

Houston Parks and Recreation
Park Board Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2023

Members Present: Rachael Choate, Amy Smith, Sheena Postlewait, Stetson Evetts, Jennifer Shelton, and Wendy Sholtz

Guests: Viki Narancich and Caroline Sholtz

Meeting was called to order by President Rachael Choate at 6:12 p.m.

Minutes from the last meeting were read, Stetson Evetts made a motion to accept minutes, 2nd was made by Amy Smith, the motion passed by all who were present.

Sports-

Fall Soccer- We had 80 kids sign up, the coaches are in place. There were 21 kids for u6, 19 for u8, 17 for u10 and 23 for u14.

End of Season Sports Party- There were around 70 in attendance.

New Business-

Park Grills- Houston High School welding program has said that they would build the grills, if they were provided with plans and the materials needed. The board would like to see 1 larger sized grill at the Emmett Kelly Park, and smaller ones at the other pavilions. Robbie is going to get a picture of the desired grills to the instructor and go from there. The board will come up with a budget once more information is available. There will be a plaque on the finished grills thanking the program.

Basketball Court Lighting for Emmett Kelly Park- Robbie presented the bid for the project of \$1,836.95 for the lights and \$800 for the poles. Sheena Postlewait made a motion to approve the bid for the electric at the basketball court at Emmett Kelly Park, Amy Smith made a 2nd motion. The motion passed by all who were present.

Second Alternate Board Member- This summer has been challenging to have enough members to hold a quorum. Members are encouraged to attend meetings. There has been a 2nd alternate member in years past. Robbie is going to make a public listing so that the board can have a 2nd alternate member.

Old Business-

Sports Complex- From Robbie: Bids were presented to the council on 8/7/23. The council decided to wait until their finance committee meeting to find where the money was going to come from for the preliminary plan. I emphasized Mountain Grove is well on their way to beating us to the punch. We will know for sure which firm and where the money will be taken from at the next council meeting 8/21/23

Park updates- the basketball court tiles at Emmett Kelly have been moved back into place with the help of the Fire Department. There are ideas on how to stabilize the court to

keep this from happening in the future. It was brought to the board's attention that the play structure at Emmett Kelly is going to need some work or possibly replaced in the future. City employees have been doing their best to grind the sharp surfaces. The restrooms and pavilions are all going to need attention as well.

West Side Park- Vickie was given the suggestion of resurfacing the current tennis court and having pickleball lines added. The new already poured concrete pad would be used for a newly constructed pavilion, the old pavilion would be made into basketball courts, once the structure is torn down. There would be a new concrete pad poured for the volleyball court, there would also be a parking lot added between the volleyball and basketball court. The board liked the suggestion, but would like to wait till funds are available. In the meantime the lines will be painted for the single pickleball court on the existing pad.

Pickleball Court- The paint is in for the court. Robbie will paint the lines once the golf course has a full time groundskeeper.

Brushy Creek Trail- Questions were asked about the extension of Brushy Creek Trail. The board would like to see this in the future. However, the funds are not available.

Bridges Park- Robbie has been working up a plan for the layout of the park. Members are brainstorming on how to acquire the additional flowers the space will need. The idea was also presented to add a privacy fence along the highway and have area students from the high school art program paint murals on the side of the fence facing the park.

Pool- the end of the season is nearing. The pool will only be open on Saturdays once school is back in session.

Misc-

Golf Course Update- Someone was hired to fill the groundskeeper position, but later quit. The current part time employee says he will remain in the position. The city is working on hiring a full time person soon. Robbie hopes to hire a superintendent early next year for the course. This will free up a good deal of the parks and rec employee's time.

A motion was made by Sheena Postlewait to adjourn the meeting, Jennifer Shelton 2nd the motion. All approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:35

The next meeting will be September 13th at 6:00 p.m