

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

May 21, 2025
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to order TIME: 6:00p

II. Roll Call

Present:

Adriana Arrington- Calk, President
Nicol Schriener, Vice President (Absent)
Alli Welch, Secretary
Kyle McVay- Member
Kelly Hoog - Member
Stephen Dauphin- Alternate (absent)
Ben Jean- Alternate (sitting in for Nicol)
Jonah Chang, Director of Parks and Recreation
David Merz, District 4 City Council Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helen Delevan- Friends of the Parks
Patrick Connor- Friends of the Parks
Larry Wolter and wife- Citizen
Ed Sonnet- Citizen (131 Village Path)

III. Citizen's comments

Mr. Wolter (132 Village Path) came to discuss possible park in Country Village. He expressed concern about public park usage near his home as well as needed drainage in that area. He notes that the property was intended for single family resident use and then was bought by the city with the intention to fix drainage.

Mr. Sonnet came to discuss possible park in Country Village. He encouraged board to notify neighborhood of future discussion of park before making any decisions.

David Merz- 148 village path

In favor of park and readdressed discussion from previous meetings. He acknowledged need for parks for young families moving to the area, in particular those families living in the nearby apartments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Accept minutes from last meeting.

Motion By: Kelly **2nd By:** Ben

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

May 21, 2025
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

V. Presentations

a. Lions park softball field fence repair update & costs

City staff and approximately 3 hours of labor used wire to straighten areas where the fence had curled, resulting in a noticeable improvement in both appearance and function. The opposite side (home dugout) still requires additional repairs—potentially just added supports, though phased replacement of the fencing may need to be considered.

VI. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discuss and take action on the softball field fence repair costs

Discussion

Focused on preventative maintenance and addressing safety concerns. While labor-intensive, the work was not cost-prohibitive. Full fence replacement will eventually be necessary.

Motion:

Keep field usable and safe with preventative maintenance until we have a budget where it can be totally fixed.

Motion By: Kelly 2nd By: Alli

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass/Fail Action:

b. Discuss and take action on the Ponds public meeting held on April 14, 2025.

Discussion

The dam is currently in violation of TCEQ regulations, and a closure plan has already been submitted to the agency. The Board acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of staff and council in addressing the TCEQ violation, the sewer pipe's location within the roadway, and ongoing budget limitations. However, the Board also expressed several concerns regarding the current plan:

1. Contemporary stormwater management practices emphasize staged runoff control higher up the slope, rather than concentrating all flow at the bottom—where key park activities are located.
2. The proposed strategy of dam removal, pond infill, and reliance on sheet flow may not effectively manage large volumes or high-velocity runoff.
3. While this plan addresses immediate concerns, it could lead to future issues, including potential damage to the park, roadway, and RV area during major storm events, as well as increased erosion on newly created slopes.

May 21, 2025
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Motion:

Have engineer of record supply detailed closure plan for ponds and protect the park from run off including engineering data.

Motion By: Kyle 2nd By: Ben

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

- c. Discuss and take action on the Lion's Park- Master Plan update

Discussion

Recapped discussion from last month's meeting.

Motion:

Approve Lion's park plan as discussed in previous weeks.

Motion By: Ben 2nd By: Kelly

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

- d. Discuss and take action on the 134 Village Path Pocket Park- Master Plan update

Discussion

The area at 134 Village Path is only large enough to accommodate a pocket park, limiting the space available for equipment or amenities. Discussion focused on low-impact features such as walking trails, trees, and a possible bench—rather than louder recreational elements like basketball or volleyball courts, which had raised concerns among nearby residents.

Motion: update the Master Parks Plan to include the pocket park at 134 Village Path contingent upon resolution of drainage issues by the City and consultation with District 4 residents.

Motion By: Alli 2nd By: Kyle

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

- e. Discuss and take action on the Completed Project List- Master Plan update

May 21, 2025

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Discussion

Adding total dollar amount per year of projects completed as well as where money came from (general fund, grant, donation, etc). Tabled pending additions.

- f. Discuss and take action on the Parks & Recreation Board project priority list

Discussion

Council requested that Jonah provide a list of three priority items for each park area, in the event that funding is approved:

- **Lions Park:** Shade structure and an inclusive playground
- **Regional Park:** Bathroom upgrades, volleyball court relocation, and paving improvements
- **Pool Area:** Reels for the pool cover, heater protection, and a new restroom/shower building
- **RV Park:** Site and parking updates, bathhouse renovation, and completion of the recreation hall

Kyle also raised a question regarding the cost-effectiveness of renovating the existing restroom at Regional Park versus constructing a new one.

VII. General Updates

- a. Friends of Castroville Regional Park General Update by FCRP Representative
Regional Park has 14 trails and only 7 have sponsors. They need more sponsors to care for trails.
- b. General Update by Parks & Recreation Director including: Community Center Construction Status, Easter Weekend, TPWD Grants, Sports League Contracts Comparison Table

Community Center Construction:

Progress continues, with concrete work expected to begin in June. However, space constraints are slowing the process, as there are numerous utilities and variables to navigate within a limited area. During excavation, undocumented gas and electric lines were discovered. These are now being documented and integrated into the GIS mapping system for future reference.

Easter Weekend Event:

The event generated approximately \$13,000 in revenue with \$6,000 in expenses, resulting in a net profit of \$6,000–\$7,000.

TPWD Grant:

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A meeting was held with GrantWorks, and a list of proposed items for this year's grant application was submitted. The project will require an engineer, and a resolution for matching funds—as well as a public hearing—will need to go before Council. The grant being pursued is for a non-urban outdoor project focused on Lions Park, including a shade structure and playground. Letters of public support will also be needed to strengthen the application.

Sports League Comparison:

Still in progress; additional information is needed from Castroville United Futbol to complete the analysis.

- c. Next Regular Called Meeting: June 18, 2025
Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- a. TPWD Grant Feedback
- b. Define future pool usage and additional programming.
- c. Discussion on Phase II of Pool additions including additional changing areas, showers, restrooms, and handicap accessibility.

VIII. Adjourn TIME 7:52

Motion: To Adjourn

Motion By: Kelly 2nd By: Kyle

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

Prepared By

Approved By