

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Public Parks and Playgrounds Board Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

118. E. Richmond St.

Giddings, Texas

1. Open Meeting-Crystal Scoot opened the meeting at 12:07 p.m. Thursday, July 21, 2022

Tony Francis presented the invocation before the meeting.

With Board Members present: Crystal Scott (Chair), April Gaitan, Darrell Sanders,

Tony Francis, Tiffany Albrecht. Not Present- Martin Rangel, Mark Muniz (Vicechair).

Staff present-Mayor Joel Lopez, Director of Public Services Kenny Ray City Secretary Andrea Ray, Supervisor Parks, Cemetery and Golf Course Justin Kessler, City Manager Spencer Schneider-late.

2. Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags were said.

3. Action on Public Parks and Playgrounds Board Meeting Minutes held on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

A motion was made by Parks Board Member Darrell Sanders and seconded by Parks Board Member Tony Francis approving to Public Parks and Playgrounds Board Meeting Minutes held on Thursday, June 23, 2022. City Secretary will make corrections as asked for misspelled words.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Parks Board Members: Scott, Sanders, Francis, Albrecht, Gaitan.

Nays: None

4. Discussion only regarding Veterans Park Splash Pad, Simmage Park and Veterans Memorial Park and the City of Giddings Swimming Pool.

City Secretary Andrea Ray informed the Parks Board the flag football has reached out and would like to have a league this year and use the Veterans Parks where the soccer field will be located for the public. Tiffany Albrecht has found prices for the nets for the soccer goals. No decision on purchases the nets was determined at this time.

Sloan Preuss spoke to the Parks Board and presented that a group would like to donate professional quality corn-hole equipment that is to permanently installed in the park. He envisions five pairs of corn-hole boards anchored onto concrete slabs built in the proximity of the proposed splash pad. Additionally, each pair would be decorated to represent one of the five branches of the military. Funding for weather protective corn-bag boxes would also be provided. Anybody can go any time to use them and the cost doesn't matter. It's mainly to give kids something to do after school, or parents could do it while their kids are playing on the splash pad. There can also be tournaments. The corn-hole area would also have a sign saluting Lee County Veterans.

Board member April Gaitan mentioned the splash pad may take another year to be fully operational. Preuss said he'd like to see the corn hole area completed as soon as possible. The board directed parks superintendent Justin Kessler to find an appropriate area for the corn hole pits, and to get the official dimensions. The board doesn't want the corn-hole area to be so near the splash pad that drainage from the pad would cause any issues.

Mayor Lopez told the board that a local business owner would like to sponsor the installation of Frisbee golf in one of the parks. Board member Tony Francis agreed Simmang Park would have the most space. In addition, he believes foot traffic in the park is really going to increase once the new Lee County Youth Center is completed.

Chair Scott has been investigating neighboring cities that have "disc" or "Frisbee" golf, and reported that the installations have been well received and utilized. She envisions people from out-of-town coming to use the field, and also tournaments being held, with possible revenue to the city. Scott suggested starting with nine "holes" or baskets. It was noted that each basket can cost up to \$2,000.

Charles Hurley, president of the Lee County Veterans Association, was invited to address the board. Chair Scott asked him if the Association had any plans to expand their area of the park. Hurley said they'd like to create a walking trail east of their current monument area that would showcase 10 significant military campaigns, starting with WWI. "Young people know so little about the history of this country," he said.

Hurley indicated they were still looking for funding for the walking trail. Since it looks like the annual Grimes Street Festival will be held at Veteran's Park for the foreseeable future, the idea of constructing a permanent stage could be a possible source of revenue throughout the year. Hurley believes a permanent stage would draw more people to the park, and offer a venue for concerts, stage plays, and private rentals. "It would also give a lot of exposure to our veteran's plaza," he said. "It would be available to all."

The idea of an amphitheater in Veteran's Park had been discussed in the past. According to Hurley, city manager Spencer Schneider favors a permanent stage as opposed to an amphitheater. Hurley reported that Schneider said concrete costs required to construct an amphitheater would be prohibitive.

However, Hurley told the board he prefers to keep any games away from the Veteran's memorial area. "That needs to be solemn," he said. Lopez pointed out that even though Veteran's Plaza is technically city land, the Veteran's Association has a 100-year lease, and they can treat it like their property.

Board member Albrecht stated that she'd like to see all the groups and associations who hold events in the park, such as the veterans, swim teams, flag football, and Little League, to unify. "We'd have a better chance grant-wise if they all came together with the Parks board and city council. If we have all these organizations backing this project as a whole, we might come out better getting funding whether it's from grants, the community, or whomever." She cited pavilion or bleacher coverings as a common goal that would benefit all the different groups.

The board then turned their discussion to the splash pad. At previous meetings, it had been discussed that all of the tennis courts would need to be removed to make room for the splash pad. The plan was to rebuild only one court between the swimming pool and the softball field. City manager Spencer Schneider said that he and public works director Kenny Ray have determined the splash pad would only take up two courts; one could be preserved.

Mr. Francis noted the local tennis club uses the courts at the high school. Mr. Ray proposed the existing court could be dedicated to "pickle ball," which has become very popular in some circles.

Chair Scott asked Schneider if any master plans have been drawn of the park and the proposed splash pad and court. Schneider said none have been commissioned; such an endeavor would cost up to \$40,000 to have them professionally drawn.

5. Discussion and take possible action on purchasing, or receiving donations and grants for the City of Giddings Park upgrades for future development projects.

Mayor Joel Lopez then proposed asking the Giddings Lions Clubs to donate money for the restrooms. Schneider said the restrooms would cost from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

The board also had discussions on getting quotes for bleacher coverings for the softball fields, and finding business to help sponsor new weather-proof park benches. Chair Scott would like to reboot movie night in the park once it gets cooler, and is working on getting quotes and licensing.

**NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM**

6. Discussion and take possible action regarding setting goals on future needs for all City of Giddings Parks.

Mayor Lopez told the board that grant funding for the splash pad has been approved but not yet received, and a company has already been picked out to build it. Schneider said after the paperwork goes through, the splash pad could be in place by spring of 2023. "It's already designed," he said.

The two eastern-most tennis courts would be removed to make room for the splash pad, and that area of the street would also be blocked. A fence would be erected between the splash pad and the remaining tennis court.

Schneider told the board that a grant to fund a proposed walking trail and ADA-compliant bathrooms did not get approved. Roughly \$200,000 would be needed to fund such a project. (Note: this would be a different walking trail than the one suggested by Mr. Hurley.)

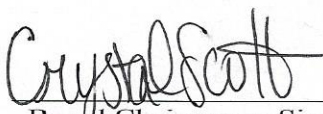
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Board discussed having a meeting next Thursday, August 16, 2022 @ Noon at City Hall.

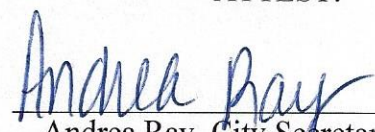
**NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM**

7. Adjournment Crystal Scott adjourned at 1:28 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2022 for the Public Parks & Playground regular meeting.

  
Board Chairperson Signature



ATTEST:

  
Andrea Ray, City Secretary