

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM

City Council Chambers | 202 N. Virginia Street, Port Lavaca TX 77979

**MINUTES**

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF CALHOUN §  
CITY OF PORT LAVACA §

On this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, the Recreation and Parks Board of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in regular session at 12:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place in Council Chambers at City Hall, 202 North Virginia Street, Port Lavaca, Texas and a workshop session immediately following at Wilson Park , 826 Seadrift Street, Port Lavaca, Texas with the following members in attendance:

**ROLL CALL**

Mac Sistrunk  
Olga Szela  
William "Bill" Reagan  
Mary Lou Tharling  
Dina Smith  
Tracy Hefley  
Nicholas Lowry

Chairman  
Vice Chairwoman  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

And with the following absent:

Mark Howell  
Kevin Kuntschick

Board Member  
Board Member

Constituting a quorum for the transaction of business, at which time the following business was transacted:

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mac Sistrunk called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and presided.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - *(Limited to 3 minutes per individual unless permission to speak longer is received in advance. You may make public comments as you would at a meeting by logging on with your computer and using "Join Zoom Meeting" information on first page of this agenda).*

**1. General discussion and hear statements from citizens.**

Sistrunk also announced that the next Recreation and Parks Board Meeting would be Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

No additional comments were made.

**2. Approve minutes from the regular meeting held August 16, 2023.**

Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Szela,

THAT, the Recreation and Parks Board hereby approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 16, 2023.

Second by Board Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Reagan, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, Board Member Lowry, Board Member Hefley

**3. Receive Parks & Recreation Operations and Maintenance report from Director of Public Works.**

Public Works Director Wayne Shaffer reported that the park's crew has been continuing regular maintenance at all the parks. He stated that the park's crews initiated the updates to the volleyball court at the City Park and are pending the arrival of poles for the net to complete the project. Shaffer also stated that the swing set at George Adams Park was replaced. .

**4. Receive Monthly Inspections Report from Public Works Department.**

The board reviewed and discussed the playground inspections report.

No additional comments were made.

**5. Receive update on park assignments from park board members.**

Board Member Bill Reagan's Park assignments are Wilson Park. He reported that Wilson Park look good. He added that the parks soccer fields is being well utilized by the YMCA for the fall season of soccer.

Board Member Dina Smith's Park assignment is Lighthouse Beach. Smith stated the park overall looks very good. She mentioned that it would be nice to have more shade structures in the splashpad area for people not utilizing the splash pad. She also mentioned that she noticed several water breaks in the park.

Vice Chairwoman Olga Szela's Park assignments are City Park and Butterfly Park. She said both parks looked very good. She stated that at City Park there were a lot of dead branches that needed to be picked up. She also said that the renovation to the volleyball court looked good.

Board Member Mark Howell's Park assignment is George Adams Park. Howell stated the park overall looks very good. He added that the new playground equipment looks good and the bathrooms were clean.

Chairman Mac Sistrunk announced that Butterfly Park would be assigned to Nick Lowry effective next Recreation and Parks Board.

Board Member Tracy Hefley's Park assignment is Faye Bauer Sterling Park. Hefley stated the park overall looks very good. He mentioned that there was a pile of trash in the back of the park that did not look very appealing.

Chairman Mac Sistrunk's Park Assignments are Bayfront Park. He reported that the park looks good overall. He stated that the Flip Flop Festival was very successful.

#### **6. Receive financial status report on the Parks Recreation Department**

The financial status was reviewed and discussed.

Interim City Manager Jody Weaver mentioned that in the future, at Lighthouse Beach, there was an idea of creating a Quick Response (QR) Code to allow the public to make donations to the park. She explained that having someone to work the gate was not cost effective therefore the idea of accepting donations was being looked at.

#### **7. Receive presentation from Michael Sanchez on proposal for future mural projects.**

Michael Sanchez, a local artist, was present and presented two drafts of possible paintings to add to the mural he recently painted at Lighthouse Beach. Both drafts were presented to the board and the idea was discussed. One of the drafts illustrated a boy and a girl and the second draft illustrated two birds. Each illustrated a male and female sign for the restrooms. Chairman Mac Sistrunk stated he felt that this type of project needed to be open to give opportunity for other artist to come forward and participate.

Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Szela,

THAT, the Recreation and Parks Board hereby accepts moving forward with the draft presented of bird paintings for the ladies and men's bathroom at Lighthouse Beach.

Second by Board Member Reagan.



Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Reagan, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, Board Member Lowry, Board Member Hefley

**8. Discuss current and future improvement projects at Wilson Park.**

Interim City Manager Jody Weaver introduced citizens Chirs Taylor and Dallas Franklin; they represent the local youth football league. The gentlemen stated that they were currently facing an issue with practice fields. The fields being used currently do not have lighting. The board and the individuals present discussed issues and discussed ideas of possible solutions.

**9. Discuss plans to conduct a Master Parks Plan in Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Interim City Manager told the board that she is working on Request for Qualifications to get a Master Parks Plan in place. Weaver told the board that she will try to have this information ready in one of the upcoming meetings.

**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Board Member Reagan,

Second by Board Member Lowry.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Reagan, Board Member Tharling, Board Member Smith, Board Member Lowry, Board Member Hefley

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 P.M.

**WORKSHOP CALL TO ORDER**

10. Tour City Park Facility (Wilson).

Recreation and Parks Board took the tour along with citizen Chris Taylor.

**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Board Member Reagan,

Second by Vice Chairwoman Szela.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sistrunk, Vice Chairwoman Szela, Board Member Reagan, Board Member Smith, Board Member Hefley

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

These minutes were approved on October 18, 2023

  
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Olga Szela, Vice Chairwoman

ATTEST:

  
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Lorena Perez-Diaz, Assistant City Secretary