

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION REGULAR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**July 15, 2019 (Monday) at 12:00 PM**  
McGuire Dent Recreation Center  
2222 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
(409) 797-3700

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:59 AM BY CHARLYN VAIANI.**

**PRESENT:** Rose Tijerina (Mayoral), Charlyn Vaiani (District 1), Shane McDermott (District 4)  
Marlee Williams (District 5), John Listowski (Council Member), Tad Lewis (District 2),  
Jami Durham (District 3), Amy Bly (Council Member Ex-Officio)

**ABSENT:** Dyann Polzin (District 6)

**CITY STAFF:** Mario Rabago, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Clarence Swannegan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation  
Megan Pierce, Administrative Manager & Special Events Coordinator  
Chris Saddler, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation  
Barbara Sanderson, Executive Director of Parks and Community Outreach  
Luis Ibarra, City of Galveston Parks & Recreation Intern

**Review and Approval of Board Minutes:** Motion made by Charlyn Vaiani to approve the February 2019 and May 2019 meeting minutes. Second by Rose Tejerina, Jami Durham, and Shane McDermott. Unanimous Approval by Board Members. Motion Passes.

**Discussion / Action Items:**

**Update on Parks Package #3 and CDBG Parks Improvement Project**

Mario Rabago, Director of Parks and Recreation, began his presentation on the solicitation bids for Dog park new fences at Menard Park. Submit information to Purchasing Department to order out a contract with insulation and materials used. Mario mentioned he hopes for the contract to be in front of City Council by the end of August or September. Mario met with Facilities Director to put together a scope plan for shelf improvements, McGuire-Dent acquired two new row and stair master machines. Members have been pleased with the new equipment, and the five new televisions alongside the southern wall of the facility. Chris Saddler and Clarence Swannegan have been working on improvements and Lindale Park, which include four new picnic benches with shelters. Better Parks for Galveston is going to contribute additional benches. Mario brought up the Kempner Park fountain issues, Barbara Sanderson mentioned the Kempner Foundation having plans to restore the fountain; also trying to find a solution to keep debris out while being cost effective to all parties involved. Mario and Barbara had received bids regarding mobile restrooms. May be able to purchase an additional restroom due to the price falling under budget. May have a large restroom at Sandhill Crane to accommodate the soccer complex, another one for Lee and Joe Jamail Bay Park, and hope to get a third approved by City Manager and City Council for Special Events. Hoping for this to be in front of City Council by the end of August. Chris Saddler and Clarence Swannegan are purchasing pitching mounds for Crockett Park. Chris is working on Lasker Park Pool build out for the deck in the interior courtyard. Mario mentioned at the last council meeting 1.1 Million CDBG funding was approved for park improvements such as inclusive playground equipment at Menard Park totaling \$500,000. The playground equipment at Wright Cuney will be replaced. Every project has to go through a lot of review, which can take up to 45 days, but the impact on IDC Funding frees up \$174,000.

**Update on Better Parks for Galveston Initiatives**

Barbara Sanderson, Executive Director of Parks and Community Outreach, began her presentation by updating on Better Parks for Galveston's initiative regarding new equipment added, water fountains being installed (donated by Better Parks).

**Discuss steps moving forward for Jones and Shield Park Master Planning**

Mario Rabago and Barbara Sanderson began the presentation by updating that Better Parks for Galveston donated \$25,000 to put towards Jones Park. The committee has planned their Annual Park Party for April 23, 2020 at the Garten Verein. A joint planning luncheon for the Advisory Board and Better Parks for Galveston is in plan in place of the October board meeting. Barbara met with Dr. Lang from Texas A&M and they discussed if Texas A&M Students may be able to contribute to the design phase of Shield and Jones Park. Barbara mentioned this could be an opportunity to build a relationship with Texas A&M for future park projects.

**Discuss Committee Members Participation in the Development and Implementation of Subcommittee’s and/or Task Force’s designed to Support Parks Improvement Projects**

Charlyn Vaiani discussed the importance of creating a task force. This will allow for extra support in projects, also anyone is welcomed to join meetings. Meeting dates with Better Parks for Galveston are the second Mondays of every month at 12:00 PM. Charlyn described this as a working board, which is appealing to some. She then talks about conducting a park inventory, a huge project undertaking that involves identifying and creating a directory of all the components involved in each park.

**Discuss After-hour Use of the Lasker Community Pool**

Shane McDermott began the discussion by mentioning GISD allowing entities to rent the pool for after hour use. He mentioned what is required to rent the pool for afterhours use, and ways to increase revenue intake from it. Talked about what it takes to run the facility. Shane talked about the importance of creating a better waiver and procedures to protect the city; so that the City would not have to worry about insurance. He states it would be beneficial to the City. Barbara Sanderson mentioned City Staff would have to be on site when operating afterhours, special events, or regular rentals. Shane based this off his familiarity with the Galveston Island Swim Team in which GISD requires them to carry a certain level of insurance. Charlyn Vaiani proposed a task force or sub-committee from this board to start the initiative investigation to see what all needs to be created to start renting out the Lasker Community Pool after hours. Charlyn Vaiani made a motion to create the subcommittee and to contact the manager of the Texas City Pool to share information with this task force; Shane McDermott seconded. Chris Saddler mentioned a goal for Pool Staff is to establish a swim team within a summer league.

**Update on Recreation Center Programs, Pool, and Beach Parks**

Clarence Swannegan began his presentation by discussing an organizational chart to maintain locations more efficiently. Clarence Swannegan also discusses the shortage on staff, and the difficulties of maintaining staff. Mario mentioned the position for Park Maintenance Workers is consistently open for applicants. In addition, the reality that staff is shorthanded and the potential for maintenance that may need to be contracted out. Chris Saddler began his presentation by giving updates about being on track to hit all revenue projections for the beach; filling up all “Learn To Swim” classes for the year at the Pool within the first hour of them being made available online, and that the new management software was utilized to do so. He stated they are struggling with hiring lifeguards at Lasker Park Pool but that McGuire-Dent membership revenue is \$21,735.00 with 700 Adult paid memberships, 400 Seniors, 44 Military, and 30 day-passes. Free weight and Smith machines will be in by the end of July.

**Update on Special Events**

Megan Pierce spoke about Special Events slowing down temporarily toward the end of July and the beginning of August due to temperature outside and heat. She stated that she had completed the reconciliation process and total coast of Mardi Gras and was continuing to catch up on reconciling other Spring events. She was going to be meeting with a group regarding a Greek Festival event, and that activity would continue to grow busier towards the beginning of the Fall season.

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Council Report:** N/A

**Director’s Report:** N/A

**Board Member’s Reports / Comments**

Charlyn Vaiani mentioned that the Volleyball net that protects the court and players on the Avenue S side of Crockett Park needs to be raised because it is a safety concern.

**Discussion Items for Inclusion on Next Agenda:**

N/A

**Next meeting:**

12:00 noon on Monday, September 16, 2019 at McGuire Dent Recreation Center, 2222 28<sup>th</sup> Street

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM**