

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Board met in regular session at the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Conference Room, 1611 North Stonebridge Drive, McKinney, Texas on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Chair Bruce Mead called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. upon determining a quorum consisting of Board Chair Mead and the following Board Members were present: David Clarke, Monica Escamilla, LuAnne Malnory, Osiola Henderson, Mohammed Elhindi, Todd Burton, and Leslie Warren

Board Members Absent: Todd Royal

These Staff and City Council Members were present: Parks & Recreation Director Amy Kinkade, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Ryan Mullins, Parks Planning & Development Manager Jenny Baker, Parks Superintendent Marty Sillito, Parks Planning Manager Jill Yount, Parks Planner II April Butler, Administrative Specialist Kara Dickson, Visit McKinney liaison Keith Gall, MCDC liaison Joy Booth and Councilman Patrick Cloutier.

There were 10 members of the public present in the audience.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS (For Non-Public Hearing Items)**

Mike Buchanan of 900 Gray Branch Rd, McKinney spoke in support of agenda item 24-2157 the use of a portion of the Gray Branch Parkland for a Community Farm. Kim Eubanks of 408 Kings Lake Drive, McKinney spoke in support of agenda item 24-2157. Nancy McClendon spoke to agenda item 24-2155 and her concerns of the parking lot for the Wilson Creek Greens Park design.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**24-2152** Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting of September 12, 2024

Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member LuAnne Malnory, seconded by Board member David Clarke, to Approved and Referred 24-2152 Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting of September 12, 2024

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

**24-2153** Election of Officers

Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member Leslie Warren, seconded by Board member Monica Escamilla, electing Bruce Mead as chair.

Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member Leslie Warren, seconded by Board member Mohammed Elhindi, electing David Clarke as Vice Chair.

REPORTS

**24-2154** Director's Report

Amy Kinkade, Parks & Recreation Director provided a report on staff attendance at the NRPA conference, TRAPS conference and Leading Edge and EPIC-CON staff development day. Details on the Trick or Treat Trail event as well as the PROS/MCDC Board Parks Tour and Veterans Day Ceremony were also provided. Project updates included new playgrounds at Inspiration Park, Ash Woods Park, Horizon Park & Aviator Park. Winniford Park pavilion will be refreshed, and the fencing will be replaced. Grady Littlejohn Concessions project is currently in design. Towne Lake Light Walk project will be open for bidding on November 21. Staff received approval from The Texas Historic Commission to commence with Towne Lake Dog Park. Project updates were also provided for Recreation Center at Towne Lake, McKinney Soccer Complex, EA Randles Park, and Wilson Creek Greens Trail.

**24-2155** Update on Wilson Creek Greens Trail Phase 2

April Butler, Parks Planner II, provided an update on the progress of the design for Wilson Creek Greens Phase 2 and the construction progress of the Wilson Creek Greens Trail Phase 1.

**24-2156** Update on Apex Centre

Erica Lyght, APEX Centre Manager provided an FY24 review on APEX Centre business, membership details, ongoing and upcoming projects.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - No Action Taken

**24-2157** Consider/Discuss on a Request for the use of a portion of the Gray Branch Parkland for a Community Farm

Chair Mead recused himself from the discussion. Vice Chair David Clarke lead the discussion. Director Kinkade explained the purpose of the discussion and what documents were provided with the intent to bring it back to the December meeting for a recommendation. Board Member Warren spoke against agenda item 24-2157. Speaking to the Gray Branch should continue to be used for hiking and quiet reflection. What are the governances to ensure the project is successful?

LuAnne Malnory provided the following concerns: Is this a bona fide public recreation use of Public Parkland? Would McKinney ISD be a more beneficial partner for this project? Also concerned on utilities and the necessary upkeep and who will be responsible for the maintenance of it.

Monica Escamilla spoke in favor of the project for benefiting the community by increasing exposure and knowledge of sustainable agriculture.

Director Kinkade explained the project would be done under a license agreement with McKinney Roots being solely responsible for the costs and maintenance.

Vice Chair David Clarke asked for more information on the flood plain. Board Member Leslie Warren expressed concerns about the project not coming to Parks, Recreation & Open Space Board and going straight to City Council Work Session and not understanding the governances on the project.

