**TAKE NOTICE THAT A REGULAR CALLED MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT CITY HALL, COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS COMMENCING AT 5:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

"The City of Pharr has called this meeting as allowed pursuant to Texas law, city charter, and Ordinance O-2015-28. The governing body may recess from day to day when it does not complete consideration of a particularly long subject as authorized by law. All persons desiring to address the governing body must register with the presiding clerk prior to the scheduled meeting"

1. **REGULAR SESSION:**

A. Call Meeting to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Public Comments *(Ordinance No. O-2015-28) A registered speaker may speak on several items or topics of public concern; however, a speaker may not exceed three (3) minutes as a whole when addressing the board. A registered speaker may not donate time to another speaker. No more than five (5) registered persons may speak at a scheduled meeting. A sign-in form must be filled out prior to the meeting to allow the registered speaker to address the governing body.*

D. Consider Approval of Minutes: December 29, 2016-Special Called Meeting
January 5, 2017-Regular Called Meeting

E. Status Report-Comprehensive Parks Master Plan Update-Ann Bagley

F. Sub-Committee Status Reports

G. Status Report-11th Annual 5K Run/Walk, Spring Recreation and Directors Reports

H. Adjournment

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above notice of said Regular Called Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Pharr was posted on the bulletin board at City Hall and on the City's web page at www.pharr-tx.gov. This Notice was posted on the 26th day of January, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. and; will remain posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting, in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated (Open Meetings Act).

**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL, this 26th DAY OF JANUARY 2017.**

CITY OF PHARR PHARR, TEXAS

Hilda Rueda
CITY CLERK

***MINUTES***
***REGULAR CALLED MEETING***
***PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING***
***FEBRUARY 2, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.***
***118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS***

*The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Pharr, Texas met on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. and the following is the record of attendance.*

| | |
|---|---|
| ***MEMBERS PRESENT:*** | *Johnny Ramos*<br>*Frank Nuñez*<br>*Oralia Rodriguez*<br>*Allen Williams*<br>*Mari Caballero*<br>*Eduardo Mata*<br>*Daniela Zuniga*<br>*Rebecca Lizcano* |
| ***MEMBERS ABSENT:*** | *Lorena Singh* |
| ***STAFF PRESENT:*** | *Roel Garza*<br>*Sergio Alanis*<br>*Cynthia Bernal*<br>*Isaac Escobedo*<br>*Virginia Rodriguez* |
| ***OTHERS PRESENT:*** | *Eddie Tapia*<br>*Dr. Kenneth C. Fltecher*<br>*Ann Bagley* |

***ITEM A: CALL MEETING TO ORDER***

*Chairman Johnny Ramos called the meeting to order.*

***ITEM B: ROLL CALL***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item.*

***ITEM F. STATUS REPORT-SUB-COMMITTEES***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Board member Daniela Zuniga began by informing the board that on behalf of the fundraising sub-committee she had asked Mr. Eddie Tapia to come*

*and report to the board what a cook-off entails. Mr. Eddie Tapia began by introducing himself, as being Pit Boss for Southern Smoke, and also an assistant regional director for Region 3. He began by informing the board that running a cook-off requires a lot of teamwork as well as the publicity aspect of the event. He added by providing the board a link to the organization as well as informing them that he was willing to sit down with the subcommittee members to discuss figures for a cook-off.*

*Board member Mari Caballero began by informing the board that she had taken an extensive tour of the Pharr Aquatic Center along with Board member Lorena Singh and Roel Garza, Director of Parks and Recreation.*

***ITEM E. STATUS REPORT-COMPREHENSIVE PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE-ANN BAGLEY***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Mrs. Ann Bagley began by reporting to the board that in developing new goals, they need to be less wordy and more direct than the 2008 Plan Update. New goals might focus on assuring that the parks under development and improvement are completed; improving the appearance and usefulness of parks with native or adapted shade trees. A draft of an 8 goals worksheet was also provided to the board in their packet and discussed. A brief discussion was then held.*

***ITEM C. PUBLIC COMMENTS***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Dr. Kenneth C. Fletcher asked that the board promote more native tree planting in the city and added that City Commission would be having the third and final reading for a tree ordinance and that will fulfill all the requirements for Tree USA.*

***ITEM D. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***
***DECEMBER 29, 2016-SPECIAL CALLED MEETING***
***JANUARY 5, 2017-REGULAR CALLED MEETING***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Frank Nuñez made a motion to approve both sets of the minutes. Oralia Rodriguez seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

***ITEM G. STATUS REPORT- 11TH ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK, SPRING RECREATION AND DIRECTORS REPORTS***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Recreation Division Head Isaac Escobedo began by informing the board that the spring brochure has been distributed to all the schools; classes are to begin February 27. He then gave the board a status report of the 11th Annual 5K Run/Walk. Parks and Recreation Director, Roel Garza reported to the board that grading and excavation*

*for the parking lot had begun at Jones Box Park and he will have more to report on for the next meeting. He added that P-SJ-A ISD had approved the all the lease agreements for the City/School Parks.*

***ITEM H: ADJOURNMENT***

*Johnny Ramos introduced the item. There being no further business, Frank Nuñez moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Daniela Zuniga and the motion carried.*

