

Park Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting of May 8, 2024

PLACE	NAME	P/A	PLACE	NAME	P/A
1	Angela Lewallen	P	6	*Blake Wyne	P
2	Elizabeth Flores	P	7	John Brooks	P
3	Chery Brennan	P	8	Jim Domer	P
4	Chris Crawford	A	9	Elaine Borchardt	P
5	Julia Sykes	P			

A. Call Meeting to Order and Announce Quorum is Present:

The May Park Board Meeting was called to order by Blake Wyne, Park Board Chair at 6:03 p.m.

B. Visitors: 3

C. Approval of Park Board Minutes:

Elaine motioned to approve the Park Board Minutes of the April 10, 2024 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Chery and the vote was unanimous.

D. New business:

- a. July is Parks and Recreation Month Calendar – Erika Tang, Falyn Westbrook
 - No comments
 - b. Nature Center Business Plan – Chris Chastain
 - Blake: Have you been in talks with LISDOLA while making these plans?
 - Chris C: Yes, we've been working with them and utilizing their insights. Shelly Robbins specifically has been involved. It's been a big discussion. There have been concerns about blurring the line between the two areas. People already get lost getting to one vs the other.
 - Blake: So, it'll be a Lewisville Parks owned building?
 - Chris C: Yes
 - Blake: Cost recovery: is the goal to be profit-organized?
 - Chris C: Not necessarily. We're working with Brian Trusty. He has shared that that's not a common thing. Cost recovery typically comes from the philanthropic side. It's not through making money at the facility. They're typically subsidized projects, working with companies.
 - Angela: Are you considering the wear/tear of trails with the additional traffic? And setting aside project funding to maintain trails?
 - Chris C: Yes. Most of the increase in maintenance costs will be associated with the building itself but trail maintenance is an important part of the equation to us.
 - Angela: What are the takeaways from your discussions with others in the field? Which nature centers do we want to emulate? Which designs do we want to avoid?
 - Chris C: What comes to mind from our discussions are the Clear Creek center in Denton and the Audubon Society facilities. I'm more than happy to provide more details later. Brian had provided insight to that. But I remember him saying they designed their classrooms for use by small groups, like school groups, but if walls were able to come up there would be more possibilities, especially on evenings and

weekends. Pros/cons for including features for LISDOLA at the site came from discussions with Leslie. She also shared that the HVAC system at her facility is not designed well – should have been constructed to take up outdoor space. So, we've stolen some ideas.

- Angela: On the screen where you had Age Levels and Ways of Engaging – there's something I didn't see for Adults at Entry Level Ownership – participants/visitors taking what they see at LLELA back to their neighborhood. We want people to see the connections between LLELA and the creeks in our neighborhood - demonstrating that nature is not out of reach or inaccessible back at home.
- Chris C: Great feedback. Yes, calling out in the way you explained would be valuable.
- Elizabeth: What's the project timeline?
- Stacie: Bond has passed – we know our capacity with Bond and 4B funds. We will talk with the City Managers about revenue early next month. We will assign the funds based on what we've got. We will go back to Bryan to come up with a strategy for getting to design. Design should start early next year. How long for the design phase? With environmental impact and other sensitivities – it might be a while.
- Elizabeth: I don't like the idea of a sunk cost venture. It's hard to see why funds should be funneled into this project when there are more urgent needs. We do have LLELA access and LISDOLA. We would love to see more traffic there, especially since we are hitting capacity at Lake Park – we want to direct them down the road. That would increase cost recovery.
- Chris C: I understand, it would be a sub venture even without tangible dollars coming back. Environmental education and showing people the value of nature and how to approach/augment nature at home have value. LISDOLA's drawback is they structured it as a classroom-first facility. They don't have the capacity for public engagements.
- Elizabeth: Public engagements?
- Chris C: Community groups, baby showers, weddings, community groups... Those wouldn't be the primary offerings, but we are happy to meet that need and recover costs that way.
- Elizabeth: I do support moving out of LLELA because it's inaccessible when it's flooded. Good way to pivot.

