

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Brookings 898 Elk Drive, Brookings
June 23, 2005

Call to Order

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Haley Farr, April Gothard, Frances Hartmann, Tony Parrish, Chair Daryn Farmer and Student *ex officio* Paul Cleary.

Staff Present: Randy Mitchem-Parks Maintenance for Public Works, Community Development Secretary Cathie Mahon, and Councilor Jan Willms.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hartmann made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2005, and by a voice vote, they were approved as written.

Chair Farmer read the resignation letter from Jan Willms, who was recently appointed to serve a term on City Council. Councilor Willms will be the liaison for the Parks and Recreation commission.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

Summer Recreation Program:

Cathy Hafterson introduced herself as the supervisor directing the Summer Recreation Program. She circulated copies of the 2005 program schedule for the events, activities, and camps. Cathy explained the schedule is modeled from last year, with a change making the sessions shorter. The program is geared to children in grades 1-6. The activity schedule is for 6 weeks, starting the week of June 27th, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per activity, \$15.00 a day, or \$100 a week.

Cathy discussed a problem that occurred this year. Through no fault of her own, grant money to cover serving lunches was not approved, and they are in a dilemma on how to fund the lunches. Lunches have always been provided as part of the program and one of the solutions considered is for the children to bring a bag lunch. Money is needed to buy snacks like chips, fruit, and apples. Cathy said she personally purchased peanut butter and jelly for the first week.

Discussion ensued and Hafterson answered some of the questions from the commissioners. She explained they have a daily average of 15 children attending. The approximate cost is \$1.75 each, which adds up to roughly \$1,000 to cover the lunches and snacks for the 6-week session.

Commissioner Gothard made a motion and it was unanimously approved that Chairman Farmer contact the City to check into funds to cover the lunch program.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER FOR CREDIT

Bonnie Bremer introduced herself as an educator who has worked with the Brookings-Harbor School District program, "Student Volunteer Work for School Credit". She

discussed the advantages of students participating explaining they can volunteer at a facility, like the Humane Society, which gives the student work experience plus school credit. The experience is two-fold; it gives the students on-the-job experience and the experience could lead to a career after graduation.

EASY MANOR PARK

Chair Farmer read a letter sent by Linda Schreiber to the Commission regarding Easy Manor Park. In her letter she stated her family recently moved to Brookings and were delighted to see a park in the neighborhood. When visiting the park, they found it in poor shape and terribly neglected. She observed the equipment is old, rusted, and paint is chipping off the equipment. Additionally, a swing was missing, pieces of wood with nails were sticking up, and weeds have taken over the sand area.

Linda Schreiber questioned why this park was neglected and questioned what she could do to raise money, and organize volunteer work parties. Linda concluded her letter stating she was available to help make the park an asset to the neighborhood.

Discussion ensued. Randy Mitchem, City Parks Maintenance employee, responded stating part of the reason for the neglect is due to limited City manpower resources. The other concern is money. The commission reviewed the financial statements enclosed as part of their packet. Commissioner Gothard stated she was told by former City Manager Blodgett that new bathrooms were being considered. Mitchem informed the commission that new bathrooms are being considered at the 3 major parks; Easy Manor, Bud Cross, and Azalea Park. Replacement and bringing them up to handicapped accessibility standards is under consideration. Mitchem added he recently removed some of the climbing apparatus because it appeared to be a safety hazard.

Commissioner Gothard directed the Commission to the *Financial Statements* included in the packet, item 10-15-6050 "Park Maintenance", noting there appeared to be funds left for the current 2004-05 fiscal year. Commissioner Hartmann made a motion and it was unanimously approved to allocate some money for refurbishing areas in Easy Manor Park.

Commissioners and Audience Comments:

Cathy Hafterson addressed the Commission stating that if they could decide on a date for some Saturday during the summer months, she could come up with five (5) teen volunteers. It was decided to meet at Easy Manor Park, Saturday, July 23rd at 9:00 a.m. Communication with Public Works for painting supplies will be done.

Discussion was brought up again while the *Financial Statements* were being discussed. Chair Farmer directed the Commission to item 10-16-6175 "Summer Recreation Program". Cathy noted she has purchased all the supplies and spent \$3500. Farmer stated with \$9,500 allocated for the Summer program, there would still be money left to cover snacks and lunches.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gothard and unanimously approved to allocate \$1000 out of the summer fund to cover snacks and lunches for the Summer Program.

Community Center

Commissioner Farr discussed the booth at the Azalea Festival over the Memorial Day week-end. It was successful as an information booth, but did not make any money.

Commissioner Farr voiced her concern about having a second meeting, one for a subcommittee to work on the community center. After discussion and input, it was suggested that business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, and other interested parties be recruited to form a separate committee. Chair Farmer agreed but cautioned that according to the *Policies and Procedures of Public Meetings*, if 4 or more commissioners meet, it is considered a "Public Meeting", one that would require a public notice. Having a subcommittee made up of those interested parties to work solely on the design and acquiring property would be the avenue to pursue and consider in the near future.

Commissioners Roundtable:

Commissioner Parrish suggested an event Parks and Recreation might want to consider. He proposed a golf tournament, possibly named "City Champions" which would be geared toward all ages and levels, charge a fee for the course, and an extra five dollars to cover prizes in the form of trophies.

Parrish lodged a complaint about the leakage from *Bankus Fountain*. He said it was brought up six months ago at the public hearing when the fountain was the subject of discussion for the ODOT Highway Improvement Project. He asked if Councilor Willms could bring it up at the next council meeting. He also asked if it could be turned off.

Commissioner Farr said she would like to head-up the community center committee and thought the idea of recruiting members from the community as a good idea.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie Mahon
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission
Date: October 20, 2005