

CITY OF CALLAWAY
SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 – 5:00 P.M.

The City of Callaway Sports and Recreation Committee met in regular session with Chairman Brent Harshbarger, Vice-Chairman Deric Hiscock, and Committee Members Tim Legare, Andre Goss, and John Piercy in attendance. Also present were City Manager, Eddie Cook and City Clerk, Janice Peters.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harshbarger, followed by an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 2, 2014
September 5, 2018

Since Tim Legare was the only board member present at the 2014 meeting, City Clerk Peters advised he would need to be the one to make the motion for approval. She also pointed out an error on page 3 of the September 5 minutes in the spelling of Duane Evan's name, which she will correct.

Motion:

Motion was made by Board Member Legare and seconded by Board Member Goss for approval of minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Review/Discussion of Survey

Newsletter Verbiage

The verbiage for the newsletter was reviewed and approved with the addition of the option for customers to fill out a paper survey at City Hall.

Motion:

Motion was made by Board Member Hiscock and seconded by Board Member Goss for approval of the verbiage for the newsletter. Motion carried unanimously.

Survey Questions

City Clerk Peters advised the survey will be done through Survey Monkey and a link to the survey would be put in the Newsletter and on the website. After discussion and review of the questions, it was agreed upon to use questions 1 and 5 on the first page list and questions 1-3 on the second page as follows:

1. How often do you use any of Callaway's parks?
2. In your opinion what do you consider the most important aspect of a park?
3. What new amenities would you like to see added to our parks system?
4. What do you think needs to be done to each of our existing parks?
5. What additional suggestions do you have for Callaway parks?

Motion:

Motion was made by Board Member Hiscock and seconded by Board Member Legare for approval of the questions for the survey. Motion carried unanimously.

John B. Gore Park List of Needs/Questions Review

Discussion ensued of the list of needs. Chairman Harshbarger provided a list (Attachment A) of needs he put together after visiting all the parks. Questions and recommendations were addressed as follows:

- Baseball/Football Fields – With the removal of one baseball field to make way for two football fields, Committee Member Piercy would like to see a clear outline for placement of the football fields. Chairman Harshbarger reviewed his thoughts on the setup, with six goals for maximizing space for training.
- Clearing Waterfront – Committee Member Piercy would like to see this continue to clear all available acreage.
- Walking Park
- Dock Space – Committee Member Piercy would like to see more dock space for fishing, which may help with reducing erosion from wave action.
- Update Community Club House Inside – i.e. restrooms, walls, etc. Committee Member Piercy felt the cost for renting the space could be increased. It was noted that the current fees are \$20 per day Mon.-Thurs. and \$30 per day Fri. - Sunday for Callaway residents and \$50 per day for non-residents with a \$100 deposit for non-residents and \$50 deposit for residents. Committee Member Legare advised this can be added to a future agenda for review. Committee Member Piercy also stated that people reserving the space should be responsible for clean-up following their event. Committee Member Legare added that it is rented most every weekend and throughout the week.
- Connect Museums Together – Committee Member Legare noted that funds had been budgeted within the City's FY2018/19 budget to help with this project. Committee Member Piercy stated the Historical Society has also committed money towards this project.
- Bar Chart to Map Progress for each park
- LED Lighting/Underground Electric - Chairman Harshbarger agreed with the recommendation for LED lighting as well as underground wiring for electric.
- Video Surveillance – Chairman Harshbarger recommended surveillance to protect the improvements to the park.
- Scoreboard – Committee Member Goss recommended the scoreboard be updated. Committee Member Legare advised no official games are held there.
- Bleachers – Committee Member Goss also recommended additional bleachers.
- Splash Pad – Committee Member Goss recommended a splash pad be considered. Committee Member Legare indicated they are fairly expensive to maintain.

Duane Evans, Callaway Baseball, regarding the Gore Park Baseball Field, indicated they use it for practice and in the spring there are all-star teams that use the fields as well. Jeff Beech, Callaway Football, agreed with Mr. Evans. Both were ok with keeping the smaller field. He felt pavilions needed to be installed as there is nowhere to sit, as well as batting cages. Mr. Evans felt the tennis and basketball courts could use resurfacing.

Victor Stilgis, Callaway Football, felt the building of the football fields could bring in extra revenue, advising the largest youth football tournaments in the US happens in Panama City and Panama City Beach every year, the Turkey Bowl during the week of Thanksgiving.

Rachel Piercy, 325 Beulah Avenue, offered things she thought would be beneficial to Callaway, such as additional parking for Gore Park, upgrade to playground equipment, baseball/football improvements, covered picnic pavilions, swings, clean up waterfront, add a walking area, dog park, storage shed and a splash pad. She also recommended the Committee consider an amphitheater.

Catherine Merritt of Callaway advised she has experience writing grants, stating there is a lot of money to be had, which she would be willing to pass along. She recommended ways to get extra help in carrying out the proposed improvements. Committee Member Legare referenced the boating access grant received from Fish and Wildlife and advised he will discuss these ideas with her.

City Manager Cook advised he met with Senator Gainer regarding upcoming Senate Appropriations that may be available for these projects. Panhandle Engineering has agreed to run a quick conceptual to see if two football fields can be fit at Gore Park.

Chairman Harshbarger stated drainage at Gore Park is good and advised 18-20” of dirt would have to be brought in to raise the football fields. City Manager Cook indicated the biggest obstacles to installing football fields will be lighting.

Committee Member Legare commented that regarding the GCYFA, he has not been able in the past to get a commitment from them as to what they would need to use Callaway’s fields.

Committee Member Piercy referenced the one water spigot and felt something better needed to be installed in a couple of areas. He asked how closely Public Works works with Leisure Services. Committee Member Legare advised they are currently getting help from Public Works with the shoreline work. He also indicated there is an Irrigation Specialist in the new budget, which he would use for projects such as these.

Committee Member Goss asked if staff utilizes Teen Court and probation. Committee Member Legare advised they have been used at times but they are currently not because Bay County has then pretty well tied up. Catherine Merritt commented as well.

Veteran’s Park Playground Equipment

Committee Member Legare showed a picture of what is being considered for playground equipment for Veteran’s Park, advising \$80,000 has been budgeted for this purpose.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Hiscock and seconded by Committee Member Goss to add the item to the agenda for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued and determined that it is needed.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Hiscock and seconded by Committee Member Goss to recommend the project to Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Member Piercy asked what would happen with the old equipment. Committee Member Legare advised they would save what they could for use in other areas.

Duane Evans added that he also has suggestions from citizens regarding the Recreational Complex. He will also promote the survey.

Catherine Merritt recommended offering an incentive for people to do the survey. She was advised it would be an anonymous survey.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

City Clerk

Board Chairman