***STATE OF TEXAS***
***COUNTY OF HIDALGO***
***CITY OF PHARR***

***ON THE 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017,*** *the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City of Pharr, Texas, convened in a Regular Called Meeting at City Hall, 118 S. Cage Blvd. The meeting being open to the public notice of the said meeting, giving the date, place and subject hereof, having been posted in accordance with chapter 551, Texas Government code (Open Meeting Act) and there being a present quorum,* ***I Elva Guajardo Edmundson, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant, of the City of Pharr, Texas,*** *certify that this is true and correct copy of the minutes.*

***ATTEST:***

*Elva Guajardo Edmundson, Administrative Assistant*

***APPROVED DATE:*** 3-2-17

# MEMO

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Committee

**VIA:** Sergio Alanis, Assistant Director, Pharr Parks and Recreation Department

**From:** Ann Bagley, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update Consultant

**Date:** January 30, 2017

**Subject:** Discussion of Goals for the February 2, 2017 Meeting

For this meeting, please look at the Goals and Objectives from the 2008 Plan Update. They were sent to you with the memo for the October meeting. Some of these goals may be carried over into the 2016 update and others may be reworded or even removed and some new ones developed. Given the responses to the surveys, there is a continued interest in walking paths/trails, sports programs, and recreational programs and classes.

Usually a Parks Master Plan, one of the goals is focused on getting a matching grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This goal would generally describe the possible location and what features would be included. Pharr just received a grant for the Nature Park in the Fall of 2016, so the development of that park is just beginning so receiving another grant may be a few years away. It is also an unknown at this point as to whether the cooperative development of future parks with the PSJA school district would be eligible for TPWD matching grants. They might be.

In developing new goals, they need to be less wordy and more direct than the 2008 Plan Update. New goals might focus on assuring that the parks under development and improvement are completed; improving the appearance and usefulness of parks with native or adapted shade trees and water wise landscaping that provide a more appealing park; expansion of recreation programs; acquisition of parkland in underserved areas, new types of parks (skate and dog); updating the Trails Master Plan; and increased maintenance. Please think about these and more. You input is very important.

A draft of new goals and associated actions are attached for your review and discussion at the meeting.

After each new goal, recommendations and actions items will be listed for implantation of the Plan Update.

**Update:** the sections of the Plan are coming along nicely. The Pharr Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) provided helpful employment information and PAL provided information on their sports programs.

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you at the February 2nd meeting.

Ann

In a Park Master Plan, goals provide the underlying framework for decision making for the City of Pharr's parks and recreation system. They should reflect the needs and desires expressed by the citizens to be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.

**Goal 1**: Provide a balanced, well maintained, attractive parks system for the citizens of all ages in Pharr.

1.1 Continue to work to develop neighborhood and regional parks to serve all six park zone areas, particularly in underserved areas.

1.2 Revisit park dedication requirements to assure park spaces in new residential areas.

1.3 Consider providing parks (open space for ballfields) in industrial and agricultural areas.

**Goal 2**: Assure that the current projects that are underway are completed.

2.1 Complete the City Hall Plaza Park.

2.2 Move forward with the construction of the Nature Park and Amphitheater in accordance with the recently awarded grant.

2.3 Move forward with the expansion of Dr. Long Park Phase Two and the development of Armstrong and Chavez Parks in partnership with PSJA ISD.

**Goal 3:** Considering the climate in Pharr, expand the use of native trees, water wise plants, and environmentally friendly building materials and techniques in the parks and recreation facilities.

3.1 Plant Native or adapted trees to provide shade at parks and recreation facilities. Assure that the necessary irrigation is provided.

3.2Assure that landscaping is in accordance with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) guidelines to provide safe, visible areas.

3.3 If not trees are not feasible, design creative shade structures.

3.4 Use solar power and bio-swales and other environmentally sustainable designs in parks to minimize negative environmental impacts and create better public spaces.

**Goal 4**: Continue to work with Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District and other governmental entities on joint projects to serve mutual interests for the citizens and youth.

4.1 Look for new opportunities to develop new school parks.

4.2 Partner with Hidalgo County for appropriate support and development of parks and trails.

**Goal 5:** Maintain and expand recreation and sports programs to meet needs for population growth.

5.1 Create new classes and recreation programs identified in the park survey responses.

5.2 Continue to work with the Police Athletic League (PAL) for the provision of sports programs.

**Goal 6**: Develop new and creative types of parks and open spaces.

6.1 Look at trending idea for parks such as skate parks, dog parks, outdoor dance and exercise venues and areas that are open space.

6.2Develop indoor facilities for sports exercise for individuals and groups.

**Goal 7:** Connect the parks with trails, paths, sidewalks and bike lanes for safety and accessibility.

7.1 Update the Trails Master Plan.

7.2 Develop the walking/exercise loop in South Pharr.

7.3 Work with adjacent cities and Hidalgo County to connect parks and public spaces regionally.

**Goal 8:** Enhance operations and maintenance at the parks.

8.1 Incorporate environmentally sensitive approaches to mowing, planting, chemical use and other maintenance tasks.

8.2 Create a new "adopt a park" program for groups to assist in the overall appearance of parks.

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