



---

## Missouri City Parks Board

Jason Mangum, Director  
T.W. Dieckmann, Assistant Director  
Kevin Browne, Recreation Superintendent  
Barry Hamilton, Parks Superintendent  
J.R. Atkins, Board Member  
Claudia Iveth Garcia, Board Member  
Diane Giltner, Board Member  
Raj Joseph, Board Member  
Llarance Turner, Chairman

Don Johnson, Board Member  
Thomasine Johnson, Board Member  
Leslie Mack, Jr., Board Member  
Mary Ross, Board Member  
Susan Dierker, Board Member  
Brian Merchant, Board Member  
Victoria Porter, Board Member  
Buddy Snyder, Vice-Chair

# PARKS BOARD MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Notice is hereby given of a **Parks Board Meeting** to be held on **Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** at: City Hall Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas 77489, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items. All agenda items are subject to action. The Parks Board reserves the right to meet in a closed session on any agenda item should the need arise, and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

Due to the COVID 19 Disaster and the Center for Disease Control's recommendation regarding social distancing measures, the Parks Board members, City Staff members, and members of the public were not physically present during this meeting. The meeting was made possible through the cloud-based video conferencing platform Zoom.

---

## NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Due to the COVID 19 Disaster and the Center for Disease Control's recommendation regarding social distancing measures, the public will not be allowed to be physically present at this meeting.

The meeting will be available to members of the public and allow for two-way communications for those desiring to participate. Any person interested in speaking on any item on the agenda must notify the City by one of the following methods **before 4:00 p.m. on the day of the Parks Board meeting**:

1. Email or call the Parks and Recreation Department at [Julia.Thompson@Missouricitytx.gov](mailto:Julia.Thompson@Missouricitytx.gov) or 281-403-8651; or,
2. Submit a "Public Comment Form" to the Parks and Recreation Department from the following webpage: <https://bit.ly/39pw73Q>.

**The request must include the speaker's name, address, email address, phone number and the agenda item number.**

To livestream the meeting, the public may access the following link:  
<https://www.missouricitytx.gov/780/MCTV>.

To access the meeting agenda packet in PDF format, the public may access the following link:  
<https://www.missouricitytx.gov/812/Parks-Board>.

---

**Attendees:** Diane Giltner, Don Johnson, Vice-Chair Buddy Snyder, Brian Merchant, Chairman Llarance Turner, Victoria Porter, Claudia Yvette Garcia, Susan Dierker, Raj Joseph, Thomasine Johnson, Leslie Mack Jr. J.R. Atkins and Mary Ross

**Absent were:**

**Staff in Attendance:** Director Jason Mangum, Assistant Director TW Dieckmann, Parks Superintendent Barry Hamilton, Recreation Superintendent Kevin Browne, Recreation Manager Julia Thompson, Recreation Manager Daniele Stewart, City Forester Paul Wierzbicki, MCTV Producer Douglas Penalba, and Assistant City Attorney Joseph Quintal.

**Others in Attendance:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 7, 2021 PARKS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Board Member Atkins made a motion to approve the January 7, 2021 minutes. Vice-Chair Snyder seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. **The motion passed.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RECOGNIZED SPORTS ASSOCIATION RENEWALS**

**Recreation Manager: Daniele Stewart**

**a. Missouri City Little League**

Recreation Manager Stewart stated that Missouri City Little League requested ball fields 1-5 at Community Park. Chairman Turner inquired if Missouri City Little League is doing anything different this year than the last. Manager Stewart responded that the President and Vice President are different than previous years and that the fields being requested are the same.

Board member Don Johnson asked how many kids are being served per week. Manager Stewart stated the application listed 118 participants and registration is still open. If approved, the organization is hoping to do an open format inviting community members to increase numbers.

Board member Atkins made a motion. Seconded by Board member Don Johnson. **The motion passed.**

**b. RISE Soccer Club**

Recreation Manager Stewart stated that RISE Soccer Club is a returning RSA applicant and in good standing. RISE is requesting all of the soccer fields at Community Park. Stated that the organization is hoping to return strong after the time off over the past year and bring more kids to Community Park as opposed to all over Fort Bend.

Chairman Turner asked if RISE was doing anything different this year from last year. Manager Stewart stated that there were no changes. This organization used all of the soccer fields at Community Park last year and their participant numbers appear to be the same as last year.

Board member Atkins made a motion. Seconded by Board member Don Johnson. **The motion passed.**

**c. Sta-Mo Pony League**

Recreation Manager Stewart stated that Sta-Mo Pony League submitted their application for three little league fields at Sta-Mo Park. She stated that the organization might be smaller this season due to the pause in play from COVID.

Board Member Don Johnson asked if girls are involved in this program. Manager Stewart responded that girls do not participate and that this is all boys Little League team.

Board member Joseph made a motion. Board member Merchant seconded. **The motion passed.**

## 5. **PRESENT TREE ORDINANCE PROPOSAL**

### ***City Forester: Paul Wierzbicki***

City Forester Wierzbicki shared a presentation on the benefits of having a City tree ordinance and gave examples of guidelines that could be included. He stated that tree ordinances are a requirement to qualify as a Tree City USA community. Forester Wierzbicki stated that tree ordinances can provide tree preservation requirements during construction, provide guidelines for developers when clearing land, and can minimize infrastructure conflict.

Forester Wierzbicki also stated that a City Tree Ordinance could discourage poor tree care practices or act in a similar way as a Parkland dedication where developers could reimburse the City for tree values during construction or contribute funds to fund urban tree programs.

