

CASTROVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR CALLED MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers Castroville, Texas

February 19, 2025

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to order TIME: 6:03p

II. Roll Call

Present:

Adriana Arrington- Calk, President
Alli Welch, Secretary
Kyle McVay- Member
Stephen Dauphin- Alternate
Ben Jean- Alternate
Jonah Chang, Director of Parks and Recreation
David Merz, District 4 City Council Liaison

(point of order to join meeting @ 6:20)

Nicol Schriner, Vice President

Kelly Hoog - Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helen Delevan (Friends of the Parks)
Scott Dixon- City Administrator
Patrick Connor- Citizen
Bob Lee- Citizen and District 5 Council Member
Scout Troop 988 presenting members and parents

Point of order- Due to software errors, agenda items were not listed as presented when turned in. Items were presented during meeting in the order below.

III. Citizen's comments

Bob Lee- citizen and recently appointed council member for district 5
Interested in regional park as it is near his house. He referenced the parks master plan, need for park agreements with future developments, and the dam system in parks.

IV. Consent Agenda:

Motion: Accept minutes from last meeting.

Motion By: Alli **2nd By:** Stephen

Vote: Yes# 4 No# 0 Pass

VIII. Presentations

a. Presentation of the gaga ball pit project for Regional Park.
Presented by Carly, Evelyn, and Brooke from Scout Troop 988
Scouts are working on their Silver Award and presenting project focused on helping people to stay active. They want to build gaga ball pit in Regional Park

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and have a grand opening and tournament once complete. Start date March 22 with completion date of March 29.

b. Review and take appropriate action on the Gaga Ball Pit Project

Discussion

Board asked questions and scouts gave details about pricing, size, and information about the game itself.

Motion: Approve project **By:** kyle **2nd By:** alli

Vote: Yes# 4 No# 0 Pass

Point of order- Members Kelly Hoog and Nicol Schriner joined meeting @ 6:20p.

VII. General Updates

a. Review and appropriate action on the proposed plans for the Regional Park/Waste Water Treatment Plant ponds & dams

Both ponds are currently in violation of TCEQ safety regulations due to trees growing in the dam, vulnerable to breaking with a rain event, and excessive slope.

TCEQ previously issued an enforcement order and levied fines to force the city to correct these safety violations.

The city asked K-Friese to develop options for the cheapest way to correct these violations. The first, and most expensive option, was to completely repair the dams and bring them up to their full water-holding capacity, keeping water in both ponds. The other two options were partially draining both and completely draining both ponds. The city chose the 3rd option and started filling in the east pond.

Work has started filling the east pond. As part of filling in the pond, construction of a channel is needed to control the stormwater runoff from the hiking trails. This channel would run on the westside of and parallel with the existing Loop Road in the Park and run all the way to the Medina River. This channel would protect the RV Park from intense stormwater runoff events (current area as existing small creek that currently flows to river).

The last engineering report from K-Friese shows a channel design that is 10' wide at the bottom and 40' wide at the top and would require moving the existing road as well as the volleyball courts and trees. This would also require establishing areas at ground level in the park for ponds.

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At a recent meeting Phil King, District 3, Councilperson, indicated that a channel of 5' wide would be sufficient to handle the runoff from the east pond. So, the road will not have to be relocated.

Patrick Conner, FCRP Member, expressed concerns that currently there are no engineering designs for how the ponds will be filled in, and what the area will look like when finished, the size and shape of the channel to protect the RV Park Area, and what modifications are required to maintain a permanent entrance road to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

In reference to using the ponds to water the park the west pond is still functional but park staff are still looking for a fix to filter the water from sediment. The current irrigation system uses water from the west pond at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The pump intake is at the shallow end of this pond and sucks up debris clogs the sprinkler heads.

The Public Works Department is developing alternative methods of converting existing large concrete tanks within the Waste Water Treatment Plant, to store treated wastewater. This new storage will provide clear, treated wastewater for park irrigation and other recycled water sales. Engineers are preparing cost estimates, however, any of the options are time consuming.

Jonah reported that he is meeting with 3D Irrigation this week to discuss the installation of a larger filter to handle the large debris load. Patrick suggested using the Public Works large portable pump and quick connect hoses with a floating intake, to take water from the top of the pond eliminating the excessive debris.

b. Update from the Friends of Castroville Regional Park
Per Helen Delevan

At friends of Park recent meeting a discussion of fate of park ponds and dams occurred. Discussions resulted in Friends determining that much is unknown about current plans, cost, and effect of implementation on park infrastructure. They are seeking support from parks board to have a special workshop with friends, council, parks board and city engineers before any final decisions are made.

Updated work schedule for the park as well as a flyer for the 2025 annual meeting and membership drive on March 28 was also presented.

Motion- schedule a workshop between council, parks board, friends of park, and all invested parties to discuss details and options for dam project.

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By: Kyle 2nd By: Kelly

Vote: Yes# 4 No# 0 Pass

V. Updates From Parks and Recreation Manager

- a. Update on Parks & Recreation by Jonah Chang, Director of Parks & Recreation:

-Community Center Update

Approval process continues. State Architect reviewed and approved final Project Manual 2/19/2025. Should have a follow-up email from USDA to schedule the pre-construction conference.

