

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP SESSION OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL AND
THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2011

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS: Susie Houston, Mayor
Steve Muschenheim, Council Member
Rita Garcia, Council Member
Leti Keplinger, Council Member
Michael Carter, Council Member
Paul Villas, Council Member

PARKS BOARD MEMBERS: Gabby Muschenheim, Parks Chairman
Jim Gillum, Parks Member
Fernando Lopez, Parks Member
Bud Sherman, Parks Member
Jack Shanks, Parks Member
Kirstin Sippel, Parks Member

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Schnier, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Hinojosa, Citizen
Celeste Morris, Citizen
Gary Meschi, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Pledge and Invocation was lead by Celeste Morris.
3. Roll Call – Council Member Schnier was absent.

4. OPEN FORUM: None
5. PARK IMPROVEMENTS – Discussion of the improvements to be funded from the Certificates of Obligation.

Rolando Vela reviewed the different playground equipment that the parks board will be selecting to recommend to the Town Council. He stated that the basketball court, on the diagram, was set to be built in the vacant lots across from the city hall. However, it has been suggested that these lots are far too valuable, should not be used for the basketball court.

Council Member Garcia stated she agreed that the property is too valuable and its commercial property that can be used in the future.

Rolando Vela stated that a volleyball court in the park is another possibility.

Gabby Muschenheim and Paul Villas arrived for the meeting at this time.

Rolando Vela explained to the Boards the rubber based material that will be used instead of mulch or concrete. The City of McAllen has used it and are reporting zero maintenance and zero injuries. It is estimated that once the project starts, it will be completed within 45 to 60 days.

Gabby Muschenheim stated that Veterans Parks is very personal to the residents in the surrounding area. They have really taken ownership of the park and have maintained it to some extent for several years. The most important thing that Veterans Park needs is a memorial, whether it be a monument, tree, or something else.

Rolando Vela explained that the playground equipment in Roloff Park will be moved to the Tanglewood Park area. Roloff Park will get the new playground equipment, because Roloff Park is the main focus of the project.

The Tanglewood Park will have baseball and soccer practice fields and have an irrigation system.

Council Member Garcia asked why we would invest so much money into land that is not ours, referring to the irrigation system. Also, there is the concern of, will there be fencing?

Gabby Muschenheim stated that the funds will need to be split between the parks and the Parks Board needs to figure out how much each park gets.

Fernandez Lopez asked what the budget is over all? The drawings presented stated about \$700,000 for the Roloff Park. Rolando Vela stated that he believes that the parks can be done for far less than estimated on the drawings.

Bud Sherman stated that he has seen drawings of park improvements for 8 years and nothing gets done. Let's just focus on one project, and finish one project, instead of trying to do 5 projects at one time. If we run out of money, than we have 5 projects that are incomplete.

The Mayor stated that the certificates of obligation were for 1.5 million. However, the Town received only 1.4 million, with the rest going to attorneys and auditor fees. Also, the 1.4 million is not all for park improvements. Such as the fire truck pay off balance, bunker gear, digital radios and servers are some of the items that will also be purchased from the certificates of obligation.

Mayor explained that the Town already has invoices that total \$20,000 for the architectural drawings and the survey done at the 15 acres. We haven't even started the project and we've already spent \$20,000.

It was agreed that a budget must be drafted for each park. Rolando Vela will be submitting prices for the playground equipment, irrigation systems and any other items to be added to the parks. Once the Parks Board has the prices, a budget will be draft and submitted to the Town Council.

It was the consensus of the Boards to schedule another workshop session in early November.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Muschenheim made a motion to adjourn workshop session at 6:27 pm, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted "aye" to adjourn, motion carried.

Steve Muschenheim, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary