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**Minutes for the Parks Advisory Board**

333 West McLeroy Boulevard, Saginaw, Texas 76179

May 18, 2026, 6:00 PM - May 18, 2026, 7:34 PM

**Present at the meeting:**

Chairman, Place No. 3 Adhel Torres

Vice-Chairman, No. 6 Ronda Nyberg

Member, Place No.1 Jane Lyon

Member, Place No. 2 Scott Gillette

Member, Place No.5 Timothy Hamilton

Member Place No. 7 Patrick Estes

Recording Secretary, Maria Hernandez

Public Works Assistant Director, Jarred Coursey

Superintendent of Public Services, Corey Smith

Brack St. Clair, City Council Liaison

**Visitors:**

Recreation Services Manager, Vickie Weldon

Assistant Recreation Services Manager, Jason England

Special Events And Food Truck Tech, Ericka Gambill

Tristan Martin

Family of Tristan Martin

Nicky Lawson

Matthew Letterman

**Absent for the meeting:**

Member, Place No. 2 Vacant

Member, Place No. 4 Liz Snow

First Alternate Member, Vacant

Second Alternate Member, Emily Bell

## 1. Call to Order -- Chairman Torres

### 1.A. Call to Order

Chairman Torres called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Chairman called roll. The quorum will consist of Chairman Torres, Vice-Chair Nyberg, Member Lyon, Member Hamilton, Member Estes,and Alternate Member Gillette.

### 1.B. Audience Participation- 6:00 PM

Chairman Torres bypassed this item as no audience was present at the meeting.

### 1.C. Approval of Minutes- 6:01 PM

A motion was made by Member Nyberg, with a second by Member Hamilton, to approve the minutes for the November 17, 2025 meeting, as presented. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Member Lyon, with a second by Member Nyberg, to approve the minutes for the March 16, 2026 meeting, as presented. Motion Carried.

Jane Lyon made a motion to Approve that was seconded by Ronda Nyberg with a result of 6-0-0-0-3. passing Absent was Emily Bell, Lynn Moore, Liz Snow

Ronda Nyberg made a motion to Approve that was seconded by Timothy Hamilton with a result of 6-0-0-0-3. passing Absent was Emily Bell, Lynn Moore, Liz Snow

### 1.D. Member Appointment to Fill in Board Vacancy for Place No. 2 - Chairman Torres- 6:02 PM

Chairman Torres announced that the Board had a vacancy for Place 2, created by Member Moore's resignation. Chairman recommended Alt. Member Gillette to fill in Place 2 vacancy and Alt. Member Gillette accepted the recommendation. Chairman stated that this would create a vacancy for First Alternate created by Member Gillette moving to Place 2.

## 2. Business

### 2.A. Volunteer Recognition - Chairman Torres- 6:03 PM

Chairman Torres introduced the item and explained that the Board had been informed of a resident who had taken the time to give back to their community through volunteer work.

Member Lyon expressed her desire to recognize a student volunteer who assisted her with the plantar boxes she adopted at the Joyce Spindor Community Center. She added that the student also helps our parks by picking up trash as they walk through the parks.

The Board agreed to recognize and present a "Nature MVP" award to Tristan Martin for their contribution to the community.

**2.B. Discussion Regarding Future Fishing Activities at Beltmill Ponds -- Chairman Torres**- 6:07 PM

Chairman Torres introduced the item and discussed the possibility of hosting fishing events at the Beltmill Ponds. She noted the need to review logistics to determine whether such an event would be feasible.

Ms. Hernandez explained that Beltmill Ponds currently feature walking paths surrounding each pond, as well as picnic tables and benches. However, parking poses a challenge, as there is no designated parking lot; the location would rely on off-street parking along Twin Fork Dr. Chairman Torres suggested exploring the use of the nearby school's parking lot.

Ms. Hernandez informed the Board that the adjacent property owner recently stocked the ponds, but the fish would not be mature enough for the upcoming fishing season. Staff is exploring a partnership with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) through their Rainbow Trout Program, and discussions are ongoing. Alternatively, staff could purchase sinking fish food for the existing fish and buy rainbow trout directly from TPWD for the fall/winter season.

Staff also noted that there are currently no submitted plans to develop the neighboring commercial property that would potentially bring in nearby parking amenities.

Nick Lawson addressed the Board and shared his experience with similar fishing events in nearby cities, stating that such an event would be a positive addition to the community.

