

SENATOR FRANK L. MADLA, JR. NATURAL AREA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Date of Meeting: December 30, 2012
Type of Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting
Place of Meeting: Grey Forest City Hall
Time of Meeting: 6:00 PM.

- ❖ Meeting Called to Order – Ron Green at 6:10pm
- ❖ Recording of Board members Present – Ron Green, Ron Reinhard, Susan Beavin, Jennifer Nottingham, Kyle Cunningham, Don Darst – Non members present – Linda Darst, Secretary, Robert McConnaughay and David MacDermitt - Quorum Declared
- ❖ Secretary's Report - November Meeting Minutes accepted as read, Motion by Jennifer, 2nd by Susan. Special meeting minutes approve as amended to include meeting adjourned at 7:30pm – Motion by Jennifer, second by Susan – all approved
- ❖ Financial Report – Shannan Kinsley, Grey Forest City Secretary/Treasurer – Ron Reinhard mentioned that a check for \$3000 had been paid to Mr. Swisher and should be added to the report. Linda Darst reported that a submission for reimbursement was made to Texas Parks and Wildlife last week. The request reflected \$18,067 in expenditures, \$3,313.83 in volunteer hours and \$1,820 in equipment value.
- ❖ Sub-Committee Status: All activities since the last Board Meeting
 - * Safety/Security – Chief Rutledge (see New Business a.)
 - * Biological Management – No Report
 - * Trails Committee Report – (see New Business b.)
 - * Historical – Susan Beavin – discussion that ideas to form a committee should be discussed to guide the preservation work at the “Top of the Hill”. Ideas to be presented at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. This would not have to be someone currently on the board, but someone interested in restoration. .
 - * Fundraising – Dr. Frank Madla – Don Darst gave a brief summary of the fundraising status to date. The current status on pavers is orders for \$1970, giving the conservancy \$1620 in profit.
 - * Earth Science – Ron Green – no report
 - * Project Planning Status Report – Don Darst – Don had met with James Swisher regarding the concrete work at the entry gate area of the Natural Area. It was suggested that two changes be made to the current layout of the entry to improve water flow and general appearance. The solution is to raise the concrete to make it level, handle water flow and make the post the same height and provide a 15’ apron on the back side of the gate area. Ron Reinhard and Ron Green also talked with Mr. Swisher regarding these concerns. (Drawing attached to minutes) The additional cost would be \$3800 (\$2000 in labor and the remainder in materials). A motion was made by Don Darst to at \$4800 to the current pavement project to correct the concrete level. Seconded by Jennifer Nottingham, all approved. Rick Stone was notified of the changes and will look at it to see if it will meet his requirements for the rock work. Don Darst will notify Mr. Swisher that the changes were approved by the board.
 - * Garden Committee Update –landscape committee inactive until spring, tree will be replaced at that time – per Storms Duthie) Jennifer Nottingham will talk with Jeff English regarding the GFU connection with Vulcan to see if he can negotiate a better price on the boulders to be used a benches.

Discuss and take action (if necessary) on the following topics:

(This notice is posted pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act -Texas Government Code 551)

1. Old Business:

a. Discuss and act on electrical proposal for pavilion – Ron Reinhard / GFU Ron met with Jeff English – GFU. The estimated amount for running the electricity from the existing house to the pavilion is approximately \$12 – 13,000. A motion was made by Kyle and seconded by Jennifer to set aside \$14,000 to cover the cost of putting in the electrical service. Ron Reinhard will touch basis with Jeff English this week.

b. Discuss and act on Opening Details – firm date, expected expenses, invitations (board to bring to the meeting their list of invitees with name and contact information) Open date is scheduled for March 9th starting at 2pm. This will be a dedication of the park with several short speeches and conclude with Dr. Frank Madla making statements. Refreshments of punch and cake will be provided. Lists of invitees should be generated and turned in to City Hall as soon as possible. Ron Reinhard feels that the invitations can be printed at City Hall; David McDermitt may be able to help with designing the invitation. Suggestions for an “Opening Committee” include Brenda Reinhard, Sue Peavy, and Frank Madla’s contacts. They should be present at the Special Board Meeting scheduled for January 13th 6PM at City Hall.

2. New Business:

a. Security – Discuss and act on Emergency Services items – Chief Rutledge presented the need for an Automatic Gate access for police and fire departments. He suggested a SOS system that would activate the gate opening with a siren. He also discussed the Apollo gate opener as a quality product; this would use a solar powered source. A motion was made by Don Darst and seconded by Jennifer Nottingham to allocate \$4000 for the SOS sensor, double entry key pads, using the existing gate. Approved by board.

Chief Rutledge also told the board that the city has 24 hour coverage and will provide security for the Park. Coverage will include opening and closing of the gates and checking the premises at least once a shift.

He suggested that we may want Cameras at the gate entrance and at the pavilion. He has a game camera that could be used until the board makes a decision on camera coverage. Checking the camera would fall under police responsibility, ultimately he would like to have it tied into the City Hall cameras. He will check with Mitch Thornton regarding this.

He mentioned having a designated Air Life area for landing helicopters at the park. The best area is in the Southwest Corner of the field measuring 60x60 feet. He would provide the GPS coordinates to the emergency departments. The area would have to be kept mowed for ease in landing.

In regard to security- Chief suggested a chain near the back of the parking area where the path goes up to the residence. The signage should read Authorized Personnel Only.....etc. We may want to revisit the idea of a fence along the East Property line, this fence is in bad repair – he suggests a 47” field fence with twisted wire at the top. Signs along the boundary of the park should post open hours, criminal trespass verbiage, etc.

Trail markers along each trail should have a numbering system so that emergency personnel can find anyone that has called for assistance.

B. Discuss and act on trail images for Trail Brochure/Map – David MacDermitt Contact information - 512-567-7200, email:dmacdermott1@gmail.com

David McDermitt will work on signage design, he will meet with Ron Green, Rodney Madla and Frank Madla to discuss how he can help with signage. He is also going to work on the trail signage (Blazes), develop site maps to be used for trail description (easy, medium, and hard). He offered to help with interpretive graphics and Trail Maps down the road.

The first trails to be open will be the East Bend and Warbler Way followed by Field Loop and Jon Allan Trail.

c. Discuss the potential uses for existing buildings and building inspectors report – the inspectors report was provided by Susan Beavin (clean copy sent by email by Linda Darst).

d. Discuss and possibly act on Robert McConoughhay’s presentation regarding providing housing for park personnel - Robert’s contact information is – Phone 210-833-6039, email

rmcconnaughay@yahoo.com

Robert presented a Proposal for a Resident Housing (Handout attached). The board was interested in the idea and will discuss it at the next Regularly Scheduled Board meeting

e. Discuss and act on Rain Catchments at Pavilion Site – tabled for a later board meeting.

Items scheduled January 27th Meeting:

1. Discuss Building Inspectors report for the Historical House – including Heat/Ac, Septic, Roofing, Insurance status, etc.
2. Discuss Robert McConnaughay Proposal for Park Personnel Housing
3. Address Fencing options
4. Preservation Committee recommendations to address structures at “Top of Hill”.

Misc. Jennifer Nottingham will present an update on money spent for the Madla Natural Area project to City Council.

John Chaffee has volunteered to be the Official Photographer for the park, well received by the Board Members.

❖ Adjournment – 8:20 PM Motion by Kyle Cunningham, 2nd by Jennifer Nottingham