To have something of significance to show that the Commission is using the sales tax money in a successful manner
- To also show that we as members of the Commission are more than just volunteers. Finding our voice to become more productive and making decisions;
- Members feel like we now have a purpose.

What obstacles do we have?

- One is that we did not understand that we had funds to use and now that we know, we need to utilize those funds to ensure that we will be able to see the renewal of the tax funds.
- Our lack of ability to move forward with projects. Mark expressed the PRT's general frustration in an inability to move forward due to the lack of a director for over a year, but Laura has provided great support to the commission and she has been very informative and helpful.
- We have also had difficulty in keeping members on the Commission and we have recently reduced the number of members. (Laura and the Mayor will be working on adding members).
- Set some goals for the length of the meetings and also having some sub-committee meetings.

If you were granted one wish for Mission Parks and Recreation, what would you choose?

- To be able to plant more trees.
- To be able to cut a ribbon on at least one project in 2020.
- Move forward. Have a plan for each park.
- Parks (maintenance) having their own budget within the City.

- Having a Parks and Recreation Department member dedicated for our Parks.
- Using the I-Tree software.

Waterworks Park Tree Inventory/Adopt-A-Park Request

The various Scouting troops based at Rushton Elementary School have signed up for the City's Adopt-A-Park program for Waterworks Park. Suzie Legg, Scout leader, is very interested in the tree Inventory at Waterworks Park. Penn will be coordinating with them to kick-off their activities and to help design and manage projects throughout the year.

Wayfinding Signage Review

The Committee took a map of the City and worked to identify the locations they felt were appropriate for wayfinding signage to be installed. Signage would direct visitors to park and other City facilities. The next steps will be to work the Public Works Department to produce and install the signs.

Park Entry Signage Review and Discussion

The Committee reviewed the signage examples that were provided at the August meeting. There continues to be a lot of variation in what members "like" or "dislike" with respect to signage. Many like signage with stone elements, but others feel that the stone entrance signage looks like every other city and doesn't do anything to distinguish or set Mission apart.

Staff will consider to research and compile options, including doing some work to explore a branding effort to create more consistency in the park entrance/identification signage. Work will continue this fall and winter.

Update on Mohawk Park Restrooms

Penn is requesting more proposals for the conceptual design/restroom sitting at Mohawk Park. This item will be included on the October Committee agenda. The conceptual plan will assist in communicating the long term plan to residents, and will assist in locating the new restroom in the most appropriate location to account for future park usage. Mary asked if a temporary restroom could be provided while a permanent facility was under development/construction?

Meadowbrook Park Improvements/Wassmer Park Improvements

Members were encouraged to visit these parks to see the changes.

Mark suggested that members hang on to these minutes.

CIP Committee Update

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous/Other

The PRT's next meeting will be on October 21.

Adjournment

Anne O'Leary moved and **Karin Capron** seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (5-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Kathy Lockard
Administrative Supervisor