

# WUP Parks and Recreation Board

## MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2016

6:30PM

REC CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM

<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Monthly Meeting
<b>ACTING CHAIR</b>	Melissa Pifko
<b>SECRETARY</b>	David DeAnda
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	David DeAnda, Melissa Pifko, Stephen Damiani, Sheri Harber, David Jennings, Tracy Larson and Wayne Franklin Tim O'Connor (Staff) Mardi Turner (City Council)
<b>VISITORS</b>	West University resident: Alida Drewes, Ramsey Elder and Dick Yehle

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by vice-chair Melissa Pifko.
- II. Approval of the February 3rd Minutes: Motion to approve by David with second by Stephen.
- III. Friends Overview: Mark Prescott is out of town. Tim reported on behalf of Mark. Stated that thus far Park Lover's Ball raised approximately \$375,000. Still looking for sponsor for Party on the Patio. Next Friends Meeting is April 13<sup>th</sup>.

IV. Colonial Park Redevelopment Update:

Tim stated that he is excited about progress. Despite the rain, project is ahead of schedule. Reminded group that project is entirely funded by Friends.

V. Board Member Updates and Committees:

Park Ambassador Reports: Wayne stated that the barbeque equipment at Judson looked weathered, commented that it likely needs to be cleaned. Stephen stated that he utilizes the Recreation Center and that everything looks good. He stated that he uses Judson Park as well and he feels that it is under-utilized. Not as crowded as Weir Park. Tracey stated that water fountains at Colonial are always clogged due to sand.

VI. Staff and City Council Updates:

**Council Update:** Mardi Turner stated that they are scheduled to have another workshop next week to discuss land acquisition for parks. Looking at 2 properties, neither are currently available. Next week they will discuss how to proceed. Either appoint a taskforce or walk away. She also discussed the new trash pick-up and lawn waste communications issues.

**Directors Update:**

**Pedestrian Railroad Crossing:** As part of Evelyn Park development, exploring with City of Bellaire safe pedestrian crossing not only at Bellaire Blvd but also at Bissonnet. Engineers

and City Managers working on project.

Joint Parking: The city of Bellaire and West U city managers working on over-flow parking agreement with Evelyn Park. Cities evaluating sharing of cost (this is a long term project).

West-side parking upgrades on WUP Recreation Center campus: Tim discussed the planned relief parking. Would increase parking spaces by 40%. Tim stated that he is hoping this will move quickly. Currently notifying immediate neighbors. The parking will not have an exit to Community. The ingress/egress will be off Bellaire.

West Leisure Program: Tim discussed the program. Reminded board that program is available online. Mardi reminded members that the westutx.gov website has a ton of information. She congratulated Tim on the honor/award (Gold Medal) received by the West University Parks and Recreation Department.

Park’s Master Planning Update: Tim stated that the priorities were discussed at prior meeting. Weir Park is the first priority. Two board members have expressed interest in task force. Would like to see another Park’s Board member. Hoping that appointments will happen by March or April 2016. Will definitely obtain bids for the work that needs to be done. If it ends up being complete redevelopment, it will be an intrusive project that may take up to a year to complete.

VII. Citizen’s Comments:

Alida Drewes addressed the Board. Ms. Drewes had an issue with prior minutes. Stated that minutes that had been posted were wrong and that they did not properly reflect what she had communicated. Stated that focus on west-side is wrong and that survey need to be done. Suggested that Friend’s Park should be converted to senior park. Former councilmember Dick Yehle also made comments. Stated that he wanted to throw out idea with respect to acquisition of land for park on east-side. His notion is that we should look at the needs of the east-side and define the type of park that is needed. He stated that city needs to try something different. Councilmember Turner stated that Council’s next step will be to decide whether they should proceed with land acquisition at all. Tim stated that Dick had previously communicated his comments to him and Council. Dick to send copy of letter to Tim so that it can be shared with Park’s Board.

VIII. Old Business: Tracy asked about park at West U Elementary. Park has further deteriorated. Tim to follow up again with the principal of the school.

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.