

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, MARCH 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: February 2, 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 23rd day of February, 2017, at 5:00 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 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017.



Heather R. Rulz
CITY CLERK

MINUTES
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 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, March 2, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. and the following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Johnny Ramos*
 Frank Nuñez arrived at 6:08 p.m.
 Oralia Rodriguez
 Allen Williams arrived at 5:57 p.m.
 Lorena Singh
 Eduardo Mata
 Daniela Zuniga
 Rebecca Lizcano

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Mari Caballero*

STAFF PRESENT: *Sergio Alanis*
 Elva G. Edmundson
 Isaac Escobedo
 Virginia Rodriguez

OTHERS PRESENT: *Dr. Kenneth C. Fletcher*
 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 C: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Dr. Kenneth C. Fletcher proposed a neighborhood nature park and informed the board that Tree USA is progressing smoothly.

**ITEM D. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
FEBRUARY 2, 2017-REGULAR CALLED MEETING**

Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Daniela Zuniga made a motion to approve the minutes. Oralia Rodriguez seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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 the plan was running smoothly and now she was providing the board with worksheets that entailed the Prioritization of Needs. She informed the board that plan developments requires that priorities be established for five year periods and the board needed to facilitate that requirement. She then asked that the board take these worksheets home to prioritize accordingly and provide them to staff or email them to her no later than March 23, 2017. She also went over the Goals and Actions and informed the board that she added some as well as that they provide the underlying framework for the decision making for the City of Pharr's parks and recreation system. A brief discussion was then held as well the scheduled date for the Community Meeting that will be held Thursday, April 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at Lorenzo "Lore" Garcia Park.

ITEM F. SUB-COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Board member Lorena Singh informed the board that she had met with Mr. Roel Garza on the cool deck for the aquatic center and he informed her that he had received two quotes. Ms. Singh then gave the board a status on the beautification of South Pharr gardening with the assistance of Buell students. She added that she also has new volunteers to the program which now consist of 13 volunteers. Board member Allen Williams expressed a concern on the importance of the trees being proposed in the second phase and not the first phase. He is recommending the possibility of planting small trees and irrigation lines that would be require in house staff to water them.

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

Johnny Ramos introduced the item. Parks and Recreation Divison Head, Isaac Escobedo gave the board a status report on the 11th Annual 5K Run/Walk that is scheduled for March 18, 2017 as well as the number of participants that are currently attending the spring programs. A brief discussion then took place in regards to the USA Swim program as well as the Learn to Swim program that is scheduled to start registration on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Board member Daniela Zuniga wants the board to revisit the cost of what the City is charging the USA Swim program. Board president Johnny Ramos asked that she meet with her sub-committee and

present it at the next meeting.

Board member Frank Nuñez recommended for the police department to be more present and visible at Dr. Long Park due to the traffic and volume of people. He also recommended a crosswalk be implemented for vehicles parking on the neighborhood side of the park. Mr. Alanis advised that he would relay the recommendations and concerns to the police chief so that he may be present at the next board meeting.

ITEM H: ADJOURNMENT

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

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

*ON THE 2ND DAY OF MARCH 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: _____

2-20-2017 9:09 AM

DETAIL LISTING

PAGE: 1

FUND : 25 -SPECIAL REVENUES FUND

PERIOD TO USE: Oct-2016 THRU Sep-2017

DEPT : N/A

ACCOUNTS: 2-2210 THRU 2-2210

POST DATE TRAN # REFERENCE PACKET=====DESCRIPTION===== VEND INV/JE # NOTE =====AMOUNT===== =====BALANCE=====

2-2210 ESCROW - YOUTH ACTIVITY FUND

B E G I N N I N G B A L A N C E

7,285.85CR

12/01/16 12/13 A62035 CHK: 104288 09003 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 16290 002 505.75 6,780.10CR
===== DECEMBER ACTIVITY DB: 505.75 CR: 0.00 505.75

1/10/17 2/01 B33186 E.F.T. 011017 25086 TO RECORD P- CARD WIRE PAYMEN JE# 171322 85.00 6,695.10CR

1/10/17 2/01 B33186 E.F.T. 011017 25086 TO RECORD P- CARD WIRE PAYMEN JE# 171322 201.02 6,494.08CR

1/10/17 2/02 B33321 RECLASS 011017 25110 TO RECLASSIFY PCARD ENTRY INTO JE# 171382 001171 201.02CR 6,695.10CR
===== JANUARY ACTIVITY DB: 286.02 CR: 201.02CR 85.00