The Board further discussed event logistics and asked staff to explore the possibility of using Trinity Industries' parking lot on weekends. They also requested that staff look into Heather Ridge Ponds as an additional potential location for the event.

Additional follow-ups include:
• Contacting the adjacent property owner regarding parking options and potential incentives for partnership.
• Reaching out to Trinity Industries about weekend parking availability.
• Continuing communication with the pond expert to ensure the ponds can support adequate fish habitat.

**2.C. Discussion Regarding the Friend of the Parks By-Laws and Org Structure -- Maria Hernandez, Board Liaison** - 6:34 PM

Ms. Hernandez presented the item and informed the Board of the proposed organizational purpose and goals for the "Friends of the Parks" non-profit.

She explained that, due to the limited number of survey responses from residents, staff recommended structuring the organization to consist solely of a Board of Directors, rather than a traditional model that includes paid members with voting rights and volunteers. She clarified that while Board members could serve on the Board of Directors, the Board Liaisons and City Liaison would not have voting rights and would serve primarily in advisory roles, providing direction and guidance.

The Board discussed potential ways to share information with residents and promote the non-profit. Ms. Hernandez noted that staff was attempting to limit the city resources used in establishing the non-profit and ensure a clear distinction between the organization and the City, therefore the non-profit had not been advertised on the City's socials.

The Board expressed interest in possibly having a booth at city events to help promote the organization and sharing details on their personal social media.

**2.D. Discussion and Action Regarding the 2026-2027 Parks Board Budget -- Maria Hernandez, Board Liaison** - 6:48 PM

Ms. Hernandez introduced the item and addressed the Board's questions. She noted that the primary changes were an increase in the Public Works Luncheon budget to accommodate rising food costs, the return of the Veterans Brick Program to the annual budget, and an increase in special event donations from the Board.

A motion was made by Member Nyberg, with a second by Member Gillete, to approve the 2026-2027 Parks Board Budget, as presented. Motion Carried.

Ronda Nyberg made a motion to Approve that was seconded by Scott Gillete with a result of 6-0-0-0-3. passing Absent was Emily Bell, Lynn Moore, Liz Snow

**2.E. Discussion and Action Regarding a Request for Additional Donations for the Independence Day Celebration -- Vickie Weldon, Recreation Services Manager and Jason England, Assistant Recreation Services Manager**- 7:00 PM

Vickie Weldon introduced the item and explained the need for additional funds, citing delays in sponsorships and contributions.

She reported that pending expenses include costs for the stage, the children's obstacle course, tents, restrooms, and generators. Ms. Weldon also shared that a $6,000 sponsorship is pending, with additional contributions anticipated. She confirmed that any funds received beyond the event's needs would be returned to the Park Donation Fund.

The event currently has 14 vendors, generating $1,400 in vendor fees, along with an additional $1,500 from food vendor fees.

A motion was made by Member Nyberg, with a second by Member Estes, to approve additional donations up to $8,000 for the Independence Day Celebration, as presented. Motion Carried.

Ronda Nyberg made a motion to Approve that was seconded by Patrick Estes with a result of 6-0-0-0-3. passing Absent was Emily Bell, Lynn Moore, Liz Snow

## 3. Public Hearings

## 4. Staff Report

**4.A. Expenditure Fund Report**- 7:07 PM

Ms. Hernandez provide a brief summary of the Park Donation Fund expenditure report for the Month of March & April 2026.

**4.B. Future Agenda Items**- 7:09 PM

Chairman Torres discussed the possibility of upgrading the volleyball court at Willow Creek Park. She introduced Matthew Letterman, a resident, who addressed the Board and expressed interest in improvements such as adding more sand, installing bungees to better mark the court, and adding lighting to allow for play after sunset.

Member Lyon requested future agenda items to discuss establishing wildflower no-mow zones within the parks and adding a sign for Kiwanis Memorial Park.

Member Nyberg requested that the Cinco de Mayo event include a Quinceañera dress fashion show.

Member Estes requested that staff revisit the skatepark improvement discussion.

Member Hamilton requested additional information on how the bond process will look in the upcoming months.

## 5. Adjournment

**5.A. Adjournment**- 7:33 PM

A motion was made by Member Nyberg, with a second by Member Estes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Torres declared the meeting of March 16, 2026, closed at 7:34 PM.

Ronda Nyberg made a motion to Approve that was seconded by Patrick Estes with a result of 6-0-0-0-3. passing Absent was Emily Bell, Lynn Moore, Liz Snow