He stated that we do have a few tree ordinances in place in the current Missouri City Code. These ordinances address screening requirements, encourages tree preservation and planting indigenous plants, and requiring ongoing maintenance of landscape and irrigation systems. He stating that this is a starting point in need of updates and that these are not adequate to meet Tree City standards.

Forester Wierzbicki shared Parks Board Survey results stating that most preferred to preserve large trees during development, most felt the City should be authorized to remove hazardous tree conditions, and many felt there should be penalties for those who damage or kill public trees. He stated that it is not clear which entity is responsible for street tree care and that an ordinance could create a standard for all areas.

He stated that he wishes to move forward after these survey findings to develop a tree ordinance working group involving many City departments and representatives. After receiving input from all areas, he would then present a draft Tree Ordinance to City Council.

Vice-Chair Snyder inquired about the need for hiring a climbing arborist and asked if Forester Wierzbicki is a certified arborist. Forester Wierzbicki clarified that a tree climbing arborist is a separate art in itself, and that is currently not a service he can provide. Vice-Chair Snyder Inquired about the memorial tree and bench program and how it's being promoted. Forester Wierzbicki stated the program is promoted on the city website and has been very successful over the past 10 years.

Vice-Chair Snyder inquired about working towards Tree City designation and inquired if we have any Arbor Day celebrations. Forester Wierzbicki stated that we are having a celebration at the end of April. Vice-Chair Snyder inquired about Independence Park where 20 trees were planted along the pathway behind his house. Stated that these are overgrown and possibly forgotten about. Forester Wierzbicki stated he wasn't sure about the area Vice-Chair Snyder was talking about and would call tomorrow to follow up.

## 6. **CAPRA ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

### ***Parks and Recreation Director: Jason Mangum***

Director Mangum stated that CAPRA is an accreditation process for Parks and Recreation Departments which includes 154 standards and best practices in 10 different categories. There are 20 accredited parks and recreation departments in Texas, 3 being in Houston. He stated throughout the process, the department has created several policies, plans, procedures to meet the standards. Staff are currently working through the self-assessment report stating how we

meet the 154 standards. The next steps will be a review of our report followed by a review by visitors who will complete a report on if the department meet the standards or not.

Board member Dierker inquired about the time frame between submission and receiving the results. Director Mangum stated the virtual site visit is scheduled for the last week in April and that a hearing will take place at the National Recreation and Parks Association conference in September.

Board member Ross commended staff on the vast amount of work they have put in to develop the rules and standards and offered a congratulations on the hard work.

Board member Atkins stated the he appreciated all the inclusion of Parks Board members in the process.

## 7. STAFF REPORTS

### **a. *Parks Projects: Parks and Recreation Director Jason Mangum***

Director Mangum stated that the Veterans Memorial is in the contract signing phase. Once signed, the contractor will have 150 days to complete project with an estimated completion date to be end of July or early August. He stated there were two new playgrounds to be installed. One at Hunters Trail Park in April and also one at Community Park in the coming weeks. He stated that community input sessions for the Master Plan were taking place this week and that we are working towards completing the updated Master Plan.

### **b. *Parks Operations: Parks Superintendent Barry Hamilton***

Superintendent Hamilton stated that this month had a lot of repairs, mowing, and ballfield prep.

### **c. *Recreation: Recreation Superintendent Kevin Browne***

Superintendent Browne had technical difficulties and Recreation Manager Thompson gave the report. Manager Thompson stated that there were several upcoming events including the Sweetheart Cinema taking place at the Quail Valley City Centre next Friday, February 12 and the Sta-Mo Service Day on Saturday, February 20. She stated there are also several outdoor programs including archery and kayak workshops.

Board Member Giltner stated that she received the monthly newsletter and said it was packed with upcoming events and programs.

Vice-Chair Snyder inquired if these programs were only for kids. Manager Thompson stated that these programs were open to adults as well. Manager Stewart added that the age requirement for the kayaking program was for ages 10+ and that youth ages 10-15 must be in a kayak with an adult.

Vice-Chair Snyder inquired if the department has looked to partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife for the outdoor programs. Manager Stewart stated that the department is working closely with Texas Parks and Wildlife for archery and angling programs and that in the past have partnered for Texas Outdoor Family for overnight camping trips and will be utilizing the same format and education for upcoming programs. Manager Thompson stated that there will be family camp out in the fall to serve the entire family which will expand the current offerings.

## 8. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### ***Parks and Recreation Director: Jason Mangum***

Director Mangum stated that he did not have anything in addition to previous comments. Vice-Chair Snyder inquired about the Arts Commission. Director Mangum stated hoping to take the Arts Commission to council in March.

## 9. BOARD REPORTS

Board Member Giltner stated that Missouri City Green is doing the Electronic Recycling event on March 6 in the Missouri City Police parking lot on Cartwright Road and that a flyer will be sent out soon.

Board Member Atkins stated that he was elected Vice President of the First Colony HOA Board and looking forward to partnering with the City on future projects.

**10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

There were no items for the next agenda.

**11. ADJOURN**

With no further items to discuss, Chairman Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

**In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Missouri City will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending Parks Board meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received 24 hours prior to meetings. Please contact Maria Jackson, City Secretary, at 281.403.8686.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that a copy of the February 4th, 2021 agenda of items to be considered by the Missouri City Parks Board was posted on the City Hall bulletin board on February 1, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yomara Frias  
City Secretary Department

I certify that the attached notice was removed by me from the City Hall bulletin board on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_