STATE OF TEXAS §

July 19, 2016

COUNTY OF GRAYSON §

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT A Called Meeting of the Sherman City Council was begun and held in the Sherman Municipal Ballroom on July 19, 2016.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor David Plyler.
Council Members Couch, Davis, Howeth, Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Jason Sofey.
Council Member Steele.

PURPOSE: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Input Session

CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM DETERMINED, MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Input Session began at 6:30 p.m. Texas law states that if a quorum of City Council Members should come together and any one of them decides to participate in discussions concerning City business that constitutes a City Council Meeting. There was a quorum of City Council Members present at the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

Kevin Winkler, Parks and Recreation Director, opened the meeting for community input for the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan has not been updated for about 11 years. He introduced Dennis Sims, Principal, Dunkin Sims Stoffels, Inc., who is the landscape engineer for this process. Mr. Sims has also been involved in the development of Pecan Grove Park East and West, and Center Street Park in Sherman.

Mr. Sims explained that the public input received tonight would be used to compile the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Sherman. Another public input meeting was held on May 5, 2016. Tonight they wanted input as to what citizens want to see in the parks.

He explained that a Parks Master Plan should assess the recreation needs, determine priorities, and provide a needs assessment. Once that is done, the Plan will help guide the City's park land acquisition and development, and provide cost estimates for the improvements. After the City adopts the Plan it will be submitted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to be used if the City decides to apply for any TPWD grant.

Priorities that were voiced by citizen's attending were:

- Need more attention to people of all ages, triathlon events, road biking. Need bike lanes adjacent to trails and for road biking instead of trail biking. Maybe a bike loan program.
- Interconnectivity of all parks and downtown area. Maybe tied in with Katy Trail System. Use of railroad easements.
- Handicapped parks that are wheelchair accessible with wider sidewalks. Installation of a wheelchair swing.
- Improvements to current skate park or a new facility.
- Major improvements to skate park. Accommodate non-conventional sports.
- Improvements to skate park.

- Better handicapped parking for Fairview Park and other parks. Handicapped parking is good at Old Settlers Park.

- Addition of a dog park.

- Need youth activities and sports programs through the City, such as volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track, and football. Children in East Sherman can't afford private activities. Need a recreation center and gym for children. Need to advertise City programs better. Need activities throughout the year, but especially in the Summer.

- Handicapped park for adults, accessible for disabled. Similar to Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio.

- Need places where you can safely walk, bike, or just sit in the shade and enjoy the green space. Connectivity with the trail system, including the Katy Trail System.

- Advertisement of programs offered. Use billboards to advertise programs and activities near Bearcat Stadium and the Old Youth Center location.

- Need activities for older citizens and to encourage healthy activity in a safe environment. Connectivity of the parks system, including the Katy Trail System. Community walkability.

- New baseball and softball facility. Will also attract teams from Southern Oklahoma and North Texas.

- Additional employees to maintain the parks we already have. Pick up the dog poop on sidewalks. "Don't forget what you've already got."

- Additional tennis courts, need more facilities and tennis lessons. Need a safe way to be physically active. Need to have a safe place for biking, walking, and running, accessible from house to park. Texas Department of Transportation grant program.

- Need to separate Parks and Recreation website from the City's website. There are many programs for children and adults, but they need to advertise them better. Maybe signage at the parks.

- Bike trails that connect parks and facilities. A disc golf park. Outdoor event center with an amphitheater and dedicated stage, to hold festivals. Bike trails, dog parks, handicapped accessible parks.

- Human checkers or chess on cement.

- Purchase of old Anderson Slaughterhouse Property to add to Fairview Park. Be sure that the Parks Master Plan is actually used in the development of the parks and not have "pet projects" come first. Complimented Parks and Recreation staff on recent Pokémon Go event.

- Use the old National Guard Armory as a youth center, with the adjacent park.

- Expressed concern about the safety of those using the parks and those living near the parks. The streets are narrow and the speed limit is slow, and with children playing there,

they need to make sure the streets are safe. Consider speed bumps. Keep safety in mind when planning parks.

- Skate park, disc golf, and flag football.
- Possibility of listing activities on the water bills.
- Connectivity between parks and neighborhoods. Multipurpose roads that connect parks and residences for bike and walking traffic.
- Access to Pecan Grove Park is on Shady Oaks and that is a narrow road. Canyon Creek Road is used for heavy traffic access to the park. Shady Oaks will probably be upgraded and widened with the expansion plans for Pecan Grove Park. Concerned about traffic in the new park and blocking off the residential streets for other big events like Lights on the Lake.
- Wifi in the parks

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, motion was duly made and approved to adjourn the Called Meeting at 7:43 p.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST

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CITY CLERK