C. HALFF DCTA Trail Presentation – Randy Simon, Lenny @ HALFF

- Elizabeth: Is the 12-foot width (sidewalks in trail plan) for emergency vehicle access?
- Lenny: Actually, they're looking at pedestrian and bicycle access for the region. Part of the design guidelines is they want dual paths for safe pedestrian and bike access. The minimum width requirement is 10 feet wide. If you use the White Rock trail, you can see dual paths. It's like a highway – so busy. We want multiple access points on the same corridor. We want a safe way for everyone to use the trail.
- Elizabeth: So that's why the sidewalks are so wide. Seems huge.
- Lenny: It is huge. Our predecessors worked on the Whitewater Creek trail. That's 8 feet wide. Same thing with Allen. They made 8-foot-wide trails that now must be widened. Sidewalks are getting wider.
- Jim Sidewalks are getting wider.
- Lenny: We want to promote healthy living and not limiting people getting out there.

- Jose: That private property next to the TNMP station has no roadway connection. Do you anticipate that being an order by the DART? Any interest in property from a developer?
- Lenny: They're going to add multifamily housing there. That's part of why we're stuck where we are, and we want to make sure we have trail access. At first, we thought we had a big plot of land but then realized there are plans in place and had to pivot.
- Blake: Are there any raised parts of trails to address flooding?
- Lenny: We have features and areas that allow water to pass under the trail. The rail also will protect people from falling off. We're on the high side of the drainage area. There might be sheet flow across, but we try to plan for that.
- Stacie: How long will it take to get a permit from the Corps? Will it be TXDOT or the Corps holding us up?
- Marcus: Turtle race

E. Timber Creek Trail Extension Art Subcommittee – Stacie Anaya

- Elizabeth: Some of us are coming up for renewal on the Parks Board. Does that impact participation in this Subcommittee?
- Stacie: I've only got one response with no interest in renewing. If you renew, that typically happens. There's not an election.
- Elizabeth: Okay, I just want to make sure if it's a Subcommittee that doesn't create issues.
- Stacie: Everyone here will be here in July.
- Blake: Actually, I won't be, but that's unrelated.

Jim, Chery and Elaine are interested in the subcommittee. Stacie will give their names/contact details to Denise Helbing and she'll coordinate a call. Stacie and Randy will also be on the call, and some additional folks from the team. This will get started sometime in June.

- Stacie: The Glory Park Grand Opening is coming up on May 18. We are confirming a cleanup. We are finalizing your park adoption with KLB. Charles and his team are working on a sign. We'll have the supplies. We just need your forms. We'll send out a reminder and a place to meet up. Will be cleaning up trash out of creek area between La Quinta and Glory Park. If you're unable to go home between the cleanup and the event, bring a change of clothes and we'll work something out with La Quinta so you can get changed. Erika has been planning the event, so she'll talk about it.
- Erika: The event will take place from 11am to 2pm. Ceremony at noon. We want to emphasize the opening of the park. It'll be on park property. Part of Kia Drive will be partially closed. City departments will be out there and some nonprofit vendors and food vendors. For example, Denton County. Falyn and her team will be at the apartment communities promoting the event. The kids are very excited about the park. We won't have the SWOT truck, but we will have the fire engine.
- Blake: For the Keep Lewisville Beautiful Adopt a Spot: we're supposed to pick up trash with a monthly cleanup. I suggest a typical date and we have a sign in sheet.
- Stacie: During the ceremony, we are going to be encouraging neighbors to join the efforts for the Adopt a Spot location and become guardians of Glory Park. It's their space that they can protect. Would a couple of you sit at our table/booth to promote interest in that? When you decide on your schedule they can join and that will connect you further to the community.

