

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 8, 2004, 7:00 p.m.**  
**The EXIT Teen Center**  
**1520 Rock Prairie Road**  
**College Station, Texas**

**Staff Present:** Steve Beachy, Director of Parks and Recreation; Peter Vanecek, Senior Parks Planner; Curtis Bingham, Parks Operations Superintendent; Peter Lamont, Recreation Superintendents; Pamela Springfield, Staff Assistant.

**Board Members Present:** John Nichols, Chairman; Glenn Schroeder; Don Allison; Larry Farnsworth; Jodi Warner; Glen Davis; Gary Erwin, Alternate.

**Board Members Absent:** All members were present.

**Guests:** Billy Hart, President – College Station Soccer Club; Todd Callaway BCS Soccer; Stephen Hollas – Aggieland Soccer Club; David Anderson, Board Member – College Station Soccer Club; Jane Denoux – Aggieland Soccer Club; Charles Edelman, President – Woodland Hills Homeowner's Association; Frank Thurmond, Woodland Hills, Ltd.; James Massey, Councilman Place 1; John Nielsen-Gammon and Amy Stuart, Texas A&M University.

1. **Call to order.** John Nichols called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pardon ~ Possible action concerning requests for absences of members.** There had been no requests for absence submitted.
3. **Hear Visitors.** Hearing none this item was closed.
4. **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of minutes from the regular meeting of May 11, 2004.** Jodi W. moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting and Glen D. seconded. Hearing no opposition, the motion carried unanimously.
5. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding soccer field lights.** Todd Callaway – BCSSL, Billy Hart – CSSC, and Stephen Hollas – ASC presented the Board with a letter (***attached***) which clarified their priority needs and asked for help from the City in achieving their goal for more lighted practice fields. The letter also explained that the three clubs were working on a joint U.S. Soccer Federation grant to obtain funding in order to install lights for the Central Park fields and for additional lit fields at Veterans Park and Athletic Complex.

Discussion followed regarding the city's lighting specifications and associated costs, field usage by the various leagues, balancing and prioritizing the needs and requests for lit soccer fields with the need for neighborhood park development, and funding issues.

Glenn S. made a motion that the Board recommend to Council that seven soccer fields be lit, with the priority being three fields at Central Park and the secondary priority being four fields at Veterans Park and Athletic Complex, for a total of seven fields. Don A. seconded. Glenn amended the motion to add that the Board was in support of any grant funding or donations of qualified materials. The vote was called. All were in favor of the motion as stated and hearing no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

**6. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding a Neighborhood Park in Zone 9 (Woodland Hills).**

Charles Edelman, President of the Woodland Hills Homeowner's Association, and Frank Thurmond of Woodland Hills, Ltd., were present to request moving the development of this park along, as there was no other park in this subdivision and residents had to cross Greens Prairie Road in order to get to Pebble Creek Park. There were 111 lots in Woodland Hills, but it was likely that there would not be any future residential development in the area to generate additional Park Land Dedication funds. Approximately three acres of the 13.9 acres was dedicated park land, with the remaining acreage being a greenway. A survey of the homeowners in 2003 had indicated that their priorities were nature trails, a picnic area, and a playground. The final cost to develop the park would not be known until the design process was underway; however, scaling back the amenities that might go into the park was a consideration due to the low number of residents the park would serve.

After further discussion, Jodi moved that Woodland Hills Park be presented as a park under consideration for development during the joint meeting with Council, with the budget to be determined pending public input. Larry F. seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss lights for soccer fields and neighborhood parks.**

Discussion and recommendations having been made in previous agenda items regarding some of the issues that would be considered during the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with Council, the Board deliberated on the priority of development and funding issues for four neighborhood parks (Steeplechase, University Park, Woodland Hills, and Eastgate). There were concerns about spending money to develop Eastgate Park which was not a typical park, when there were specific needs in other areas.

Glen D. made a motion to present to Council the development of four parks with Steeplechase Park as priority #1, University Park as priority #2, Woodland Hills Park as priority #3, and Eastgate Park as priority #4; and, requesting the amount of \$1.1 million subject to final cost estimates, deleting the park land dedication funds as the supplements to the cost estimate. Gary E. seconded the motion. After discussion about why University Park was the second priority, the vote was called, voted on, and carried 6-1.

8. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding an Air Quality Monitoring Station at Lick Creek Park.** Dr. Amy Stuart and Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon were in attendance to present a proposal for installation of a state and federally-funded Environmental Research and Monitoring Station in Lick Creek Park. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon gave a brief presentation to explain its purpose, use, specifications, and site location (*see attached*). No monetary support from the City of College Station would be required. This was being done as part of a major state-wide air quality study being done in collaboration with three universities. The contract with the city would be reviewed again in 2006, so it was possible that the tower could become a permanent fixture in the park.

It was recommended that coordination be done with some of the other departments at TAMU to see if the study tied in with other research being done in the park. Glenn S. made a motion to approve the installation of the station at Lick Creek Park and Gary E. seconded. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

9. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding lights for the Road Runner Track in Jack & Dorothy Miller Park.** Peter Vanecek presented a proposed site plan for lighting the track with eleven lights, spread out at 150' intervals around the track. The cost estimate for the lights, engineering fees, and installation was approximately \$50,000.

Glen D. made a motion that the lights be installed at the Jack & Dorothy Miller Park track as soon as possible, and that it be done in coordination with school being out for the summer. Don A. seconded the motion. The motion was voted on, and carried unanimously.

10. **Report, discussion, and possible action concerning the Capital Improvement Program.**

- ***FY 2005 Community Development Budget Recommendation ~ Spray Park:*** The development of a spray park in Tarrow Park, which had been included in the W.A. Tarrow Park Master Plan but not in the recent bid process, would be funded through Community Development Block Grant money and included in their FY 2005 budget process. This would be a great addition to the park that would go in between the gymnasium and the new

pavilion. Jodi W. made a motion to approve the development of the spray park and Glen D. seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **November 2003 Bond Election Projects ~ Set meeting and confirm membership of VPAC Subcommittee:** John N., Glen D., and Larry F. agreed to continue to serve on the subcommittee until new members were appointed to the Board. Gary E. also agreed to serve.

**11. Review, discussion, and possible action concerning Board and Department Goals and Objectives, and City Council Strategic Plan.**

Hearing none this item was closed.

**12. Discussion of calendar, future meeting dates, and possible agenda items.**

- **Regular Meeting July 13, 2004:** Due to the Citizen Advisory Board Orientation meeting scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>, the next regular meeting of the Parks Advisory Board was moved to Tuesday, July 20, 2004.
- **Possible July Agenda items:**
  - Discussion regarding status of girl's fastpitch softball tournaments
  - Report on status of signage at the Arboretum

**13. Adjourn.** A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Hearing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.