



Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 11th day of May 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Linkwood Addition – Pavona Place Trail, 6501 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 Vice-Chair Danielle Bolton called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., with the following Commissioners in attendance: Diane Frazier, Joyce Trent, Ann Sawyer, Elaine Valdez, Julie Carreon-Martinez, and Tom Benavides. Absent and excused were Chairman Roger Christensen and Commissioners Nancy Marrufo and Evan Bohl. Absent and not excused was Commissioner Kim Crawford.

Also present at the meeting were residents of the Pavona Place and Linkwood Addition subdivisions and Staff Liaison Melinda Moritz.

2. Review and Approval of the April 13, 2023, Park Commission Minutes – (Commissioners)

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

3. Citizens to Be Heard

Mr. Tommy Branson of the Pavona Place neighborhood asked that the entrance to the trail at Linklea be cordoned off to prevent vehicles from traversing the trail.

4. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

5. New Business

A. Discussion – Linkwood Addition – Pavona Place Trail (M. Moritz)

Staff member Moritz explained that the trail had been constructed in the 1990's but had been allowed to deteriorate. She noted that when the Construction Crew started clearing the trees and a pathway, they discovered the old road base that had been installed for a trail. She noted that the Crew still had some portions of trail to construct near the

Linkwood Addition neighborhood and that there were some drainage issues to be solved.

Ms. Moritz stated that the Park Commissioners would be walking the trail after the meeting had adjourned and asked that they and the residents make recommendations for any improvements they would like during the tour.

B. Discussion and Action – Recommendation on Variance Request by Brenden Hyder to Place a Geocache in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park (B. Hyder/M. Moritz)

Mr. Hyder addressed the Commissioners and guests explaining what geocaching is and identifying the proposed location of the geocache box. Mr. Kamaraju of Pavona Place asked what was in the geocache box. Mr. Hyder stated that there was a logbook, a pencil, and some tokens, but nothing of any real value. Mr. Kamaraju noted it could be used to hide drugs as a drop off point. Mr. Hyder explained that he still needed to gain approval from his geocaching club for the location but that all geocaching boxes located in all areas of the state could be used for such a purpose.

Commissioner Carreon-Martinez asked who the caretaker of the box would be. Mr. Hyder stated that he would be the official caretaker. He noted that other members of the club would also be reporting any unusual activities at the box. Commissioner Frazier asked if there had been any problems reported in the past at other sites. Mr. Hyder stated that he had seen boxes not replaced in the exact location, but that the club members just moved them back to their original location.

Commissioner Sawyer stated that she had already downloaded the application to her phone and had read all the information about geocaching and noted that he would not be able to place the box in the park without approval from both the city and the club.

Commissioner Valdez asked if the box was to be placed near the creek in the park, which often floods. It was determined that the box would be safe from any flooding. Mr. Hyder noted that the box would be placed at a location near Sunlight Drive in the park and that he might secure the box to a tree.

Staff member Moritz explained that the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife promoted geocaching in all of their parks and that it was a great way to get the family out exploring and walking.

Commissioner Carreon-Martinez made a motion to recommend approval of the variance to allow geocaching in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park, which was seconded by Commissioner Valdez and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Commissioner Valdez asked who had paid for the fencing along the trail. Ms. Moritz stated the city had paid for the fence.

Mrs. Niblett of Pavona Place asked if vehicles were allowed in the alley behind Linklea. Ms. Moritz stated that it was a minor public right of way, so vehicles were allowed in the alley, but that vehicles would not be allowed on the trail.

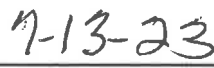
8. Adjourn.

Vice-Chair Bolton adjourned the meeting by consensus at 6:57 pm and the Commissioners toured the trail.

These minutes were approved at the July 13, 2023, Park Commission meeting, as the June 8, 2023 Park Commission meeting had been cancelled due to weather.



Roger Christensen, Chairman



Date