

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF FREEPORT

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 26th day of January 2010, the Beautification/Parks & Recreation Committee of the City of Freeport, Texas, met in a regular meeting at the Visitor's Center of said city at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: Eddie Virgil, Margaret McMahan, Rosemary Bravo, Susan Pettijohn

City Staff: Larry Fansher, Parks Director; Jill Bradshaw, VIC Secretary Visitors: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by Eddie Virgil at 5:35pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Margaret McMahan made a motion to accept the minutes and Rosemary Bravo seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the October 27, 2009 meeting minutes.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS:

No visitors present

DISCUSS FREEPORT YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM:

This year's Basketball program is exciting and going strong. In accordance we have improved the security to assist with the crowd control at the games. The program has developed into a strong basketball league. We now hire out the referees and officials who do a better job of officiating at the games. We have about 3 weeks left of our season with a tournament scheduled for February 19th and 20th and the Awards Banquet scheduled for the following Sunday, February 28th. Tournament and banquet information was requested. Margaret McMahan asked if volunteers were needed and Larry Fansher said we would advise the committee where we could use their assistance.

DISCUSS SPRING PARK EVENTS:

Our current Parks events calendar was passed out to the board members and it was mentioned that there were several private and smaller events not listed. The Parks Department staff stays busy maintaining the 25 acres of the Freeport Municipal Park and RiverPlace which is reserved for a year out. Eddie Virgil stated that when she went to her husband's Christmas party at RiverPlace that the facility was just beautiful and complimented the Parks Department on the decorating. Larry mentioned that we had received several compliments on the Christmas decorating this past year.

DISCUSS SPRING SEASONAL LANDSCAPING PLANTINGS:

Larry Fansher mentioned that the parks and city had been hit by a cooler winter this year and that the grounds were suffering from the cold spell we had. He mentioned that even the evergreens were stressed due to the cold spell. However, he mentioned, that the perennials would be coming back come spring and that the color would be back by March for the Joy Rod Ride event. He mentioned that we would be stepping up the plantings for spring soon.

DISCUSS SUMMER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS:

The Recreational Department would soon begin the hiring process for the summer lifeguards so that they can receive the necessary training prior to the season. Recruiting and hiring instructors and coaches through the high school for our summer programs will begin soon as the programs are planned and prepared for.

DISCUSS YARD OF THE MONTH:

The yard of the month signs were put out for the month of January. It was discussed that the Texas Dow Employees Credit Union would receive the business yard of the month for February. Two residences will receive the award for February. It was discussed that it would probably be hard to find homes that were not struggling to maintain the yards because of the cold weather and Margaret McMahan suggested that we postpone the award and present it during March instead. The board will have a recommendation for the March awards by the February 23rd meeting.

PARK DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Larry mentioned that he was proud of the staff and how they continue to work to improve how we do business. There is not as much turn over now one in a year compared to in the past. We still operate shorthanded as positions were eliminated. However we are working smart and are looking forward to another busy and successful year.

Eddie Virgil asked if there were any long term goals and Larry advised that we continue to improve the soccer fields and baseball fields. Eddie Virgil mentioned that the sidewalks were nice as well.

Margaret McMahan complimented the city stating that it had done well considering the recent economic situation and complimented Larry and staff on an exceptional job. Larry went on to say that we had already met with the presidents of the softball and little league/peewee leagues and the Parks Department staff had already completed preliminary touch ups and maintenance at the parks in preparation for the season to start.

Larry mentioned that the Parks Department was working on a program where they would develop small landscaping beds and the business throughout the city would assist in maintaining them.

ADJOURN:

Susan Pettijohn motioned to adjourn the meeting with Margaret McMahan seconding the motion. All members voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.