

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lisa Nye-Salladin - Chair; Cabe Johnson - Vice Chair; David Bartels, Russell Nemky, Stephen Lynch, Dalton Dover, David Bartels, Lynn Paulo

**ABSENT MEMBERS**

Wynita Walthers and Karen M. Yanez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ashlea Boyle, Director of Parks and Recreation; Deidre Flores, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Rosa Ledesma, Recreation Manager; Rain Thoresen, Tourism and Event Coordinator; and Tina North, Office Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's regular meeting was called to order by Lisa Nye-Salladin, Chair, at 4:00 p.m. in the Kerrville-Schreiner Park Recreation Hall.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All

**INVOCATION**

Offered by David Bartels

**1. VISITOR / CITIZENS FORUM**

The meeting was attended by members of the Board of Directors for the Guadalupe River Center Non-Profit Organization, along with Kim Meisner, serving in the capacity of Interim City Manager, and Dalton Rice.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 2A. Approval of the regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes held on March 9, 2023, and a special meeting held on August 10, 2023; Russell Nemky motioned to approve both sets of minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Cabe Johnson, Vice-Chair and passed 7-0.

**3. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

- 3A. Upper Guadalupe River Center Update – Layng Guerriero, Vice Chair of the River Center Foundation, and Rachel Johnson, Board Member, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the board members on the capital campaign for the new Guadalupe River Center. Mr. Guerriero spoke of the plans for the 13,732-square-foot center to be built along the shores of Nimitz Lake, with 11,700 feet under roof and 80-foot-wide boat ramp and handicap-accessible piers to ensure equal access to water activities and sports for abled and disabled community members. Building plans include a marina with rental kayaks, sailboats, and paddleboats, three classrooms for continuing education, a community gathering place, a full commercial kitchen, and a coffee bar. The cost of the building will be approximately \$10 million, with a capital campaign of approximately \$14 million; most of the fundraising is being done by naming rights.

Donors can choose to make a one-time donation or fulfill their pledged commitment over two or three consecutive, evenly split annual payments.

Celeste Hammon, River Center Foundation Board Member, distributed a handout with information on how the River Center project and the Granger MacDonald Park align with the Kerrville 2050 Plan. Discussing the following principles from the Kerrville 2050 plan:

P1: Enhance the aesthetics and mitigate the ecological impacts of development on the river corridor while preserving scenic views and natural beauty.

- Collaborate with Upper Guadalupe River Authority and others to reduce pollutants and debris.
- Also under this are the environmental educational programs and STEM programs underscore the principle.

P6: Promote and market the Guadalupe River

- Incorporate the river into all advertising promotions
- The river should be a reinvented segment of the Guadalupe River, ripe for recreational facilities, family outings, athletics, and active living.

P7: Provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, both residents and tourists.

- Encourage working with local businesses and organizations to utilize parks and outdoor venues for fitness classes.
- Handicap-accessible piers and outreach programs for underserved populations underscore Granger MacDonald Park's unique position to serve this goal.

- 3B. 2023 Kerrville River Festival Update – Rosa Ledesma, Recreation Manager, gave a presentation on the upcoming Kerrville River Festival to be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> in Louise Hays Park. This event is organized and produced by the Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department with the assistance of the CE Group (the production company). This event will be held in conjunction with the upcoming Annular Solar Eclipse and will include eclipse viewing, interactive programming with NASA, food vendors, a kid's zone area, and live music.

The Annual Solar Eclipse will add unique educational components to this annual community event. The Annular Solar Eclipse occurs when the moon covers the sun's center, leaving the sun's visible outer edges to form a "ring of fire" or annulus around the Moon. The maximum annularity is at 11:50 a.m. and lasts 4 minutes and 15 seconds. The duration of pre/post-annularity will be approximately 3 hours. Eclipse safety glasses must be worn for the duration of the eclipse. The event occurs every one or two years. The last one in Texas occurred in 1919. Visibility depends on location.

The City of Kerrville is excited to partner with NASA to celebrate the 2023 Annular Solar Eclipse and the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. NASA will livestream both eclipses from Louise Hays Park. The Kerrville Parks & Recreation Department worked with NASA to secure 10,000 eclipse glasses to be distributed to every student in KISD for free.

