

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JULY 19, 2006
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman John Pratt and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Chair John Pratt, Vice Chair Ryan Sweeder, Secretary Gwen Hulbert, Commissioners George Bohart, and Earl Wolf. Absent: Stacie Mullins.

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson and Michelle Hyne.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Remove 7a.

Motion by **Hulbert**, second by **Sweeder**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:

Chair Pratt called for public comment at this time and there was none.

6. Approval of Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2006:

Motion by **Sweeder**, second by **Hulbert**, to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes of May 10, 2006 as presented. Yes: Pratt, Bohart, Hulbert, Wolf, Sweeder. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Park Signage:

Chairman Pratt feels that there should be park signs for all of the parks in the City. He added that the budget includes money for the signs. Commissioner Wolf commented that he would like to see the signs done like the bandshell sign. Sweeder believes the signs should have the City logo on them to indicate that they are a City park. Commissioner Wolf volunteered to draw a description of the signs and forward them to the City staff and Chairman.

Motion by **Hulbert**, second by **Sweeder**, to ask the City staff to come up with quotes for the City parks except for McCormick Park to present at the next meeting. Yes: Wolf, Hulbert, Bohart, Sweeder, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. Memorial Park:

Chair Pratt commented that the Parks & Recreation board had asked that the tennis court nets and building be removed, but it has not occurred. The board expressed their concern that the requests they make are not going anywhere.

Motion by **Sweeder**, second by **Hulbert**, to recommend that action be taken by the City Council to have tennis court nets and the building removed from Memorial Park as specified in the Phase I Master Plan. Yes: Sweeder, Bohart, Mullins, Pratt, Wolf, Hulbert. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8c. McCormick Park Site Plan:

The Commissioners were concerned that the additional information that was requested at the May meeting was not provided.

Motion by **Sweeder**, second by **Wolf**, to reaffirm the previous motion made at the May 10th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and forward the lower of the two bids to the City Council for action on the topographical survey.

Discussion: Sweeder commented that he would hate to delay other projects in the park because their work is not done.

Yes: Wolf, Hulbert, Sweeder, Bohart, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Hulbert**, second by **Sweeder**, to direct the City staff to include in the next packet a landscape site analysis quote from Capital Consultants for consideration at the August meeting and an updated bid from Fitzgerald Henney if the current quote is outdated. Yes: Pratt, Wolf, Hulbert, Sweeder, Bohart. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Sweeder questioned if the board will be considering the parking lot at the corner of High Street and Putnam Street.

Chair Pratt explained that his understanding from attending the Council meetings is that the City has put down millings in the parking lot, but there is no intention to pave the lot this year. The contractor that worked on the bridge was supposed to make the parking lot the same or better than it was after they used it as a staging area, but it was not done. Then the City was supposed to put down the millings but it was done improperly. Now the DDA has hired a contractor to fix the parking lot and add more millings to finish it.

The Parks Commission was unsure who was supposed to pave the parking lot.

Deputy Clerk Thompson explained that it was her understanding from other board meetings that the Parks and Recreation Commission is supposed to come up with a plan for McCormick Park that would include the parking lot in the design.

Sweeder commented that he wants to let the boards know that it is on their radar, and they will be working on it.

9. Discussion Items

9a. Open Meetings Act:

Chair Pratt commented that he requested that the City staff provide a copy of the Open Meetings Act. He feels that the City Attorney should attend a meeting to explain the Act. He did not see where the Act addressed e-mails. He stated that the City Manager told the Commission that they are not allowed to talk to each other about anything and he does not believe that is true. The Commission asked that the City Attorney make a presentation about the Open Meetings Act at a joint meeting that the City staff sets up for all of the boards.

11. Staff Reports:

Community Development Director Alison Alfredson submitted information regarding the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commissioners requested that this be added to their August agenda.

12. Audience Participation:

Michelle Hyne commented that the board is doing a good job.

13. Member Comments:

Commissioner Wolf commented that he would like to see what the plans are for the management of the island and riverbank. He is aware of the project they are trying to do, but is unsure of whether the plan will work because of the flooding of the island and other issues. He asked if some of the DDA members could attend the next meeting to talk with the Commission about the island and riverbank. He also asked if the City does anything to control the goose population. He noticed at ArtFest that there were a lot of goose droppings. He thought that perhaps there should be signs deterring people from feeding the geese. Chair Pratt commented that the City used to not mow the first few feet of the riverbank to deter the geese. Hulbert suggested that the sign read "Feeding the Geese Promotes Un-cleanliness in Our Parks".

Commissioner Hulbert commented that she would like to invite the RCRA to give a presentation, since they were unable to the last time. She also expressed her frustration in the lack of information from the City when the board asks for it.

Chair Pratt agreed with Commissioner Hulbert's frustration. Pratt welcomed Commissioner Bohart to the board. He also asked that the Library Foundation representative Leo Sheets be invited to the next meeting to give a presentation on the proposed canoe livery on the future library site.

Commissioner Bohart asked to be excused from the August 9th meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved: _____