

SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2009

The Special Meeting of the City Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Forum Room of Wilbarger Auditorium by Mayor Jeff Bearden, and a quorum was declared present.

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow, Tra Cardwell and Phil McCuistion

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Attorney Trish Byars, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson and City Secretary Linda Byers.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to reappoint Gary McWilliams and Bobby Burrus, Alternate to the Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

PLANNING & ZONING MEMBERS

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to reappoint Gene Tyra, Bob Beasley, Jr., and Jim Gunn to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Commissioner McCuistion seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

PARK MASTER PLAN DATA

Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson offered a Powerpoint presentation, which outlined the data from the Focus Groups for the City's Master Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. There were 10 Focus Groups and more specific data are included in the agenda packet record.

At the end of the presentation the Mayor and Commission commended Ms. Wilkinson for a job well done.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PARKS MASTER PLAN

Mayor Bearden declared the Public Hearing open for comments.

Claudia Rienisch commended the improvements at Allingham Park and encouraged larger and more scenic walking trails, also stating that the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will stock any public pond.

Meg Heatly noted that the wrap up sessions had walking trails listed lower on the list and thinks that they should be higher on the priority list.

Commissioner Cardwell noted that the property East of the covered arena would be a good place for trails and ponds. Allingham Park is the only park with kid friendly equipment, and that is an issue at all of the city parks.

Sheri Morris stated that improvements should be a priority ahead of walking trails because equipment is needed before other improvements.

Mayor Bearden noted that there was discussion at the wrap up session about how to develop each park. D.L. Green park will have a skate park. Sunshine Park could possibly be developed as a softball park. Christine Lyday Park should be a General Play Park. He likes the idea of specialty parks.

Commissioner McCuiston noted that Orbison Park would be a good place for walking trails. Mayor Bearden stated that walking trails could be added to all parks.

Commissioner Dennis observed that the focus groups listed needs first and then desires. The City Commission should focus on needs before desires. He asked if Monica will write the Master Park Plan and have available before the April City Commission meeting, including pool location and improvements.

Monica Wilkinson stated that the Master Park Plan would be written on the basis of what the public comment was, and would be available for the April City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Brownlow stated that the Swimming Pool Committee would begin to meet and plan components of the pool.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was declared closed.

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to place the City of Vernon Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan on the agenda for the April 28, 2009 Regular City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Cardwell seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

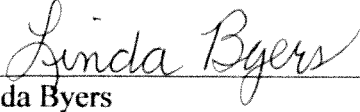
ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:05 p.m.



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary