



City of Lancaster
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



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NOTICE OF WORK SESSION

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL AND
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**LANCASTER RECREATION CENTER
1700 S. VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY
LANCASTER, TEXAS 75134**

Monday, July 29, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Members of the Lancaster City Council and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met Monday, July 29, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 1700 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Lancaster, TX 75134.

Lancaster City Council Members Present: District 1 Carol Strain-Burk, District 2 Stanley Jaglowski, District 3 Marco Mejia, District 4 Mayor Pro Tem James Daniels, and District 5 LaShonjia Harris

Lancaster City Council Members Absent: Mayor Marcus Knight, and District 6 Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Nina Morris

Lancaster Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present: Darwin Isham, Cecelia Rutherford, Spencer Hervey, Willene Watson, and Jerry Giles

Lancaster Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Absent: Abe Cooper, Mary Sykes, Donald May

City Staff Present: Parks, Recreation, and Library Services Director Sean Johnson, Recreation Superintendent Kevin Moore, Library Manager Jerry McCulley, Parks Superintendent Mike Rasco, City Manager Opal Mauldin-Robertson, Interim Finance Director Susan Cluse, Assistant City Manager Aretha Adams, Assistant City Secretary Angie Arenas, and Administrative Secretary Cynthia D. Williams

I. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem James Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Meet at Lancaster Recreation Center – Depart from Lancaster Recreation Center for a tour of City Parks and properties, including but not limited to:

Community Park

Stanford Park

**Verona Park
JA Dewberry
Hike & Bike Trail
Jaycee Park
Rocky Crest Park
Ten Mile Creek
Bear Creek**

**Cedardale Park
Kids Square
Meadowcreek Park
Heritage Park
City Park
Moreland Property**

Mr. Johnson welcomed everyone and stated that the purpose of this tour is to give the City Council and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board an overview of the parks in our system and the improvements planned or needed at each of the parks. He introduced our Park Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent and Library Manager.

COMMUNITY PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that Community Park is our most utilized Park in our system and discussed the proposed plans for enclosing the soccer fields and football fields when funding is identified and becomes available. Amenities include walking trail, Amphitheater (currently under construction), two concession stands for soccer and football fields, two playgrounds, outdoor exercise equipment, pavilion and small pond (Contemplation Lake) with fountain. Winter work projects for this park include pruning of trees throughout park, painting of pavilion, bridge repairs and clearing of vegetation from pond.

There was further discussion.

STANFORD PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that this is a small neighborhood park (has no parking) which is highly used with amenities that include a playground and a small pavilion – Winter Work Project for Stanford Park will include raising the tree canopies, repainting existing pavilions, and replacing/ restoring the barbeque grills.

VERONA PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that the City had its first Community Block Party at this location – Verona is another small neighborhood park – this is the first park location in the City that we will replace the playground when funds are identified and become available – it also has no parking – Winter Work projects include restoration of volleyball court; painting of pavilion and trash receptacle holders. – We will replace the sign at this Park to be consistent with that of Meadowcreek Park when funds are identified and become available.

CEDARDALE PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that this is a baseball and softball complex. The Park Board renamed this park to Cedardale Park in January 2012 to accommodate the multiple usages of the park Vs. solely being named Cedardale Softball Complex – We have not had a high demand for baseball to date, however, we initiated the RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Program to help increase baseball interest – Currently, we allow teams to rent the fields (outfield) for football practice – Winter work projects include tree pruning, vegetation removal from fence lines, repair and replace fence fabric – grading and site prep of baseball fields.

Cedardale Park is the location whereas there is an interlocal agreement with the City of Lancaster and TCEQ/ North Texas Commission that allowed the construction and operation of an air quality monitoring station – construction has been completed and the City is expecting an update from NTC regarding the reports of the air quality and how they can be obtained.

There was further discussion.

JA DEWBERRY – Mr. Johnson reported that we have the Summer Lunch Program at this park –Amenities include playground, walking trail, make shift soccer field, pavilion and portable restrooms – Winter Work Project for JA Dewberry include tree pruning and removals, bridge repairs, painting of pavilion and trail maintenance.

There was further discussion.

KIDS SQUARE – Mr. Johnson reported that this park contains a castle type playground – this Park was constructed entirely by the Community – Kids Square also has a pavilion that is heavily utilized, permanent outdoor restrooms and is a very popular park located on a major thoroughfare (Beltline Rd.) – Winter work includes painting of pavilion and inside of restrooms, pruning of trees and dead tree removal, treatment (sealing) of playground wood and replacement and tightening of parts (as needed).

HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL – Mr. Johnson gave an overview of the Hike and Bike Trail to include the mowing schedule and minimal trail amenities (i.e., benches and trail receptacles). Oncor’s vegetation unit has been contacted and requested to clear trees under power lines. Winter work includes removal of low hanging limbs on the trail and identifying areas whereas wildflowers can be planted in an effort to reduce mowing.

There was further discussion.

MEADOWCREEK PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that this is the newest park in our system – the summer feeding program is also offered here at this park. Amenities include a covered playground and pavilion, portable restrooms, lighted basketball court (with timers) and has the signature park sign that we look to have at all parks – Winter work includes painting of pavilion and repairing and/or replacement of shade structure, power washing of hard surfaces (concrete under pavilion), tree pruning and brush clearing.

There was further discussion.

JAYCEE PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that this is one of our older parks in the system with minimal amenities to include a tennis court and football field (without irrigation). The football field is highly requested and staff has worked with the Fire Department to assist with establishing the turf by hand watering the field. Future plans include the creation of a modular skate park. Staff is researching grant opportunities and other means of alternative funding to secure \$25 - \$30K to purchase and construct this feature that will add value to this park.

There was further discussion.

HERITAGE PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that this is a highly visible park – the Gazebo is frequently used – Staff recently restored the benches – Winter Work Projects include pruning and raising the tree canopies, repainting the Gazebo. COMMUNITY HOUSE: This site was visited and Mr. Johnson shared that winter work for this location included pruning of trees and painting of exterior of building and replacing wood as needed.

ROCKY CREST – Mr. Johnson reported that this is a heavy used park which amenities include a covered pavilion, outdoor basketball court, playground and softball field with portable restrooms – winter work includes power washing of hard surfaces and underneath ceiling of pavilion, repair barbeque grills.

There was further discussion.

CITY PARK – Mr. Johnson reported that this Park, donated by the Lions Club, is the 2nd most popular park besides Community Park with amenities that include four baseball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, outdoor restrooms – two covered pavilions and concession stands. Our newest initiative for this park is the creation of a dog park that will utilize the space where the previous outdoor swimming pool was located. The City partnered with a local boy scout troop/ Eagle Scout project that included the installation of split rail fencing and to identify the areas to be utilized by large dogs (+30 lbs.) and small dogs (-30 lbs.), painting of entrance and covered seating area. Staff has installed pet waste receptacles and litter receptacles in both dogs off leash areas. Staff is completing the finishing touches of the park to include regulatory signage placement and registration process. Staff plans to have an opening date of mid-September. Winter work projects for this park include painting of pavilions and permanent outdoor restrooms, pruning of trees, clearing vegetation along creek channels, replacement of outdoor basketball goals and replacing/restoring picnic tables under the pavilions.

There was further discussion.

MORELAND PROPERTY – Mr. Johnson reported that this property was donated to the City from the County. It was previously a tree farm – Staff maintains the front area and had to board up the property (front house). Property remains secured and staff is determining if there is any future usage for this property. Winter work includes repairing and replacement of bollards and cables and general clean up throughout the property.

TEN MILE CREEK PRESERVE – Mr. Johnson reported that this property was donated to the City from the County. Amenities include a nature trail.

BEAR CREEK – Mr. Johnson reported that this was one of the newer parks in our system funded in part by TPWD grant funding. Amenities include covered pavilion, portable restrooms, fishing pond (catch and release) with a pier, equestrian trails, outdoor classrooms and a nature trail. The City partnered with a for profit organization and hosted two “Mud Run” events at this Park, as well as, staff conducted an overnight “Family Campout” with close to 100 families attending. This Park has posted hours consistent with our park curfew – the Police Department performs regular patrols of this Park – Winter Work projects include vegetation and brush removal at entrance of park and routine trail maintenance.

There was further discussion.

III. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem James Daniels adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

ATTEST:



Cynthia D. Williams, Administrative Secretary

APPROVED:



Jerry Giles, Vice Chairperson
Lancaster Parks and Recreation Advisory Board