

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, June 15, 2006
Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 West

5:30 pm
MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Terry Kloepfel, Dennis Knudson, Marin Blevins, Mike Jones

Commission Absent: Julia Grus

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 5:55 pm by Pauls.

Agenda: Hood told Commissioners he'd like to add the goose round-up as an item of discussion to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion from Kloepfel, seconded by Blevins.

Minutes: The May minutes were approved on a motion from Kloepfel, seconded by Blevins.

Monthly Report: Kloepfel asked about the on-line survey that was conducted.

Griggs said we received 90 responses with six topical concerns listed in regard to parks. Respondents were asked to rank their concerns in order of importance. The top concern listed by park users were geese, followed by the homeless in parks and dogs off of leashes.

Hood added that the survey was not a scientific tool but gave staff a good idea of how the public feels about park issues.

Knudson commented on the Art in the Park event, saying that Stephens Lake Park is an ideal venue. He asked about feedback from it?

Hood said that the only real complaint he had heard came from managers at Eastgate Grocery, who complained about visitors using their parking lot. Hood added that some vendors did not like having to carry their products and booths from the parking lot. But he thought the public liked the location.

The May monthly report was approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Jones.

Goose Round-up: Hood shared with Commissioners a copy of a report distributed to the City Council regarding the increasing number of geese in the parks, particularly Stephens Lake Park and Twin Lakes Recreation Area. Hood said the department has been trying different solutions for nearly 20 years. The department has considered a round-up for 3 or 4 years but tried all kinds of alternative methods to try to force the geese to leave the parks. Hood said the department has received many calls and e-mails regarding the geese. He told Commissioners that a meeting with Geese Peace was planned on Friday to discuss alternative methods. Hood said at this point the round-up would go on as planned, but that the organization may be able to help with prevention methods. Kloepfel asked if the date of the round-up would be disclosed?

Hood said parks staff does not know the exact date, as the USDA would be conducting the round-up.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

After adjournment the Commission was taken on a park tour. Sites visited were Cosmo Park (possible new site of Harris Shelter, Antimi Ballfields, RC track, Skateboard Park and roller hockey boards), Atkins property, Smith Waco property, Auburn Hills property, American Legion Park, Phillips property, Paquin Park, Flat Branch Phase II, MKT Trail at Stewart and Providence, MLK Memorial, and Smith Manhasset property.