===== ACCOUNT TOTAL DB: 791.77 CR: 201.02CR

***** 000 ERRORS IN THIS REPORT! *****

** REPORT TOTALS ** --- DEBITS --- --- CREDITS ---
BEGINNING BALANCES: 0.00 7,285.85CR
REPORTED ACTIVITY: 791.77 201.02CR
ENDING BALANCES: 791.77 7,486.87CR
TOTAL FUND ENDING BALANCE: 6,695.10CR

Plan development requires that priorities be established for five year periods. We need your input to facilitate that requirement. Realizing you may need a crystal ball and guesswork, please indicate which of the actions, now called priorities, should be done in the next five years, 2017 to 2022, then a second group for the subsequent five years, 2023 to 2027 and then way out from 2028 on. Below please:

Indicate with an **A** those actions that should be done in the next five years, 2017 to 2022

Indicate with a **B** those actions that should be done in the next five years, 2023 to 2027

Indicate with a **C** those actions that should be done in the next five years, 2028 to 2033

Indicate with a **D** those actions that should be a long term action or not at all.

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

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

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

_____ Complete the City Hall Plaza Park.

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

_____ Move forward with the expansion of Dr. Long Park, Phase Two

_____ Move forward with the development of Armstrong and Chavez City/School Parks in partnership with PSJA ISD.

_____ Move forward with the redevelopment and future expansion of Jones Box Park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

_____ Develop a skate park at Victor Garcia to provide a new and in demand facility.

_____ Install exercise stations on walking trails in parks.

_____ Develop a dog park in an appropriate location. Provide rules for use.

Please continue on next page.

PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

- _____ Develop indoor facilities for sports exercise for individuals and groups
- _____ Update the Trails Master Plan.
- _____ Develop the walking/exercise loop in South Pharr.
- _____ Work with adjacent cities and Hidalgo County to connect parks and public spaces regionally.
- _____ Incorporate environmentally sensitive approaches to mowing, planting, chemical use and other maintenance tasks.
- _____ Create a new “adopt a park” program for groups to assist in the overall appearance of parks.
- _____ Consider developing another indoor/outdoor aquatic facility to provide more space and facilities to reduce crowding at current facility.
- _____ Partner with other jurisdictions on a new Aquatic Center, possibly in the north and/or southern park zones in the City

Please take this form home with you and think about them and indicate your preferences. Please return them to Sergio, Isaac or Elva. We will then compile them for future discussion and inclusion in the plan. Some of the priorities may already be in the works and will be considered accordingly.

Thank you.



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. With each of the goals there are detailed actions necessary to move forward in improving and expanding the existing and future park system. Following the survey and discussions with the Park and Recreation Committee, the following goals and actions are to guide the future of Pharr's park system.

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

- 1.1: Continue to work to develop neighborhood and community 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
- 2.4: Move forward with the development of Armstrong and Chavez City/School Parks in partnership with PSJA ISD.
- 2.5: Move forward with the redevelopment and future expansion of Jones Box Park.

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.
- 3.2: Assure that landscaping is in accordance with CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) guidelines to provide safe, visible areas.
- 3.3: If trees are not feasible, design creative shade structures.
- 3.4: Use solar power, 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 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: Develop a skate park at Victor Garcia to provide a new and in demand facility.
- 6.2: Install exercise stations on walking trails in parks.
- 6.3: Develop a dog park in an appropriate location. Provide rules for use.
- 6.4: Develop 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.

Goal 9: Expand aquatic and swim opportunities for all ages

9.1: Consider developing another indoor/outdoor aquatic facility to provide more space and facilities to reduce crowding at current facility.

9.2 Partner with other jurisdictions on a new Aquatic Center, possibly in the north and/or southern park zones in the City.

Achieving the goals and actions will take time and funds, but if Pharr is to continue to provide parks and recreation facilities and opportunities for its citizens and visitors, then these goals and actions provide the guidance to move forward for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Acquisition and development of the parks identified in this master plan will require a significant level of expenditure. In addition, upon completion of the park improvements, there must be a commitment of the City to continue to fund ongoing maintenance out of the City's capital budget.

The projects identified by the master plan are intended to be complete within five-year periods between 2009 and 2013. To fund the projects, the City may decide to have a bond election to authorize issuance of General Obligation Bonds or other appropriate funding mechanisms. Economic Development Sales Tax is also a source of revenue that the city may use for park development. Should the city move from a 4A to a 4B corporation, revenues would be available for "quality of life" improvements for which park improvements qualify.

The implementation program is a master plan for the future development of the Pharr Parks and Recreation system. In addition to identifying existing parks and priority locations for new neighborhood and pocket parks and potential linkages, the program addresses important considerations, such as desired improvements, expansions and new facilities. The recommended master plan for future development of the City's parks and recreation system was developed based upon existing conditions, planned improvements, and projected future needs as described earlier in this report. The identified recreation facilities and park improvements also reflect the needs identified by the Parks Improvement Committee

and citizens of the community. The recommendations of the Plan establish the commitment of officials and citizens toward attaining an adequate public parks and recreation system.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PRIORITIZATION PROGRAM

The Plan identifies the priority improvements to be conducted over the next twenty (20) years. The improvement priorities are based on the information provided in the Needs Assessment and Identification. The identified improvements are divided into five-year time increments. They include development of existing and future parks and facilities, purchase of additional equipment such as play structures; construction of pavilions; long term facility improvements and installations; as well as the purchase and acquisition of available and appropriate park lands when possible.

PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS

Based on the goals, needs and desires that have evolved through the research, standards development and public input in the Plan, the priorities in ranked order are listed below. The funding for the projects may be a combination of current fund expenditures, bond funds, reserve funds, tax revenues, grants, donations, in-kind services and volunteer participation.

2009-2013

1. Develop land for and develop citywide park in Park Zone 1 to include baseball fields, soccer fields, and trails.
2. Develop neighborhood park in Park Zone 1 with area appropriate

improvements (swings, benches, pavilion, sidewalks, etc.)

3. Work with a consultant to determine type and size of swimming pool that would best suit community.
4. Coordinate and create partnerships with the Boys' and Gils' Club for additional parks and recreation facilities in South Pharr.

2014 through 2018

1. Acquire and develop additional land adjacent to or near parks and schools when available.
2. Acquire land for neighborhood parks and/ or pocket parks in appropriate areas when available and where development is occurring.
3. Develop relationships with commercial land owners to establish partnerships
4. Plan for a central open air amphitheater that will host city wide cultural events and festivals.

2019 through 2023

1. Plan for a multi-use indoor facility that can also serve as a youth community center.

Planning beyond the first two five year periods is considered to be long range. The Parks Master Plan must be reviewed and updated regularly as projects are completed. New priorities may be added or reordering of existing projects may be desirable as the population grows and ages. Maintenance of the facilities is generally considered in the department's yearly budget.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

Most capital investments involve the outlay of substantial funds; therefore local governments often must pay for new facilities through appropriations in the annual operating budget. There are numerous techniques available to local

governments to pay for capital improvements over a longer period of time. Some of the available techniques include:

Current Revenue - This technique is known as "pay-as-you-go" financing and is the financing of improvements from current revenues such as general taxation, fees, service charges, special established funds, or special assessments.

Reserve Funds - The use of reserve funds is made possible by accumulating funds in advance for capital acquisition or development. The accumulation may result from surplus or earmarked operational revenues, funds in depreciation reserves, or the sale of capital assets.

Enterprise and Revenue Funds - Many municipalities establish accounts that are earmarked for park and recreation programs. These accounts are used to fund programs and to acquire, operate, and maintain facilities.

General Obligation Bonds - The use of this method involves the taxing power of the jurisdiction as it is pledged to pay the interest and principal to retire the debt. General obligation bonds can be sold to finance permanent types of improvements such as park and recreational areas and facilities. Voter approval may be required.

Lease-Purchase - Local governments utilizing this innovative financing approach prepare standards and specifications for the development of a park by a private company. The facility is then leased to the jurisdiction for a specified period of time. Title to the park and facilities can be conveyed to the local government at the end of the lease