

The Belton Park Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at the Senior Center building in Memorial Park. President Terry Ward called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Belton Park Board members present were Terry Ward, Rusty Sullivan, Patti Ledford, Adrian Hall, Zeb Morlock, Jennifer Garner, Mary Cummings, and Dave Daniels. Belton Parks staff present were Director Brian Welborn, Assistant Director Kevin Feedback, Annette Braun, Joaquin Lopez, and Nick Althausen. Joining the Park Board was the Councilwoman Allyson Lawson.

President Ward led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Ward presented the minutes from the January meeting and made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Dave Daniels seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion, with no one commenting, President Ward asked for approval and minutes were approved 8-0.

During the President's communication, Mr. Ward expressed his appreciation and gratitude toward our lifeguard team. He encouraged board members to step in the lifeguard area the next time they were at High Blue and express their appreciation as well. There was another recent incident in which an adult member of High Blue yelled, disrespected, and was very demeaning toward a young Manager. The incident was caught on tape and Director Welborn permanently suspended this gentleman and will no longer be allowed on property at High Blue.

Councilwoman Lawson gave her report. She communicated that the city was still working on the budget process and that it will be presented at next week's meeting of the council. She informed the park board that one budget item that she has communicated her concerns about is the city donating funds to the Mainstreet organization for an event like what parks is already doing. She did say that many constituents in her ward do support downtown Mainstreet events, but her concern is the city financially supporting an event the park is already doing that is virtually the same. She also informed the board that City Manager Joe Warren could not attend the meeting due to a Planning Commission meeting. When asked for an update on the Jack Dryden property, she said they were still working on the issue and had nothing more to report. Director Welborn did comment that he personally reached out to Mr. Dryden two weeks ago and reiterated that the Parks Department is very excited about the opportunity and had major plans for the proposed 69 acres should the donation get approved.

Director Welborn reported an update on High Blue, the facility continues to be a very busy facility. Annual memberships were up \$21,000 in January 2023 compared to same month 2022. The facility brought in 241 new and renewed memberships, losing just 49 members. He and staff have been working hard on preparing RFPs for upcoming budget projects. The playground equipment for the Memorial Park renovation project has arrived and is scheduled for installation in late March and completion the first part of April. This project is very dependent on weather conditions as the new surfacing requires 55% humidity to properly bond and set up. The sunshades for Markey Park have been ordered, the contractor is anticipating an April installation of the new shades. Bids are currently open for the High Blue indoor Rec Pool Slides and Slide Tower restoration project. Bids are due back on March 17, 2023. He anticipates this project timeline to be completed July or August 2023. Director Welborn announced the date of April 30, 2023, we will have our annual employee appreciation dinner at Memorial Station from 4pm-7pm. Finally, Director Welborn gave a quick presentation on the years of service that the Belton Parks full time service brings to the organization. There is over 155 years of public service experience within this full-time staff, an extraordinary number of tenured staff providing top-notch services to the Belton community.

Assistant Director Kevin Feedback gave a brief update on Aquatics. It is that time of year that we are hiring all seasonal positions for the outdoor pool including Lifeguards, Admissions Reps, and Concession staff. In addition, he and the Aquatics Manager are currently working on the on-boarding process and improving their training program. Mr. Feedback did remind the board that at times it is very common to have brief shutdowns particularly in the indoor pool areas due to HVAC, Chemical imbalance, Accidental Fecal release, etc. There was a sprinkler head malfunction last week causing a slight flood in the pump room. The water supply was shut off quickly to stop the flooding situation and staff was able to keep it to a minimum. Mr. Feedback recognized the Aquatics Guard of the Month, Mr. Josh Whitney. Josh fills open shifts quite often, comes in early for his shifts, and always finds something to do while on the clock. Excellent job Josh. The Instructor of the Month is Hailey Wheeler. Hailey is very professional, helps with lifeguard trainings, and always willing to chip in where help is needed. Awesome job Hailey.

