



## Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 9th day of February 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, 78238 for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

---

### 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine if Quorum is Present.

Park Commission Chairman Roger Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m., with the following Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chairwoman Danielle Bolton and Commissioners Julie Carreon-Martinez, Ann Sawyer, Elaine Valdez, Diane Frazier, Nancy Marrufo, and 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Tom Benavides. Absent was Commissioner Evan Bohl.

Also present at the meeting were Staff Liaison Melinda Moritz, Public Relations Director Crystal Miranda, and resident Mr. Matthew Hodde.

### 2. Review and Approval of the January 12, 2023, Park Commission Minutes – (Commissioners)

Commissioner Marrufo moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Valdez, and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Citizens to Be Heard

Mr. Hodde addressed the Commissioners explaining that he was disappointed that the Hike & Bike Trail Advisory Committee (HBTAC) had been disbanded and that since that time, the residents along El Verde had not received communications regarding the construction of the trail. He further explained that the residents on El Verde were displeased with the trail being in their neighborhood but did understand that the trail would increase property values. Ms. Moritz explained that the HBTAC had indicated what would be acceptable along the trail and that those amenities had been included in the plans. She also offered to meet with the residents to explain the plans and answer any question they had. After a general discussion, Chairman Christensen stated that the trail was well placed under the Park Commission's purview.

Mrs. Sawyer stated that her husband Brian Sawyer had written to the Commissioners regarding the pools, and she wanted to relay that information. She noted that he was concerned about the type of pool cleaning equipment that the pool contractor was using and gave suggestions for better tools. She stated that he wanted the free days to be removed and instead offer dollar days, which would encourage people to clean up after themselves while in the pool facilities. She noted he was also concerned with children

being allowed to hang on the lane ropes, that the lifeguards were too young for the job, that more shade needed to be provided, and had a suggestion to replace the grass with artificial turf. Ms. Moritz noted that she would relay the information to the pool management company.

Chairman Christensen welcomed Mr. Tom Benavides to the Commission and asked him to tell the group about his service as a member of the Tree Advisory Board (TAB), which had also been sunsetted. Mr. Benavides did so, stating that the TAB had been in existence for about ten years and that their charge was to plant 10,000 trees by the year 2025. He noted that approximately 6,975 trees had been planted due to their efforts to date. He noted that the group gave away trees during the Earthwise Living Day and Arbor Day events. He explained that the City was a certified Tree City and that in order to retain that certification, they should spend about \$2 per capita for new trees and that they partnered with Mosty Brothers Nursery to obtain the trees. He also explained the City's efforts to inform the public about the increase in Oak Wilt disease and explained that program.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Discussion and Action - Tree Advisory Board Duties (TAB).**

Ms. Moritz explained that at the last meeting, the Commissioners were considering changes to the duties list under the TAB section of the Code of Ordinances and asked if they had considered any other changes. After general discussion, it was decided to strike #2 from the duties as well as make the changes suggested at the previous meeting. Commissioner Valdez made a motion to accept the changes as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **A. Discussion – March 125<sup>th</sup> Jazz Festival at Raymond Rimkus Park (C. Miranda)**

Public Relations Director Crystal Miranda gave a presentation on the upcoming Jazz Festival to be held at Raymond Rimkus Park on March 25, 2023. She noted the festival would start at 3:30 pm and end at about 8:00 pm and that she had three jazz artists engaged, along with food trucks, booths, and other vendors. A general discussion was held regarding the budget, the names of the artists, and what types of food were to be sold.

##### **B. Discussion and Action – Booth at Earthwise Living Day Event (M. Moritz)**

Ms. Moritz stated that the TAB typically had a tree giveaway booth at the Earthwise Living Day event and that the Park Commission also had a booth to show off the parks to the citizens. She explained that each person on the Commission usually

volunteered about an hour of time to operate the booth. She then asked the members to sign up for an hour block of time if they were available that day.

### **C. Discussion – Arbor Day Event April 28th (R. Christensen)**

Chairman Christensen asked Mr. Benavides why the Leon Valley Arbor Day event was held in October and not on the national event day. Mr. Benavides explained that the event was held in conjunction with the other Halloween events held at the library and by the Northwest Senior's Club. He also noted that fall was the best time of the year to plant young trees. He explained that the TAB also held a poster contest for local schools in celebration of trees and that they gave away books about trees for each entry. A general discussion was held on notifying the schools earlier in the year about the contest in order to encourage more children to participate. Chairman Christensen stated that the Park Commission could take up the subject on a later agenda.

### **D. Discussion – Oak Wilt Remediation Activities**

Chairman Christensen explained how Oak Wilt was remediated in Oak trees and how the disease is spread. Ms. Moritz explained what the city was doing to inform the residents on how they could help prevent the disease from occurring and what areas were being most affected. A general discussion was held on the subject.

## **6. Commissioner and Staff Comments.**

Commissioner Frazier welcomed Mr. Benavides to the Commission.

Commissioner Carreon-Martinez stated that she appreciated all the information Mr. Benavides had given to the Commissioners about the TAB.

Commissioner Valdez stated that she had recently joined the National Recreation and Park Association. She also noted that she had been at Raymond Rimkus Park on the weekend and noticed it was full of persons enjoying the park.

Chairman Christensen stated that because of their expertise, he wanted Mrs. Valdez and Mrs. Sawyer to focus on the city pools over the coming months. He also thanked everyone for their time.

## **8. Adjourn.**

Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Bolton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Carreon-Martinez. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

*These minutes were approved at the March 9, 2023 Park Commission meeting.*

*Roger Christensen*

Roger Christensen, Chairman

*March 9, 2023*

Date