

December 10th, 2024

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, JoAnn, Alex, and Chris

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Dustin, Karl and Darby

6pm Call to order

November minutes passed with some changes. Chris submitted two additional comments made by community members regarding the pickle ball issue. Colleen spoke about the lack of restrooms and Steve commented his support of a restroom and sound barrier as well as relocation.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board met on the 5th and the annual report from Transition Fidalgo was presented. They now have 5 years of data and are working on a public facing dashboard in coordination with WSU. Overall, they are seeing a healthy ecosystem in the ACFL.

Bob is working on consolidating permits for beaver dams, also for replacing and repairing bridges in the ACFL. This will save time and money each year.

Jamie is working with the Fidalgo Trail Riders to train them on various trail work and projects.

Pickleball Discussion:

This was a chance for the Board to discuss what was shared at the last meeting. It was agreed that the neighbors are very close to the courts and this creates issues. Discussion was had about the various issues and concerns raised at the meeting by the public.

Staff has suggested moving parking to behind the courts, to be off the streets, put up the sound dampening barrier and bring in a portable restroom. These items would be the first step in helping to alleviate some of the neighborhood issues.

Discussion ensued.

Some Board members suggested shortening the hours that the park is open. Discussion was had about these hours.

No final recommendation was made to staff at this time.

Department Reports:

Karl shared that he went before council last night with the update for the Senior Center and their programming. It went well. Tomorrow the consultants will be at the Center to gather information, get feedback and increase engagement. Holiday programs are in full swing with "Take a Bite out of Grandpa" being hosted tomorrow and the holiday lunch on December 19th.

The New Year will bring new programming and classes, including geology, art and the brain, and a Shakespeare class.

Dustin shared that the third puzzle event is tomorrow, with this being an individual competition. There is talk amongst the other Cities in the Valley to host a regional puzzle competition. The Wonderland Walk is this weekend, Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 8pm.

Jonn shared that Nicole and Bob are both out with birthdays for their kids. He announced that the Altair Americus park phase 1 is done, with the pavers being placed and complete. The Rotary/Cap Sante park project is going well. Staff held a presentation last week on the Tommy Thompson Trestle project. The 2025 budget has been approved. Parks will be using their reserves again in 2025. The team is down a maintenance position until at least June. There is a hiring freeze for some City positions at this time.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 7:01pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan