

710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET

DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536

Minutes

of

A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS HELD AT CITY HALL, 710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET, DEER PARK, TEXAS ON JULY 5, 2016, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON	MAYOR
SHERRY GARRISON	COUNCILWOMAN
THANE HARRISON	COUNCILMAN
TOMMY GINN	COUNCILMAN
BILL PATTERSON	COUNCILMAN
RON MARTIN	COUNCILMAN
RAE SINOR	COUNCILWOMAN

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAY STOKES	CITY MANAGER
GARY JACKSON	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
SHANNON BENNETT	ACTING CITY SECRETARY
JIM FOX	CITY ATTORNEY

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO NAMING THE CITY OWNED PARK PROPERTY CURRENTLY REFERRED TO AS THE “DEER PARK WETLAND” – Parks and Recreation Director, Scott Swigert advised Council for the need to officially name City park property, currently referred to as the “Deer Park Wetland” located at the Southeast corner of Thirteenth Street and East Boulevard. RVi Planning and Landscape Architecture, the architect firm designing the “Deer Park Wetland”, as well as National Sign Plazas (NSP), the contractor for the Citywide Wayfinding Sign Program, both need to have the official name of the “Deer Park Wetland” so they can finalize their designs and signs. During the design of the “Deer Park Wetland,” it was discovered that the property actually hosts three different natural environments; a wetland, a grassland and a woodland. The “Deer Park Wetland” actually comprising more than just the wetland, it has become apparent that the official name of the property needs to be different than the “Deer Park Wetland.” The Parks and Recreation Commission began discussions for the naming of the property during their May monthly board meeting and made a recommendation to name the park the “Deer Park Nature Preserve.”

3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF DEER PARK'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE – Mayor Mouton advised Council he spoke to Councilwoman Garrison about the 125th Celebration Committee and asked for direction from Council to establish some perimeters of the committee before members are appointed to the committee.

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I have a list of ideas which includes combining the 125th Anniversary with the 4th of July, two banners on Center Street, a Fun Run, Historical Presentations through the community Civic Clubs about Simeon West, a Golf Tournament, a Social at the Battleground and a Parade. I am not inclined to be in favor of a parade because they are very difficult to do and very difficult to organize, but certainly something we should think about. Possibly inviting some of Simeon Wests' descendants, getting different aspects of the community involved, including the Maxwell Center. I noticed last night at the 4th of July celebration, they had a quilt; maybe they could make a quilt representing the history of the 125th, some of the things that have happened in that time. The Art League has had art contests in the past. We could have a Deer Park Volunteer day, maybe get the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts involved in cleaning up certain areas of town. The school can get involved by having some kind of essay contest. Norma Hysler with the LEPC has already contacted me about next year's 2017 calendar, which all the pictures will be historical pictures. I went to a website and started writing down things we can do because all of that depends on how much we spend, and what it involves."

Councilwoman Sinor asked, "Where does that budget come from? Is it out of the Hotel/Motel Fund or do we budget that?"

Councilwoman Garrison answered, "Only \$10,000 has been put aside."

Councilwoman Sinor commented, "Maybe we can contact some of the students or senior citizens."

Councilman Patterson commented, "Maybe some kind of drama presentation that the theater could put on."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "At one of our meetings, Susan Mele brought up that in years past on the 4th of July, they put on a short history on the actual day we do the celebration. That might be a possibility. The theater does four productions throughout the year, plus the other things they do, so that might be a little difficult."

Councilman Martin asked, "With everything you are discussing, specifically for the July 4th time frame. Are we going to make an announcement at the beginning of the year, hang banners and then have the July 4th as a celebration if budget allows?"

Councilwoman Garrison, "I think we should tag along with Parks and Recreation, who does so much during the year with different activities such as the 4th of July and Reindeer in the Park. One of the suggestions was to have 125th Christmas ornaments that could be sold during the holidays. Last year, we had Christmas at the Cabin. I think it's going to

depend on how we can reach out to some of the organizations and ask them what they are willing to do.”

Councilwoman Sinor commented, “I think we need committee members to pull from all of those organizations and even more. We can get our teens and families involved.”

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “You don’t want the committee so large that it’s not workable. I don’t know what is too many. Twenty five might be too many.”

Councilman Patterson asked, “What organizations would you like to represent on the committee?”

Councilwoman Garrison answered, “I would like to have someone from the Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, the School district, the Art League, citizens and Parks and Recreation.”

Councilwoman Sinor commented, “I think it’s a great opportunity to get new people involved. It’s a pretty important time in our City.”

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “I don’t know how to plan a golf tournament. If we raise money, what are going to do with this money? Gary, is that something that we can legally do?”

