

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS
MARCH 21, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Nye-Salladin - Chair; Cabe Johnson - Vice Chair; David Bartels, Russell Nemky, Stephen Lynch, Dalton Dover, David Bartels, Lynn Paulo, Wynita Walthers, Karen M. Yanez

ABSENT MEMBERS

None

STAFF PRESENT

Ashlea Boyle, Director of Parks and Recreation; Rosa Ledesma, Recreation Manager; and Tina North, Office Manager

CALL TO ORDER

On Thursday, March 21, 2024, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's regular meeting was called to order by Lisa Nye-Salladin, Chair, at 4:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library Meeting Room.

Pledge of Allegiance

All

INVOCATION

Offered by David Bartels

1. VISITOR / CITIZENS FORUM

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2A. Approval of the regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes held on September 20, 2023. Stephen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes as presented with the addition of stating that Dalton Rice was present during Item 1 - Visitor / Citizen Forum. The motion was seconded by David Bartels and passed 9-0.

3. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

3A. 2024 Solar Eclipse Update – Ashlea Boyle, the Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced Jeremy Hughes, Division Chief Training/Emergency Management Coordinator, to discuss the public safety plan for this event. During the briefing, Hughes emphasized the importance of public preparedness ahead of the upcoming event, underscoring the anticipation of a population surge within the city, estimated to be two to three times its current size. Community lifelines were reviewed as follows:

1. Safety and security
2. Food, water, and shelter
3. Health and Medical
4. Energy
5. Communications
6. Transportation
7. Hazardous material

The Emergency Management planning phase focuses on the seven community lifelines strategically planned and built on each other. Each community lifeline meeting involves

a technical expert; these are not roundtable discussions but rather workgroups focused on a single objective. Hughes provided insights into the expected impact of the upcoming event, particularly emphasizing the anticipated influx of guests on Monday. He also highlighted the significance of preparations to be undertaken on the Sunday preceding the event to ensure smooth operations and safety for all attendees. Hughes concluded his presentation with an extensive review of a traffic plan flow for the citizen's commute to and from work and personal errands. Schools are scheduled to be closed on the day of the Solar Eclipse event to prevent any unnecessary traffic issues.

Rosa Ledesma, Recreation Manager, continued the presentation with an overview of the Annular Solar Eclipse. This event was held on October 14, 2023, in Louise Hays Park in conjunction with the annual Kerrville River Festival. The Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department organized and produced the event with the assistance of the CE Group (the production company). The event included eclipse viewing, interactive programming with NASA, food vendors, a kid's zone area, and live music. Ms. Ledesma brought attention to the beliefs within the community concerning the event's attendance levels. She confirmed that the turnout aligned precisely with the city's projections, exerting minimal impact. NASA's broadcast of the event has amassed 8.8 million views on YouTube, which is still on an upward trajectory.

Ms. Ledesma spoke about how the City of Kerrville partnered with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to commemorate the 2024 Solar Eclipse. NASA will conduct a live stream of the eclipse from Louise Hays Park, continuing the tradition established during the 2023 eclipse event. Notably, Kerrville had the honor of being the sole Texas community selected by NASA to serve as the base for their live broadcast. Further discussions highlighted the collaborative efforts between the Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department and NASA to successfully secure the distribution of 10,000 eclipse glasses at no cost, explicitly targeting students within the Kerrville Independent School District (KISD). This initiative aims to ensure the safety of the students, enabling them to view the eclipse without harming their eyesight. Ms. Ledesma discussed eye safety during the 2024 Solar Eclipse. She explained that viewing the eclipse requires glasses specifically designed for that purpose, with proper eye protection. Viewing the eclipse without the correct glasses can cause significant damage to a person's eyes. Ensuring that the glasses meet ISO safety standards and being aware of counterfeits is essential.

Kerrville Eclipse Festival – Ms. Ledesma spoke about the upcoming Kerrville Eclipse Festival held on April 8, 2024, at Louise Hays Park. This event provides an area for people to view and celebrate the upcoming Solar Eclipse. The city encourages visitors to stay in the park post-totality to reduce the heavy traffic flow exiting the park. Programming for this event includes eclipse educational workshops, scientific keynote speakers, live music, kids' craft and education center, post-totality engagement, NASA live broadcast, and food vendors. The event is free admission to the public. The Sports Complex is providing pre-paid parking passes to be sold so that people can view the eclipse from its location on both sides of the complex. Limited parking spaces will be sold, no at-the-gate sales will occur, and there will be no shuttle service to Louise Hays Park from this location. Pass holders will have access to the complex, portable toilets, and food vendors.

Eclipse Merchandise – Ms. Ledesma spoke on the items available for sale by the Parks and Recreation Department. Items include glasses, a solar eclipse poster, a shirt, a postcard, and a sticker.

Kerrville-Schreiner Park – Ms. Ledesma continued by touching on operations at Kerrville-Schreiner Park. The park has implemented a minimum four-night stay, mandatory on Monday overnight during the 2024 Solar Eclipse. All reservations were based on premium pricing, and there were no refunds for the reservations already made. Additional tent site camping spots will be available in the large field on the Hillside of the park for overflow dry camping. All sites were sold out within one week of opening. The next step is to engage the committee members with the opportunity to support the operation on Friday through Monday, the day of the event, at Louise Hays Park, Kerrville Sports Complex, and Kerrville-Schreiner Park. Interested members who would like to volunteer should reach out to Ms. Ledesma.

- 3B. Kerrville-Schreiner Park Signage – During the meeting, Lisa Nye-Salladin proposed discussing the signage project for the trails at Kerrville-Schreiner Park. She inquired about the budget for signage, noting that fundraising would not start until June 2024. She suggested allocating around \$10,000 for trailhead signage and recommended considering permanent signage for future placement.
- 3C. Director's Report – Ashlea Boyle announced the reappointment of the three seats in on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ashlea Boyle presented the Director's Report, distributing handouts to attendees. In her presentation, she covered a wide array of subjects, including ongoing projects, enhancements to the Scott-Schreiner Golf Course, updates on the Olympic Pool, the Cailloux Theater Improvements, and initiatives to upgrade existing parks. She provided insight into the Granger MacDonald Park Enhancements, the Kerrville-Schreiner Park Gate Project, and the Waterline Project. Additionally, Ms. Boyle shared the latest developments in the personnel organizational chart, reported on the progress of Kerrville-Schreiner Park, the Sports Complex, and the Tennis Complex, discussed the re-organization of Parks Maintenance, and previewed the 2024 Activity Guide.

4. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Lisa Nye-Salladin stated that she would like to revisit inviting Austin Dickson, CEO of the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country to speak regarding park funding.

Dalton Dover left at 6:27 p.m.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

6:35 p.m.

APPROVED:


Lisa-Nye Salladin, Chair

DATE: 4/13/2024

ATTEST:

ABoyle

Ashlea Boyle, Director of Parks and Recreation

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Tina North

Tina North, Office Manager