Wellness Manager Annette Braun updated the park board about activities going on at High Blue. Memberships continue to climb post Covid, particularly with Family memberships. We to date in February, we have added 170 new and renewed memberships as compared to just 116 this time in 2022. The triathlon deadline is quickly approaching, numbers are a little bit low. A decision will need to be made soon as to whether the event should be cancelled due to lack of signups. Mrs. Braun has scheduled a Mud Run for late June here at Wallace Park. Details are still being worked out; more information will be announced soon. She has a meeting planned with Quick Trip next week to discuss our Corporate Discount program; Annette has taken many steps to increase our Corporate Membership program the past few months. Both new apartment complexes are already in the system as Corporate Discount approved organizations.

Director Welborn reported on Special Events and Marketing for the organization. This past Saturday was the Family Dance, there was a great turnout with over 100 guests for the event at the Station. Buffalo Wild Wings donated the food for the event, it was another great year for the annual event. The community Easter Egg Hunt is right around the corner, the stuffing of eggs will begin in the next two weeks. The event will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Memorial Park. Planning continues for the annual Summerfest event scheduled for Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Memorial Park. Special Events Manager is working to finalize details on a few new attractions to the event, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> band and additional fireworks to conclude the event. The new website launch has been a huge success. There are a few links that need to be corrected by Civic Plus, but the new site is very well presented with video and new tiles to make it very user friendly. Tara Orstad has resigned as our Station Supervisor; we will miss Tara and her leadership. Tina Hiner has started and has been working with Tara to resume her role at the Station.

Park Superintendent Nick Althauser updated the Park Board with the Maintenance Department. Staff has been very busy preparing for the spring season. Mr. Althauser provided a list of items that have been completed and/or are being worked on. One major completed task this month was the installation of the new water heater at High Blue, replacing the second tank that went out a few years ago. The new Facilities and Project Manager started his first day on the job today, bringing many years of experience to the position. Nick is currently interviewing for the High Blue Maintenance Technician position as well, hoping to fill that vacancy in the next 30 days.

Recreation Superintendent Joaquin Lopez reported on the Recreation Department. Youth Basketball season just wrapped up this past weekend with the end of season tournament championships. Several

Belton teams placed first or second across many divisions, there were few issues reported from the three-month season. The end of season pool parties are the next two nights at High Blue, celebrating a successful program. Joaquin will be presenting the Coach of the Year Awards during the pool parties.

Sign-ups are closing soon for spring sports, followed by the opening of the registration period for summer programs including baseball/softball. The department is currently accepting applications for Summer Camp Counselors, Umpires, Pool Concession staff, Markey Park Concession staff, and field maintenance crew positions. The staff recently contracted three additional fast pitch tournaments, bring the season total to 19 tournament which equals what we hosted in 2022. Staff recently fulfilled a sponsorship obligation by hosting an on-site sign-up event at Academy Sports which brought in 8 registrations.

Next on the agenda was the Standing Committee reports.

Finance Chairman Jennifer Garner gave a brief update on the Park Financials. She stated there was nothing particularly to report, but Director Welborn did add a few comments. He reported Revenues were right on track for the budget year and expenses were well under budgeted amounts. He thanked staff for continuing to manage their budgets effectively, cutting costs where they can. He expects the department to finish the year with a \$100,000 surplus because of cost cutting measures and not exceeding budgeted expenses.

Recreation Committee Chairman Mike Miller was absent from the meeting, but the committee did not meet. He did report to President Ward they will be meeting prior to the March meeting.

Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Rusty Sullivan reported that they did not meet this past month.

Personnel Committee Chairman Dave Daniels reported that they did not meet this past month.

President Ward asked if there was any unfinished business to report, nothing noted.

President Ward asked if there was any new business to discuss, nothing noted.

President Ward asked if there were any announcements. Assistant Director confirmed the spring cleanup event has been scheduled for March 25, 2023. More details would be announced soon.

President Ward made a motion at 7:00pm to adjourn the meeting, Patti Ledford seconded the motion. After no discussion was held, the motion carried 8-0.