Assistant City Manager Gary Jackson answered, “If you are going to use the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds (HOT) which is what is proposed, the proceeds go back into the HOT Funds. If you have donors that are putting in money, that can go towards a scholarship or a tournament. Anything funded out of the HOT Fund would have to go back into that fund.”

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “It’s not the idea to make money, it’s the idea to give something to our City and the citizens feel like they are getting something back. Also, to have some ownership in this, that’s why it’s important that we have different organizations get involved that want to do something special within their group. The Maxwell Center may want to do something different, but we do want them on board with us. Those who know someone at the Maxwell Center, can talk to them when they have a meeting and the same with the Rotary.”

Councilman Patterson commented, “I think we are struggling with what kind of celebration we want to do. I am not out to spend money needlessly. Maybe get someone who knows how to plan events. It sounds like we need to decide exactly what we want to do.”

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “We can hire an event planner, but it’s going to cost money to do that.”

Councilwoman Sinor commented, “That’s the role of the committee. That’s why it is important that we pick the right people.”

Mayor commented, "The committee is going to follow the directive we set. Right now it's a big pattern and needs to be narrowed down. Do we want one or two events during the year or doing a bunch of small events around July 4th?"

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "Do we want organizations such as the Rotary to do something special on their own? We could do just two things, the 4th of July or at the tree lighting. If we appoint this committee, we have to have some kind of budget."

Mayor Mouton commented, "That's the point of this discussion. It would be better to give them some ideas of what we want to do and let them have some creativity to go make that happen."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "Giving them a dollar amount might be a good idea."

Mayor Mouton commented, "I like the ornament idea, but if we are going to do this, why not give one to every household."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I know one of the bids for the ornaments was very expensive."

Councilman Patterson commented, "We could have something at Patrick's Cabin on December 2nd, and try to get some of the descendants in. We may have to pay for some to come in, to have some recognition of them and recognition of the significance of the event. I would like to do it on the day rather than the 4th of July."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "Most big celebrations are celebrated throughout the year."

Mayor Mouton asked, "So it could be more of a theme with spin offs. How are we going to integrate this with the July 4th celebration? What are we specifically going to do?"

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "Have a birthday party, of course the fireworks, that can be integrated in it."

Mayor Mouton commented, "It will be more of a branding and an actual twist of July 4th. What are we going to add to that event other than a branding that we are celebrating our 125th anniversary?"

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I would hope that is something the committee would come up with, an idea of how we can enhance the July 4th and bring in the 125th celebration. What can we add to that?"

Councilwoman Sinor commented, "Kristin Edwards is good at that stuff and has a lot of contacts."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "We have started the process of creating a logo. At the last Council meeting, I was given permission to start working on it. There is enough talent on the Logo Committee to create one."

Mayor Mouton commented, "Sounds like it's more of a branding for the whole anniversary and we're adding twists for each event, but not necessarily doing anything out of the ordinary. Am I missing that?"

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "No. I don't think we are doing it like that. We can do something at the Golf Course."

Councilman Sinor commented, "The Chamber of Commerce can do something special at one of their meetings to celebrate."

Mayor Mouton asked, "What kind of twist are we adding to this event? The committee will make suggestions on how do we add to the celebration of what we are doing, with conjunctions with the branding being one aspect. Then do something memorable at these events that would add to and promote."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I think that we need to decide on an amount, some kind of guideline."

Mayor Mouton commented, "We will work on that."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "The only thing I'm worried about is the balance of the HOT Fund."

Mr. Jackson commented, "You have a remaining fund balance that is still available."

Councilwoman Sinor asked, "Can we talk about that in the next budget meeting?"

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I think it's important if we come to a decision on that and all of us come up with some ideas and some people that we think would be good. Some that can come up with good ideas and are workers, not someone who is there just to serve on the committee."

Councilwoman Sinor asked, "When do we want to come back with names?"

Mayor Mouton commented, "I would say over the next few days start getting some names together and submit them to the City Manager by the next meeting. I'm certain we will have more names than we need. How many people do we want on this committee to make an effective committee? I would say our biggest challenge is condensing it down. Then sub-committees can be created for specific tasks of events."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "This is a big thing. You all know I'm a little bit of a history buff. I really want people to realize what kind of person Simeon West was. He was a very interesting man. I think it is important that people in this town know who this man was. When he rode here, he was 65 years old when he founded the city. That's a long ride from Illinois. There was a lot more to him than meets the eye. That has been part of my pleasure in discovering who he really was."

Mayor Mouton commented, "I think that gives us enough of a directive and we will get that ready for the next meeting."

4. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Shannon Bennett, TRMC
Acting City Secretary

Jerry Mouton
Mayor