

HEWITT TEXAS

PARKS & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

January 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM
Hewitt Community Services-Conference Room
103 N. Hewitt Dr, Hewitt, TX 76643

MINUTES

Members: Casey Lowrey, Vernon Bailey, Tyler Green, Nathan Rusterholtz, Richard Driver

Attendee Name	Absent	Present	Arrived
Casey Lowery	☐	☒	5:55 pm
Vernon Bailey	☐	☒	5:58 pm
Nathan Rusterholtz	☐	☒	6:00 pm
Tyler Green	☐	☒	6:01 pm
Richard Driver	☐	☒	5:59 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lowery motioned to call the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and Mr. Rusterholtz seconded the motion.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider approval of the minutes for the November 20, 2024 Parks and Beautification regular meeting.

Motion: Mr. Lowery made a motion to approve November 20, 2024, Parks & Beautification regular meeting minutes.

Second: Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

Ayes: Nathan Rusterholtz, Tyler Green, Richard Driver

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

2. Discussion on park updates.

Mr. Coleman began discussions on the installation of the sewer line for the new pavilion in Warren Park. He mentioned that staff are currently running a 6 in sewer main to the sewer tap. He discussed that progress had been slower than expected due to the crew hitting limestone in the process and having to rent equipment to assist with the digging. Mr. Bailey asked how much longer it would take to complete the project. Mr. Coleman mentioned that our goal is to have it completed by the end of February.

Mr. Coleman recapped the progress that had been made on the five-year plan for the parks. He explained that the city had completed tree clearing, pond expansion, hike and bike trail, overflow parking, planting 25 hardwood trees, installing shaded and non-shaded benches, a toddler's playground in Warren Park, and installing additional creek crossings in Hewitt Park.

He discussed installing exercise equipment that has yet to be completed, but there are plans to complete it within the next five years. Mr. Rusterholtz asked what type of equipment the city had in mind to install. Mr. Coleman described that it would be very similar to the equipment that is installed in Hewitt Park, stationary exercise equipment. He also mentioned that the basketball/multi-sport court has yet to be completed and is still in the planning phases.

Mr. Lowery asked if there was anything else that had yet to be done. Mr. Coleman discussed that the city is still working on the plumbing for the new pavilion, which includes the fixtures, urinals, toilets, sinks, and adding epoxy to the floors to make cleaning easier. He also mentioned that the crew are working on adding solar lighting to the adventure trail in Warren Park. Mr. Rusterholtz asked how many poles would be set and Mr. Coleman responded with 10 poles in total. Mr. Bailey asked if they were solar or electric lights. Mr. Coleman confirmed that they are solar.

Mr. Coleman touched on the process for expanding the ponds at Warren Park. He explained that Midway ISD does own the other side of the ponds and is considered private property. He described the ponds that were dug down to the rock. We had a guest, Mr. John Provine of Texas Parks and Wildlife, join the meeting. He asked Mr. Coleman how deep the ponds were. Mr. Coleman explained that the first pond near to the Old Temple Road is approximately five feet deep. Mr. Coleman went on to explain that city crews were able to install an overflow spillway from the first pond that goes into the second deeper pond. He said that it was reinforced with large rocks and concrete and that the city does go in and occasionally reinforce with more rock and concrete to ensure its stability. Mr. Bailey asked about the walkway that goes in between the two ponds. Mr. Coleman explained that it was part of the spillway, and it could potentially be used for a walking path, but crossing the spillway would lead to Midway ISD's property and be considered trespassing unless some sort of agreement were made with MISD to allow park goers to be on their property. Mr. Provine asked Mr. Coleman if he would like him to work on sustaining that agreement with MISD. Mr. Provine mentioned that he may be able to write up an agreement with MISD by marking the ponds as a Community Fishing Lake (CFL). Mr. Provine mentioned that this is something he has been wanting to implement for the past six years. Mr. Provine asked if the city went to MISD for approval to clear their side of the ponds for the pond expansion project. MISD agreed and allowed the city to clear the banks. Mr. Rusterholtz asked if the city initially stocked the ponds with fish. Mr. Coleman confirmed that the city purchased several types of fish to stock the tanks approximately three years ago. Mr. Rusterholtz asked Mr. Provine what the benefits would be of claiming the ponds as an CFL. Mr. Provine mentioned that TP&W would periodically stock the ponds within certain seasons and would match the number of fish purchased if the city were to purchase more in the future. Mr. Provine mentioned that in order to classify the ponds as a CFL, a restroom would need to be in near proximity. Mr. Coleman mentioned that the new pavilion would have 2 restrooms available once the pavilion project is completed. Mr. Bailey asked if TP&W stocked fish based on numbers or how do they know how much to stock. Mr. Provine mentioned that the number of fish stocked goes by the acreage of the pond itself. He mentioned

that he measured out both ponds and one of them is approximately over an acre and the second is slightly under an acre, so, for example, for both ponds they would stock approximately 1,000 trout. Mr. Provine mentioned that one of the requirements would be that the ponds are accessible to the public from all edges of the pond.

Mr. Coleman briefly discussed the Hewitt Christmas tree lighting. He explained that there were vendors, Santa, the Grinch, and two hayrides that followed the Adventure Trail. He mentioned that the tree lighting was done in partnership with the Hewitt Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lowery asked if there are still plans for adding soccer fields in Warren Park. Mr. Coleman confirmed that it is still in the plans to add soccer fields, but it would be in the future after more progress has been made on the five-year plan. Mr. Coleman mentioned that it would take a significant amount of dirt to be brought in to level out the fields due to the extreme drop in topography in the planned area. Mr. Lowery asked how often the five-year plan gets updated. Mr. Coleman explained that it is more of a rolling plan, and it does get updated in March every year, and it is currently in the planning phase of being updated.

