

MINUTES
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022

On the 18th day of July 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the Parks Committee of Stafford, Texas met in the Large Conference Room of City Hall. The following Committee Members were present: Chairman Cecil Willis Jr., and Committee Members Monica Barnett, Linda Burks, Don Jones (arrived at 7:16 p.m.), Harvey Koudelka, Trina Reed, and Mary Ann Smith. Absent: Vice-Chair John Rose and Committee Member Joji George. The following City staff were present: Public Works Superintendent Otis Brown and City Secretary Roxanne Benitez.

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chairman Willis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Welcome Members,

Chairman Willis conducted a roll call and welcomed the members in attendance.

3. Consideration of the minutes from the January 17, 2022 Parks Committee Meeting.

Committee Member Koudelka made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2022 Parks Committee meeting, and Committee Member Burks seconded the motion. Chairman Willis and Committee Members Barnett, Burks, Koudelka, Reed, and Smith voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Update of April 18, 2022 Parks Committee Meeting.

Chairman Willis advised that the meeting was not held due to a lack of quorum. Superintendent Otis Brown briefly spoke on the items that were on the April 18, 2022 agenda.

5. Discussion of possible events at Various Parks.

Committee Member Smith suggested that the committee should host quarterly events in the parks and provided a listing of potential park events. Committee Member Barnett suggested having craft fairs in the park, with free admission to visitors and charging vendors a fee. Committee Member Koudelka advised that he was concerned with event funding. He suggested having a kid's day event, which would be geared towards one age group, such as toddlers or pre-teens. Committee Member Smith suggested that Stafford businesses could sponsor park events. Committee Member Barnett expressed concerns regarding the liability to the City if a child was injured at an event. Chairman Willis advised that a park event was possible, however, details and input from the Committee would be needed. He also advised that security would be needed which would cause overtime for Stafford police officers. Chairman Willis advised that some of the

parks have limited or no parking, therefore some residents would have to walk to the events and suggested holding events at the Stafford Centre instead. He also advised that the Committee needed the budget information so that they could discuss details. The Committee discussed National Night Out and various neighborhood events that are held annually in the City. Chairman Willis advised that it would be beneficial if the events were consolidated allowing for fewer locations.

6. Discussion of action items for Vaccaro Manor Park.

Committee Member Koudelka advised that sprinkler equipment was replaced. He also advised that dead shrubs were removed. Committee Member Barnett advised that the supports on the slide were rusted. Superintendent Otis Brown advised that kiddie cushion and a section of the swings would be replaced. He also advised that several sprinkler heads were replaced due to vandalism. Mr. Brown advised that park equipment costs have doubled and were taking several months to receive. Committee Member Barnett asked about the water fountain. Mr. Brown advised that the water to the fountains was turned off due to Covid.

7. Discussion of action items for Gordon Fountain Lake Park.

Committee Member Burks advised that the park is well used and walked often. She also advised that, in the past, there have been parking issues. Committee Member Jones advised that he received concerns from residents regarding the lighting in the park. Superintendent Brown advised that LED lighting as well as the kiddie cushion would be installed.

8. Discussion of action items for Fifth Street Park.

Chairman Willis advised that, every weekend there is a group who has a cricket tournament in the park. Superintendent Otis Brown advised that the parking lot has been re-striped, new signage has been placed, and the landscaping has been cleared up. Chairman Willis asked if basketball tournaments were held in the park. Mr. Brown advised that there were three-men tournaments held. Committee Member Koudelka suggested that the City charge a fee for use of the park for tournaments.

9. Discussion of action items for First Street and Ruben Parks.

Superintendent Otis Brown advised that, at First Street Park, the branches have been trimmed, signage placed, and sprinkler heads replaced. He also advised that, at Ruben Park, the branches have been trimmed, the damaged tables and fence line have been repaired, seven sprinkler heads, irrigation line, and valves have been replaced, and they painted over the graffiti. Chairman Willis asked if breakaway rims could be used in the parks. Mr. Brown advised he was concerned as it could be a hazard. Chairman Willis advised that alcohol was not allowed in any City parks. Committee Member Koudelka asked Superintendent Brown if Staff had ever found empty alcoholic bottles or cans in the park. Mr.

Brown advised that they often find empty alcohol bottles and drug paraphernalia at the Fifth Street Park.

10. Other Discussion Items, including Stafford Centre, Veterans Monument, Promenade Trail Projects, Citywide Activity Program, Monarch Gateway, CenterPoint RTRP, and Possible Additional Park Locations.

Chairman Willis advised that the Stafford Centre held several festivals. He also advised that the Committee previously discussed a veteran monument several times and needed an adequate location. Committee Member Jones suggested that the monument be placed in an area near the Stafford Centre. Chairman Willis advised that the SMSD Activity Center was almost complete. Virginia Rosas, who lives at 619 Elm View Court, advised that she recently took a tour of the facility. She also advised that there were several meeting rooms, a kitchen, break room, exercise room, men's and women's locker rooms. Ms. Rosas advised that the center was very large, spacious, and multi-functional. She also advised that rooms could be reserved for events, such as weddings or showers, and presented photographs of the center.

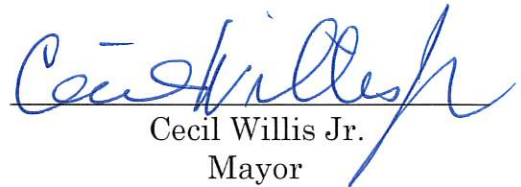
11. Adjournment.

Committee Member Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., and Committee Member Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Willis and Committee Members Barnett, Burks, Jones, Koudelka, Reed, and Smith voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

ATTEST:



Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary



Cecil Willis Jr.
Mayor