

HEWITT TEXAS

PARKS & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

July 16, 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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lowrey motioned to call the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and Mr. Green seconded the motion.

Attendee Name	Absent	Present	Arrived
Casey Lowrey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5:59 pm
Vernon Bailey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5:59 pm
Nathan Rusterholtz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5:53 pm
Tyler Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6:03 pm
Richard Driver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5:58 pm

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider approval of the minutes for the March 19th, 2025, Parks and Beautification regular meeting.
Motion: Mr. Lowrey made a motion to approve the March 16th, 2025, Parks and Beautification regular meeting minutes at 6:08 pm.
Second: Mr. Rusterholtz seconded the motion.
Ayes: Mr. Green, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Driver
Nayes: None
Absent: None
Motion Passed.
2. Discussion of park updates.
Mr. Coleman explained that the restroom facilities are near completion at the new pavilion in Warren Park. He discussed that the partitions, the stainless-steel sinks and toilets have all been installed. He also mentioned that the soap dispensers, automatic hand towel dispensers, automatic water faucets, and diaper changing stations have all been installed as well. Mr. Coleman explained that we ordered ADA accessible signs to be placed on the ADA stalls and when they arrive they will be installed on the designated doors. He mentioned that the changing tables that were ordered were short and that he ordered leg extensions that will be installed once they arrive as well.

Mr. Bailey asked if the soap dispensers are battery operated. Mr. Coleman confirmed that the soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers are both battery operated.

Mr. Coleman mentioned that the b-b-q pit is now completed and is waiting to be installed once the concrete slab is poured at the new pavilion in Warren Park.

Mr. Coleman discussed that the pour and play surface at Hewitt Park playground had been resealed by the park's crew. He explained that resealing is necessary every couple of years due to wear and tear. He explained that it is a two-part system that is poured into place which consists of rubber mulching and a type of epoxy that is mixed together and then poured. He mentioned that upkeep is more cost-efficient by resealing and maintaining the surface versus replacing the surface in its entirety. He described that a few years ago we replaced half of the surface then replaced the other half at a later time and the cost of replacing it is roughly \$30,000 per half. The cost of resealing the surface is significantly less and costs approximately \$3,500. Mr. Lowery asked if there are plans on installing the pour and play system at the Warren Park playground. Mr. Coleman explained that there are no plans on installing the pour and play system at the Warren Park playground, and the plan is to keep the playground as is. He explained that the pour and play system was originally donated by the Awana's group in hopes of keeping the Hewitt Park playground, an ADA-designated playground, and it wouldn't be cost-efficient to install the same type of pour and play surface at the playground in Warren Park.

3. Discussion on fishing day.

Mr. Lowery asked if we had heard back from Mr. Povine with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. Mr. Coleman mentioned that he emailed Mr. Povine and has not heard back from him yet.

Mr. Coleman discussed the purchase of fish to restock the ponds at Warren Park. Mr. Lowery asked what type of fish was purchased and the quantity. Mr. Coleman said that we purchased the same amount the last time we stocked the ponds. He mentioned blue gill, red-eared sunfish, large-mouth bass, channel catfish, and minnows. Mr. Green asked if it would be a good idea to hold the fishing day close to the restocking day. Mr. Coleman mentioned that the committee is able to hold a fishing day on the day of their choosing since there have been individuals that do fish in the ponds and are able to catch fish. However, he believes it may be too hot during the summer months. He explained that the fish that were purchased for restocking are not of catchable size, and we will be receiving them when they are approximately 2"- 6" in size. Mr. Coleman mentioned that he was told by the fishing company that most of the fish would need approximately 18 months to grow in order to meet TP&W regulations.

Mr. Coleman explained that the reason for receiving larger catfish the last time he ordered was because the company did not have any fingerling catfish available and that they had upgraded the order to the larger catfish. Mr. Lowery asked Mr. Coleman if it would be safe to say the committee could plan a fishing day for some time next year. Mr. Coleman confirmed that, yes, sometime next year, and that it would be wise to allow the fish time to grow.

Mr. Lowery asked, since this would be the first time the city has held a fishing day, would it be possible to provide seating, for example, stumps, benches, or temporary seating for the public. Mr. Coleman answered that the city does not have any seating to provide. Mr. Rusterholtz mentioned that he thought it would be a good idea to contact Mr. Povine and

invite him to attend another meeting to follow up with him on obtaining a Community Fishing Lake (CFL) classification and more information on trying to purchase "catch ready" fish to possibly hold a community fishing day sooner. Mr. Lowery agreed that it would be a great idea to invite him to a future meeting.

4. Discussion on public parks survey.

Mr. Coleman explained that a draft of a survey has been made, and any suggestions or changes are welcome. Mr. Bailey asked how the survey would be distributed. Mr. Coleman said that it could be distributed on the city's website online and possibly through the city's social media pages. Mr. Bailey asked if there would be a QR code posted at the parks. Mr. Coleman answered that it would be a great idea to post or advertise the parks survey and that the city could post it in the marque that is currently used for any news related to the parks and the weekly reservation schedule for the facilities. Mr. Rusterholtz suggested adding it to the water bill. Mr. Green asked if there would be an incentive for the community to complete the survey. Mr. Coleman mentioned that there has not been any discussion on adding an incentive to complete the survey.

