

# V A P a r k s

## VA Parks Advisory Board Regular Meeting

**Location:** Van Alstyne 152 North Main Drive

**Date:** May 16, 2019

**Attendees:** Sue-Lynn Voigt, Greg Carrol, Maria Hickson-Grimmett, Kim "Flip" Phillips, Katrina Arsenault Absent: James Lewis, Maricella Derrick  
**Visitors:** Lane Jones, Len McManus, Tricia and Ashley from Pacheco Koch, Mary Jane Farmer, and Reagan Voigt

**Time:** 6:28 pm

### Agenda items

- I. **Call to Order-** Chairman, Sue-Lynn Voigt called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm
- II. **Public Comments-** none
- III. **Discuss/Approve minutes from the March 21, 2019 and the April 29, 2019 meetings.** Mara made a motion to approve meeting minutes as written. Greg seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Tricia and Ashley, with Pacheco-Koch, to present concept drawings for the downtown park, multi-sport complex and North Park. Parks board to provide input for development of a preferred master plan for each park.** Initial conceptual drawings were presented at the meeting for review and discussion. There were two concepts for the 10-acre park off Kelly Lane. Concept one had two softball fields with two youth soccer fields and one full-sized multi-purpose field. Concept two had four softball fields and a full-size multi-purpose field. Both designs had playgrounds and ample parking as well as a treed area to provide a screen from the adjoining neighborhood. Greg and Kim have experience with softball and baseball tournaments and explained how a facility such as this could bring in tournaments to town. Maria expressed concern that we still would not have a lot of space for other sports such as soccer. Katrina questioned parking and expressed concern that the concept does not appear to have enough parking. Designers stated that this is a concept only and this issue would be addressed. Lane suggested that there be a review of traffic impact to the areas as well as information on lighting provided. He expressed the

importance of having analysis complete on both traffic and lighting in advance of the public presentation. Greg made a motion to move forward with the concept two design. Kim seconded the motion. Sue-Lynn and Katrina voted for this motion and Maria opposed. Maria expressed that she preferred concept one over concept two. The motion passed with a vote of 4 members for. The next park discussed was a redesign for North Park. This conceptual design includes a Memorial Park near the Boy Scout Hut which already has several memorials. This area will be highlighted as a memorial area to include Veterans and will be beautified. The park will have a new playground, concessions and restroom facility. The parks board recommended the three backstops (which were present in the conceptual design) be removed. Greg expressed a need for a 14 and up practice field which could be used by other teams, as well. If three fields were placed there for baseball practice, Greg stated there would be a safety concern due to the older boys being able to hit the ball a long distance. The board agreed. The board suggested they redesign with an area for a baseball practice field as well as green space for other type of teams to practice, such as soccer or football. No motion was made on this design as it will be brought back to the board at the June meeting. There were two conceptual designs presented for the downtown park. One design placed the stage across from Dorothy Fielder Park and the other, closer to Van Alstyne Parkway. There were many pro's and con's of both designs. Some of the city-owned area and uses were clarified by Len and Lane. The designers will take these two concepts with suggestions and new information and bring back another concept at the June 20th meeting. No motion was made on these concepts.

- V. Chief Barnes to present a potential camera system for Forrest Moore Park.** Chief Barnes was not present at the meeting, so Lane presented the Portable Observation Device or POD. This is an affordable camera system that will allow officers, dispatch or whoever is authorized to view every portion of Forrest Moore Park on their cell phones. Activity will be monitored and recorded. The cost of this system is \$10,000 which is much more affordable than the \$100,000 price tag discussed at previous parks meetings. Lane stated that we have a big problem with graffiti at this park and the cost to the city is considerable with clean up efforts each time. This camera system could easily pay for itself by apprehending and/or preventing vandalism. The hope would be for success at Forrest Moore and then the POD system could be considered for all other parks in the city. The board responded positively with this suggestion. Lane states that he only wanted

feedback and if positive, he would move forward to find funding options. Board agreed with this plan.

- VI. Discuss ideas/funding options for possible remodel/repair or replacement of the gazebo at McKinney-Wilson Park.** The condition of the gazebo at McKinney-Wilson is deteriorating. The gazebo is leaning and in very poor condition, overall. The board suggested that Lane obtain an evaluation of the gazebo to include recommendations to demolish or repair and bring this opinion back to the board for discussion.
- VII. Discuss suggestions for development of a Community Advisory Board (FOCUS GROUP) for community input in park planning.** The city and the parks board would like input from community members regarding the plan for future and revitalization of current parks. Each board member will submit several names to Lane for this focus group and he will reach out to these people and build a focus group to assist with the planning process. It is the hope of the board to have this focus group present at the June 20, 2019 meeting for data collection and input. We hope to be able to present concepts to the public at the July 18, 2019 Parks Board Meeting. **This is a focus group only- we are not forming a board, commission or committee.**
- VIII. Update on status of parks by Lane Jones.** The synthetic lumber needed to replace the handrails of the bridge to the Elementary School at Forrest Moore Park has been ordered. Construction will begin repair of the concrete around the concession area at Forrest Moore Park. The CDC has agreed to help pay for the fall material for the playground at McKinney-Wilson Park. The cost of this is \$3,300 and has been ordered. Date of arrival is currently unknown. The leadership at VASA will be changing at their next board meeting. Lane has requested a meeting with the new Vice-President and President, when appointed. The horse sculpture has been returned to the owner. The parks dedicated employees have been mowing all parks twice weekly, as weather permits. All our current parks can be mowed and maintained in one day. The parks are looking much better and there have been several comments from citizens stating the same. Lane voiced appreciation for the employees and the amazing job they have done. The fountain at Dorothy Fielder Park will be drained after the May 21, 2019 Music In the Park event, so it can be repainted to a more neutral sand color.
- IX. Closing comments by Board Members.** Katrina reports that while sitting at the park and talking with mothers with children at North Park that some concerns were voiced such as that

there are no restrooms available to the public at any of the parks. Lane responded by saying the restrooms have been opened for public use as of today. The lack of shade over the playgrounds is something that we should look at in the future as it is only Spring, and the kids had to congregate under a tiny playground structure to get relief from the sun, and the slide was too hot to play on. Concern was also expressed for the rusty screws and lack of fall material underneath the monkey bar structure at North Park. Maria thanked everyone for coming out and for the hard work that Lane and the city employees have done for the city and parks, especially. The rest of the board agreed and thanked everyone for coming out.

- X. Adjournment.** Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maria seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Sue-Lynn adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
Find funding to add soft surface material to the North Park Playground area.	Lane	5/9/2019	Lane was able to get CDC to commit to money for Mckinney-Wilson playground fall material. Engineered mulch will be spread by employees when delivered.
Parks board members to submit suggestions for focus group members.	Board Members	5/20/2019	Focus group to be formed by Lane so that we can have input from community members for new and old park concept plans prior to gaining public input.
Arrange meeting with new VASA board members.	Lane and Sue-Lynn	8/1/2019	Parks board wants to develop and maintain a positive working relationship with VASA as they provide much needed services to the children of our community.