-Regional Park Athletic Fields Irrigation Update-

Currently looking into filtration options. Still not watering fields.

-Lions Park Conceptual Layouts-

Presentation and discussion of where items go (playground, swings, multipurpose field) for future planning and possible submission for grants. Also would be good addition to parks master plan.

Discussion of softball field and usage. This item has been discussed at length in previous meeting. Scott Dixon reiterated that he feels the softball field is too expensive to fix (lights and fencing) and should be torn down. Board previously determined that it desired to keep softball field and use the outfield as a multipurpose field. New fencing and lighting is needed. This has been discussed several times at previous meetings and no progress on fixing the fence has occurred.

Parks staff is currently working with Advanced Aquatics on next steps to clear lines and get the splash pad 100% operational.

-Parks & Recreation Regulations, Rules, and Guidelines Update

VI. Other Updates

- a. **Next Regular Called Meeting:**

March 19, 2025 City Hall Council Chambers @ 6:00 p.m

IX. Discussion on Future Agenda Items

- a. TPWD Grant Feedback

b. Discussion on future pool additions: -Additional changing areas -Showers and restrooms -Handicap accessibility

c. Define usage of pool for the future and additional new programs.

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X. Adjourn **TIME 8:02**

Motion: To Adjourn

Motion By: Kelly

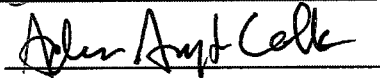
2nd By: Kyle

Vote: Yes# 4 No# 0 Pass

Prepared By



Approved By





To: Adriana Calk, Chair, City of Castroville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
From: Friends of the Castroville Regional Park
Date: February 19, 2025
Re: Regional Park Ponds and Dam

At our FCRP Meeting on Monday morning, we held a lengthy discussion about the fate of the Park Ponds and Dams. We came to realize that we do not know enough about the current plans, cost thereof, or, most importantly, the effect implementation of those plans will have on the park infrastructure.

We therefore seek your support in requesting a special Workshop to include City Council, Parks Board, FCRP and K Friese before a final decision is made by City Council.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Helen

Helen Delavan, President

Citizens Comments to Park Board 19 Feb 2025

By Bob Lee

I am going to replace Herb as the district 5 council person so obviously the biggest park we have regional Park, which is only about three houses for me will be in the district that I represent.

As you know, the boards and commissions are really an extension of council and one of your responsibilities is to look at all the parks related issues and make recommendations to council on whatever it is that falls within that area.

I have looked through the parks master plan, and it is excellent, and see there are many worthwhile projects that will benefit the city along with some estimated cost.

As the budget will soon be worked, those projects in the plan that are most important should be prioritized so they can be included. I would coordinate that with your council liaison and park superintendent to get that ready early and be ready to make a presentation to council.

Another thing is parkland dedication for new developments. They must give either useable land or money for park purposes.

Once we get to build out of Alsatian Oaks and the other developments to the east, we will basically have a town bigger than the town we already have. Regional and Lions Park will not be enough.

That means lots of need for good well-equipped parks open to everyone.

I asked the city administrator what the park dedications were from the developments ongoing right now or soon to be and he sent me this list.

Country Village Estates: Paid fee in lieu of
Alsatian Oaks: Using amenity center, drainage areas, and public sidewalks to meet the requirement
Hedgits of Castrolville: Using planned detention area with trails, trees, and benches to meet the requirement
Flat Creek: - using amenity center, drainage and detention areas to meet the requirement

A

I was just curious if the if the park board get an opportunity to look at these submissions by the developers to see if they fit within the overall scheme of what's the suitable park plan for the citizens of Castrolville.

I would hope as the park advisory board to council and the advisory board to council there might be an input that you guys could make once you look at it and considered how it fit into the overall scheme of things.

I did notice that flood plains drainage ditches sidewalks, and so forth had been accepted in place of just dedicated park space.

Well, some of those would be nice for trails and things like that. Would they be suitable to put thousands of dollars worth of in a park recreational equipment in when they would be subject to flooding, probably not.

That would mean to me that for a lot of the park amenities we like the people would have to leave their particular subdivision and go somewhere else to enjoy a fully outfitted park they would like. At this point that means Regional and Lions Parks.

You have a city council liaison person and I think it would be good if you talk things over with them and see if you might fit in the process at some point or have an opportunity to take a look at what's been offered, and now that either could be incorporated into the overall master Park plan or possibly some adjustments made to it?

Looking at the issue with the dams, I hope we come up with a solution that doesn't reduce the land area within the park and that we do not get rid of having a pond up there or a series of ponds as depicted in the in that park master plan so we could take advantage of that ample, treated wastewater that we have.

I know there's a lot of issues involved with this you are looking at. Keep at it.

Right now it appears we have a number of trees in the park getting badly stressed from the drought and it would be a shame for us to lose those trees. People paid money for to have planted in memory of someone or for dedication to the city.

We must not let those trees die and we certainly do not need to use our municipal water to do it.

As you work this I would consider saving those trees an emergency even if we need to rent a water truck to keep them alive.