

Park Commission Meeting Minutes
April, 2009

The April meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Frank Benson, with members present as follows: Nina Anders, Eric Ashbaugh, Roger Hershey, Cliff McCormick and Gail Price. Judge Jack Gant, Ron Kroeger and Angela Zangara were absent. Eric Urfer and Donna Benton were present, representing Parks and Recreation Department staff, with Donna serving to take the meeting minutes.

II. Visitors/Guests

John Dempsey, Vice Chairman of The Powerhouse Theatre.
Robert Fry, Richard Turner and Al Rudd from Advisory Board of The Palmer Center.

III. Approve Minutes from 03/26/09 Meeting

Approved.

IV. Director's Report

1) Budget

With sales tax revenues being down, staff reduced the PRST budget by 14.5%.

2) Reporting and Tracking

Tabled.

3) Projects Update

Weather allowing, parks are being prepped for the summer season. Behind on mowing due to inclement weather but hope to be caught up by Memorial weekend.

Several seasonal workers are now employed to help with the work load in the parks.

Getting ready for another season at Adventure Oasis Water Park. Opens on Memorial weekend as well.

V. Open Issues

1) Park Matching Grant – Palmer Landscaping Update/Revision

Robert Fry, Richard Turner and Al Rudd, Advisory Board members, along with Vicki Hon, Senior Program Supervisor, returned with an updated, revised landscape plan for the front of The Palmer Center. They acquired two more price quotes that were requested by the Park Commission and provided a future maintenance plan, as well as replacement costs.

Again, after some debate and discussion on choosing a landscaping firm, the Park Commission amended and agreed to approve their request from the lowest bid of \$8,491.00 to \$9,950.00 after they spoke with the owner of one more landscaping firm before making their final decision.

This would allow them to proceed without coming back to the Commission and asking for more monies to complete their project.

VI. New Business

1) Powerhouse Theatre Foundation

John Dempsey, Vice Chairman of The Powerhouse Theatre, came forward and asked for a Park Matching Grant for Phase IV of the upgrade to their theatre. They asked the Park Commission to match \$10,000 in grant monies to replace the sound equipment in The Powerhouse Theatre. The speakers are old and dated and ready for replacement. Any electrical work needed would be done in-house. This Phase IV would complete their four year lighting and sound equipment replacements.

The Park Commission moved and approved the \$10,000. Park Matching Grant for The Powerhouse Theatre.

2) Issues/Comments

Question: Will we be able to name a park, sports field or area within the parks after any note worthy person(s)?

Answer: The request would be taken into consideration. Park structures and/or fields would be much easier to name in memory of someone rather than attempt to rename a park.

Note: Frank Benson to ask Bill Brewster if he would like a sports field named after him.

VII. Establish Date for Next Park Commission Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting is to be held June 25, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 West Maple. This will be the May and June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.