

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

Date of Meeting: November 26, 2017

Type of Meeting: Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Place of Meeting: Grey Forest City Hall

Time of Meeting: 6:00 PM.

- ❖ Call to Order – Ron Green called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
- ❖ Recording of Board – Ron Green, Ron Reinhard, Susan Beavin, John Chaffee, Storms Duthie, Matt Baker and Jennifer Nottingham.
- ❖ Declaration of a Quorum – a quorum was present
- ❖ Secretary’s Minutes of 29 October 2017 were approved as amended.
- ❖ Financial Report – No report
- ❖ Conservancy Report (Bylaws, Board, etc.) – Don Darst is sending letters of request for donations for a general fund that will go towards various park projects.

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. Reports

- Biological Management – Jen said the tree (20’ Bigtooth maple) donated in memory of Linda Darst has been planted by Wilson’s nursery. There was discussion about planting milkweed in the spring to assist monarchs. Ron G cleared more barbed wire and general work was done by about 6 volunteers on Nov. 11. Need to find and cut down Ligustrum trees in park along Menchaca Rd.
- Cottage – Storms dealt with a toilet/plumbing repair. Items continue to get stored at the cottage, such as furniture and smaller miscellaneous things. Storms will work on removing them. Still need to plan to replace the roof. An estimate of \$20K was discussed for a standing seam roof. Also, the outside walls need painting; most necessary is the W. wall which could be painted as an initial step.
- Trails – Trail signage options were discussed.
- Technical – Brenda Reinhard and John will work together on the website. Discussion held that the minutes need to be uploaded to the City/Madla website; Elaine to contact Shannan.
- City Police Department – Report submitted, no activity.
- City Public Works – No report. Discussion held about the City’s help with mowing weekly around the pavilion. Jen will come up with a mowing plan that would accommodate the park needs and the City’s limitations, and give it to Ron R. to consider.

2. Unfinished Business

- 2018 Fundraiser: A speaker has not been found. Optional speakers were considered; Ron G asked Susan to contact Jim Cannizzo, a military environmental attorney w/ Camp Bullis, and Elaine to contact Bill Wren of McDonald Observatory – as options to speak on the Dark Sky issue – and to email the board with findings. Discussion of ticket price was held; decision was made to hold the price at \$75 each. Other discussion was held as follows: to find a donor for a “volunteer table” so that a few volunteers will have comp tickets; and a maximum number of comp tickets for the entire event would be helpful to determine. A number of total volunteers expected should come from Brenda R. There is room for 70-80 attendees, perhaps as much as 100, depending on options for placing silent auction tables.
- Johnson Grass: As reported above, the City is mowing the JG weekly which discourages growth. Discussion held to consider next move based on information that has been gathered from Douglass King Seed Co.; Forrest Smith, Texas Native Seeds Dir. at A&M; Mike Brown (experienced contractor in seeding large areas), and the Native American Seed company. Spot spraying a functional herbicide has been recommended by all to address the JG problem.
- Star Party/Dark Sky: Elaine put in a request online for more information about the potential and limits of a dark sky designation from International Dark-Sky Association, and she will give Ron R. designation information the City may be interested in. No action yet on 2018 Star Party and optional Moon Viewing.
- Port-a-Potty: No further information yet.

3. New Business

- Option to ask GFCC to add stipulation for Madla Board attendance: Ron R. read the City’s regulations for Council attendance. Discussion held on what type of restrictions or regulations might work best for Madla Board members. Options ranged from strict stipulations such as designating a minimum number of meetings missed before dismissal is required, or dismissal if “no call/no show” twice in a year. Will continue discussion next meeting.
- Creation of Friends of the Park group: after discussion it was decided that at this time such a group isn’t necessary.

4. General discussion held

- researching grants at Kronkosky Foundation to help with park projects
- consider having Madla be a “dark internet zone”
- need to put up a COSA sign
- create wish list for park projects/goals
- December meeting is moved to January 7 because of Holidays

5. Next Agenda

- Discuss official unveiling of naming Pavilion
- Discuss and take action on Bill Hoover’s resignation
- Discuss optional Board members to present to City Council
- Discuss Edward’s Aquifer protection plan
- Discuss business use (photographers, etc.) at park
- Discuss and take action on discussion with Texas Forest Service (TFS)

Adjournment - There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Elaine Daniel, Secretary

The Board may close the Meeting and hold an Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, which permits closed meetings pursuant to Section 551.071 for the purposes of consulting with its attorney, Section 551.072 – deliberating about real property, Section 551.073 – deliberating about gifts and donations, Section 551.074 – deliberating about personnel matters, Section 551.075 – deliberating contracts and Section 551.076 – deliberating about security devices, to discuss matters as Executive Session matters in this agenda.