- 3C. 2024 Solar Eclipse – Rain Thoresen, Tourism and Event Coordinator, gave a presentation and update on the upcoming 2024 Solar Eclipse. This event is scheduled to be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, and will provide a safe place for visitors to view / experience the eclipse. There will be food vendors, interactive programming with NASA, a live broadcast, and a performance by a major headliner following totality. Attendees will be encouraged to enter the park via the Kerrville River Trail. Shuttles will also be provided from various paid event parking locations. The Kerrville Sports Complex has been identified as a paid viewing location for that day.

Local Relevance:

- Kerrville is on the direct path and is a prime viewing location for the Total Solar Eclipse.
- Kerrville is identified as one of the 10 best locations to view the 2024 eclipse globally.
- Others are Utopia, Leakey, Fort Worth, Paris, Uvalde, Fredericksburg, Spring Branch, Marble Falls, and Waco.
- The total solar eclipse is expected to produce close to 4 ½ minutes of darkness, with Kerrville being in the path of 100% annularity (total darkness).

Potential Impact:

- Significant tourism impact with travelers from all over the state and country and potentially international.
- Potential significant boost to the local economy (hotel/motel tax and sales tax).
- Full Activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Planning Committee – the City Council established an ad hoc planning and emergency management committee for the solar eclipse events in February 2022.

The Committee Chairs to consist of:

- Kerrville's Director of Parks and Recreation – Ashlea Boyle, Chair
- Kerrville's Fire Chief – Eric Maloney, Co-Chair
- Kerrville's Police Chief – Chris McCall, Co-Chair
- President / CEO of Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau – Julie Davis, Co-Chair

3D. Director's Report – Ashlea Boyle reviewed the current projects and operational updates in the Director's Report handout and answered questions. Mrs. Bole highlighted the following topics:

Projects:

- \$20M Bond Option 2 Selected Projects – the Economic Improvement Corporation (EIC) and City Council selected and approved projects for a \$20M bond issuance.
  1. Cailloux Theater Improvement Project (HVAC and Roof) - \$4M
  2. Olympic Pool Improvement Project - \$7M
  3. Scott Schreiner Golf Course Improvement Project - \$4M
  4. Heart of the Hills Heritage Center (HHHC) - \$2M
  5. Existing Park Improvements - \$800K
  6. Granger MacDonald Park Improvements - \$2.2M
- Fitness Court – the fitness court has been installed in Louise Hays Park. Punch list items are pending from the installer before we open it. Plans to install a shade structure over the court are underway.
- River Trail-Downtown Extension – design is complete. We are currently in the easement acquisition phase of the project. Five easements are needed for this phase. Once the easements are in place, the project will be bid, a top bidder will be selected and placed on a City Council agenda for bid award, and construction will occur.

Operations:

Personnel -

- New City Manager- Dalton Rice will begin employment on October 2, 2023

- o Justin LaQuey, Parks Operations and Facilities Superintendent, is retiring at the end of September with 14 years of service.
- o Bobby Bird, Park Maintenance Crew Leader, retired in May after 14 years of service.
- o KSP Office staff completed their team in August with the addition of Brittany Schmidt as the new Office Clerk.

Stage 4 Water Conservation Stage – the City of Kerrville is currently under the Stage 4 Water conservation stage. Irrigation is not allowed under this stage for potable water. The sports tourism facilities, Kerrville Sports Complex, Scott Schreiner Golf Course, Kerrville Tennis Complex, and Loop 534 Sports Fields all utilize fluent recycled reclaimed water and are not subject to the same restrictions. Louise Hays Park Interactive Fountain and the Carver Spray ground are still in operation. Use of a water spray park, which both of these features are considered, is allowed during Stage 4.

Kerrville Sports Complex – 578 baseball/softball tournament teams to date (D-BAT). With 6,705 players. Kerrville Little League played games at the KSC in conjunction with the Kerr County Fields. Hill County Youth Soccer has started its fall season with approximately 575 participants.

Mrs. Boyle suggested that board members read the Director's Report handout in its entirety at their leisure.

**4. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- 5A. Lisa Nye-Salladin announced that the upcoming Annual Mountain Bike Festival will be held in Kerrville-Schreiner Park on the fourth weekend in October 2023.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

6:30 p.m.

APPROVED:  DATE: 3/21/2024  
Lisa-Nye Salladin, Chair

ATTEST:   
Ashlea Boyle, Director of Parks and Recreation

RECORDING SECRETARY:   
Tina North, Office Manager