Mr. Coleman discussed that we currently receive a lot of feedback through the city's new work order software that is posted on the city's website as an example. He explained that the public has interacted and submitted more work orders than he initially thought and that posting on the city's website does reach the public. He also mentioned that posting it on the social media pages could possibly bring in more feedback as well. Mr. Rusterholtz discussed that utilizing the city website would be more efficient than creating a survey based on engagements through social media pages. Mr. Rusterholtz mentioned that he had seen it done that way before through another city.

Mr. Driver asked if some of the options that are listed in the suggestion section are feasible and within the city's budget. Mr. Coleman answered with yes, some items that are currently listed are currently in the park's five-year plan and have been accounted for. Mr. Coleman discussed that the draft is an example and is open to any suggestions. Mr. Rusterholtz suggested adding "Community Garden" as an answer to the list of requested amenities.

Mr. Lowery asked why it lists Warren Park and Hewitt Park at the top in the amenities section. Mr. Rusterholtz explained that it is used to suggest which park the requested amenity should be placed. Mr. Lowery mentioned that it could be confusing when a survey taker would like to make different suggestions on both parks and that the question should be split into two. One suggestion list for Hewitt Park and another suggestion list for Warren Park to minimize confusion.

Mr. Bailey asked what the fitness zone was and if it had stations for different exercises. Mr. Coleman explained that there is currently a fitness zone area in Hewitt Park, and it consists of stationary equipment and there are plans to add one in Warren Park that has been listed in the five-year plan.

Mr. Coleman asked the committee if it would be a good idea to ask if the survey taker is a resident of Hewitt, since the parks are used by several parkgoers from all over the area. Mr. Lowery and Mr. Driver agreed that it would be a good idea to ask for residency status in the survey to have an idea on how many people that aren't City of Hewitt residents utilize the parks. Mr. Coleman explained that it would bear more weight if a suggestion came from a Hewitt

resident since they are taxpayers.

Mr. Green asked if it would be feasible to suggest a nice sitting area around a fire pit. Mr. Rusterholtz and Mr. Lowery mentioned that they don't believe it would be a good idea to have open flames in the parks, since Hewitt has occasionally been placed under burn bans and water restrictions.

Mr. Bailey asked if we could add a question about how far they live from the park or how far they have to travel to get to the parks. Mr. Coleman suggested that it was a great idea to add a question and point to bring up. Mr. Coleman discussed that there is a 20-year plan that has goals of adding walkways and pathways and largely adding sidewalks that connect neighborhoods to the parks. He mentioned that adding a question about distance traveled would give the city some insight as to where and how park goers get to the parks.

Mr. Rusterholtz mentioned that the draft is a great starting point. Mr. Coleman asked the committee if they had an idea on a timeline to release the survey once completed to the public. Mr. Green suggested fall would be an ideal time because the weather is cooling off and there seems to be more traffic in the parks around that time. Mr. Coleman suggested leaving the survey open for a couple of months to receive more input from the public. Mr. Rusterholtz agreed and suggested that three months should be a sufficient time frame to leave the survey open.

Mr. Lowery suggested making signs to post in the parks during any upcoming events being held in the parks to gain better participation. Mr. Rusterholtz suggested that they could mention it during the Christmas tree lighting ceremony as a final push.

Mr. Driver asked if emailing the survey to residents was a possibility. Mr. Coleman explained that in order to send an email, the residents would have to sign up to receive notifications and not many residents request to receive those notifications and that it would only reach residents of Hewitt and not the surrounding cities, which is where a lot of the park goers are from. Mr. Rusterholtz suggested that having the survey readily available through the website or signs in the parks would be a better way of reaching the public.

Mr. Bailey suggested adding a question on the age range to see about what age of parkgoers visiting the parks. Mr. Coleman agreed that an age range question could be added to the survey.

Mr. Rusterholtz asked if a new version of the survey would be made available at the next meeting and Mr. Coleman confirmed that an updated version would be made available.

Mr. Green suggested adding a question that asks which park you visit the most; either Hewitt Park, Warren Park, or both as answers. Mr. Green also suggested adding a question about how many times a month do you visit the park and separating Hewitt Park into one question and Warren Park as one question. Mr. Coleman agreed that it would be a good idea to make that addition.

5. Discussion on future agenda items.

Mr. Lowery asked the committee if they had any topics to add to the future agenda. He mentioned keeping the discussion on fishing day. Mr. Rusterholtz would like to add a

discussion on a walking trail/track on the Glaze property.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Lowery made a motion to adjourn the Parks and Beautification Committee Meeting at 6:50 pm.

Second: Mr. Driver seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

Date Approved: _____

Attest

Linda Fish, Administrative Assistant
General Services

Parks and Beautification Chairman