Councilman Cloutier explained there would be a ten-year agreement. The Councilman touched on multiple advantages to the McKinney Roots project utilizing a portion of Gray Branch Park and the benefits it would provide to the community. Consider what are the chances that the City

will have the funds to activate another infill park like we are with Towne Lake Park. Having this activated with the agreement by McKinney Roots is a big win with no financial support from the City.

Leslie Warren asked if McKinney Roots is interested in the area on the other side of the road. Councilman Cloutier explained that area is in the flood plain so McKinney Roots is not interested in that section. McKinney Roots' current lease agreement is ending so they are looking for new land.

Leslie Warren asked who made the decision to how much of the land would be used for the Urban Farm. Councilman Cloutier explained that was what was presented by McKinney Roots. Board member Warren also asked why this wasn't brought to the Parks Board before going to Council.

Board Member Warren asked why staff were not recommending the project. Director Kinkade clarified that staff are for the project but not for the location it is being proposed for. Director Kinkade also pointed to the presentation for the other factors that were also included in the decision. Board Member Clarke stated there is a need for further consideration of the flood plain. He is for a project led by Rick Wells stating he would bring his family to learn and engage in the project.

Mohammed Elhindi asked what animals would be apart of the farm. Patrick Cloutier explained he did not have the answer for him. He explains those questions would be best asked of Rick Wells. Councilman Cloutier suggested board members watch the work session recording for additional details.

Monica Escamilla spoke to the slope of the property and the benefits of farming the area.

Councilman Cloutier explained that the first use preferred by Council is athletic fields/courts. Considering the floor plain makes that not possible. He sees this as the next best way to activate this area.

David Clarke asked how much of the land would be the community garden. Councilman Cloutier explain that area would be a small part of the plan. Board member Burton asked about what was on the Parks Master plan for this area. Parks Planning & Development Manager, Jenny Baker explained what was originally planned as well as the current plan for concrete hike and bike trails.

Board member David Clarke sees this project as a benefit for the community. He asked if the board could get more information on the vision of the plan before voting by Parks Board in December.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding Matters not on the Agenda: None

#### BOARD AND MANAGER COMMENTS

Councilman Cloutier provided details on the results of the election. Collin County is withholding the parks development funding. He suggested that citizens reach out to County Commissioners Darrell Hale and County Judge Chris Hill to request them to send the City the money for parks development.

City Council will be voting on a development agreement with M2G for the redevelopment of downtown McKinney at the November 19th meeting.

Visit McKinney details were provided Liaison Keith Gall. Visit McKinney hosted two TACVB events, last night and the regional workshop at McKinney Performing Arts Center today. The board meeting taking place at Rick's Chophouse with dinner happening at Harvest tonight. Harvest Restaurant was recently awarded a Michelin Recommendation. Visit McKinney is working with Weir Stewart on a ranking strategy as well as other projects.

Billie Jean King Tennis Tournament is this weekend at the Courts of McKinney. The Texas State Silver Gloves Boxing Tournament at Arete's will take place November 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. NCAA II Football Championship will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at the MISD stadium. Courts of McKinney was recently chosen as the location for the Texas Open Pickleball Tournament to be held March 12 – 16, 2025. Liaison Keith Hall also encouraged the board to visit the Visit McKinney store front when shopping for gifts.

Chair Bruce Mead provided McKinney Parks Foundation updates. Monthly workday this Saturday at Gray Branch Park from 8 - 11am. The East McKinney Learning Gardens are making progress. Electric is going in with foundation pouring next week. Metal Silos will be constructed the week after Thanksgiving with the rock and irrigation in place in time for the Ribbon Cutting planned for December 7 from 9:30 – 11:30am.

David Clarke thanked staff the MCD/PROS Park tour.

ADJOURN

Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member Leslie Warren, seconded by Board member David Clarke, to Approved ADJOURN

An audio recording of this meeting is available through the City of McKinney meeting archive.

These minutes were approved by the PROS Board members on Thursday, December 12, 2024 and referred to the City Council Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 7, 2025 for City Council approval.

SIGNED:

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BRUCE MEAD, Board Chair  
DAVID CLARKE, Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:

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KARA DICKSON, Meeting Clerk

City of McKinney, Texas