- Blake: Sounds good.
- Stacie: We'll figure it out. And as we're doing the cleanup that morning, we'll decide on dates moving forward.
- Elaine: To clarify, the bonds did pass?
- Stacie: Yes, and just to make a point on that: the bond for funding this building (Thrive) only passed by 14 points. But this time bond support was a 70/30 split (for). We've earned the trust of our community. We have shown that we can create something amazing with the resources given. We have a higher standard here than anything the City of Lewisville had seen up to this point and our success here and elsewhere has allowed voters to feel comfortable approving the Public Safety building which will be ready in 7-8 months. In a 10-year timeframe we have gone from sweating it out until midnight on if we were going to make it to this point where we knew after early voting it was going to pass. That's a statement to our quality and excellence.
- Elizabeth: Thanks for asking about the bond election. There are some things I'd like to report from the community. We're talking about challenges to Railroad Park field maintenance here, but I witnessed the Park Ranger driving his car on pavement which isn't meant for cars. I was concerned to see that. This was on a Sunday 2-3 weeks ago. Someone was trying to golf chip out there and the Park Ranger told him to get off the field but there was no ID on his car. I happened to be close by and didn't hear him offer identification. I didn't know he was a Park Ranger. It was concerning because I just saw a White Chevy Volt or something like that. Maybe we just need a magnet on that vehicle. Some introductions when doing community outreach is better than "hey get off the field". I was also talking with someone at Lake Park which also has a Ranger. I was talking about the quality of fields, and they told me there are pickup games taking place on those fields. So, we have the Park Ranger but he can't do anything to stop folks from using the fields. The individual said he has seen several violations happening on the fields but there's no criminal ramifications or enforcement.
- Stacie: Who was this?
- Elizabeth: A soccer board member. So he cares about the fields. And he tells the Park Ranger about these issues and from what he led me to understand there was not much that could be done by the Ranger. When we talk about the cost of maintaining/improving our facilities, we need to protect that investment.
- Marcus: The ranger is just one person with a big scope. He is responsible for surveilling all of our parks, even Castle Hills. He can kick violators off, and he moves on and then they come back. We did add soccer goals to encourage use of the nearby open fields. We are trying to find and create spaces for pickup games. As for enforcement at this time, the Ranger can have them fined cause there are signs out there.
- Elizabeth: I'm assuming that's a last resort, but we do want to track this. We put so much into these facilities so at what point do we need to address the issues and enforce consequences?
- Stacie: Fence the fields and lock them up? The Soccer Board was just here giving a presentation and they didn't mention the issue or their suggestions on solutions. I'd remember that. It would have been helpful to have a direct conversation with them then. But they do also have contact information for Ramiro and Erika. This has not been communicated through those streams either. Some people just want to complain about us when we're not in the room.

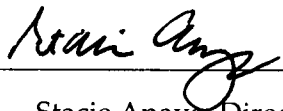
- Eliz – it wasn't a complaint and it wasn't about Parks people, it was about the people causing trouble.
- Stacie: Welcome to our life. Park visitors must take some stewardship upon themselves. We have so much pressure for access. The way that this was presented was that our team did something wrong.
- Julia: And wouldn't it be better to reach out in the moment, so we don't have to go back and try to track down the issue in the past?
- Elizabeth: Well, with that, the ID was something general. So was the driving on sidewalks.
- Randy: A lot of the pathways can be used by maintenance crews. They're built to handle that weight occasionally.
- Elizabeth: Yes, occasionally.
- Marcus: We can address that issue.
- Elizabeth: I know lawn guys are out there. Sorry for the poor phrasing. It was more like I don't know what to do, resources are limited, and we just want to see stewardship/ownership to keep the parks nice.
- Stacie: Fencing is not our style. We try to catch rule violations when we can. We also rely on our partners to be our voices.
- Elizabeth: Someone at Parks taught them how to redo the fields. The baseball guys taught them. They redid the fields. I know there are passionate people that do want to take ownership.
- Stacie: Thank you and thanks to everyone coming out to Austin Kent Ellis for the reopening.
- Julia: Thank you, it looks so great.
- Jim: I won't be at the Glory Park grand opening because I'll be at the Special Olympics. I'll bring a cutout.

F. Round Table:

- Angela Lewallen –
- Elizabeth Flores –
- Chery Brennan –
- Chris Crawford –
- Julia Sykes –
- Blake Wyne –
- John Brooks -
- Jim Domer –
- Elaine Borchardt –

H. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Chery to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., was seconded by Elaine and the vote was unanimous.



Stacie Anaya, Director



Blake Wyne, Park Board