3. Discussion on the kite festival.

Mr. Lowey asked if he had reached out to the library to see if they were interested in joining the Park's board for the kite festival. Mr. Coleman said that he did contact a library representative, and that the library is interested in holding an event in the summer versus the spring. He mentioned that the library is looking at holding a concert series in the summer. Mr. Bailey asked, since the library is not interested in the kite festival, how the park's board would go about obtaining sponsors. Mr. Coleman suggested reaching out to the Chamber to see if this was something they would like to help with. Mr. Bailey asked the board about their thoughts on how to proceed. Mr. Rusterholtz mentioned that the original plan was to have food trucks and vendors so that the city would not have to put forth any expenses. Mr. Bailey asked the board what they thought about setting up a \$1,000 budget for the kite festival. Mr. Green said that someone would need to figure out how much it would cost for the kites. Mr. Rusterholtz suggested that Mr. Bailey sought out a sponsor once the cost per unit was and approached the company asking if they would be interested in sponsoring the kites if their logo were put on them. Mr. Bailey suggested they could possibly purchase the kites through Oriental Trading since they are reasonably priced. Mr. Provine suggested asking M&M Mars for sponsorship. Mr. Bailey mentioned that he did ask them if they would sponsor the candy and said that they agreed on supplying candy for the kite festival. Mr. Green asked if the city owned a PA system. Mr. Coleman mentioned that the city does own a sound system and could possibly sponsor the sound system for the kite festival. Mr. Bailey mentioned that he would reach out to Baylor Scott and White and the master gardeners to see if they were interested in handing out fliers during the event. Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Coleman if he would be able to email any updates he receives. Mr. Coleman said that it was OK to email, but he would have to email the entire board. Mr. Rusterholtz gave an example that he would not be able to just have lunch with only two members to discuss the kite festival. Any discussions or decisions that pertain to the Parks and Beautification committee would need to be done as a whole and during an official meeting.

4. Discussion on fishing day.

Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Provine what time of the year he suggests having a community fishing day. Mr. Provine suggested not holding a fishing day in the summer due to the extreme

temperatures and said the more likely scenario would be around the end of spring or early May. He said that TP&W holds several fishing events throughout the year. Another time frame would be in the winter, and they could correlate it with trout stocking dates. TP&W leaves the decision on when individuals can go in and begin fishing, whether it be before an event or at the time of the event. Mr. Provine mentioned that May would be ideal for fishing for catfish. Mr. Lowery asked if obtaining a fishing license is a city ordinance. Mr. Provine said it is state law, and some municipalities are able to waive the fishing license during a certain event for a set number of hours. Mr. Provine gave an example of the City of Nolanville. He said that they held a fishing day with no fishing outside the hours of 2-4pm and that if they fish within those hours, a fishing license is waived. He said he would have to receive approval from his supervisors prior to the event in order to allow individuals to fish without a license during the event. TP&W does set a limit on how many fish are allowed to be caught. For example, for trout, it is five fish per person per day. TP&W can also loan fishing poles during an event. However, the poles would need to be returned to TP&W. Mr. Provine mentioned that obtaining a CFL which offers a partnership with the municipality and TP&W, for stocking fish, holding events, and matching any fish purchased. He also mentioned that there is only one CFL in the county and TP&W is looking forward to a possible partnership with the City of Hewitt. Mr. Rusterholtz asked how long the process of classifying the ponds as a CFL. Mr. Provine said that it could be a possibility of 3-4 months or longer if we are able to get an agreement with MISD to allow the public to gain access to their side in order to fish from their banks. Given that is part of the TP&W stipulations for classifying it as a CFL, all sides of the ponds have to be open to the public. Mr. Coleman asked if having a CFL increases the opportunity to receive grants from TP&L. Mr. Provine mentioned yes, it can increase the chances of being awarded a grant. If ponds are classified as a CFL, there are many options and opportunities. For example, a pier grant, gazebo and more. Mr. Provine said that he could bring examples and more information to the next meeting.

5. Discussion on movie night.

Mr. Bailey would like to suggest having a family day out, playing a movie, and possibly having food trucks during the event. Mr. Coleman mentioned that the city did participate in holding movie nights, but shut down playing movies for the public due to licensing concerns. Mr. Coleman suggested finding a group that may currently hold a license to play movies and possibly offer the park to allow them to play a movie so that the city would not be liable. Mr. Driver suggested looking into fan groups of movie goers that may have a license agreement or a college.

6. Discussion of future agenda items.

Mr. Coleman would like to add possible voting on chair positions. Mr. Lowery requests to keep the discussion on fishing day on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Lowery made a motion to adjourn the Parks and Beautification Committee Meeting at 7:14 pm.

Second: Mr. Rusterholtz seconded the motion.

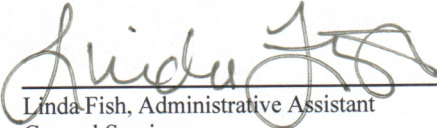
Ayes: Mr. Green, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Driver. Mr. Rusterholtz

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

Date Approved: 3/19/25

Attest



Linda Fish, Administrative Assistant
General Services

