



MINUTES

The Gilmer Park's Advisory Board meeting convened in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023, at Gilmer Civic Center, 1218 US Hwy 271 N, Gilmer, Texas.

The following members were present:

Chairman John McWhorter
Member Benjamin Dodd
Member Willie Grant

Vice-Chair Todd Stansbury
Member Emma Smith
Member Michael Chevalier

The following members were absent:

Member Lucy Winn

Member Steve Stewart

The following staff was present:

Greg Hutson, City Manager
Lisa Long, Civic Center Director

Kimberly Smith, TRMC, City Secretary

Other Attendees:

Stan Hayes, Hayes Engineering
Rick Ogden, TIPS

David Barnes, Red River Recreation

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John McWhorter at 5:30 p.m.

Invocation

Member Benjamin Dodd said the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Todd Stansbury led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. Public Comments

Ike Fluellen addressed the board asking when the project will be started.

City Manager Greg Hutson reminded the public that the Park's board is an advisory board, and they can't speak specifically address the public comments, but can pass these onto the City Council who is the final authority.

Hadden Starnes addressed the board asking about an updated plan with the costs and changes. He also stated if the board was interested in speaking with outside finance people, he could get them in touch with someone.

Dustin Varnado addressed the board regarding the ballpark and a new field. Mr. Varnado also went over the expenses the association has spent to update some areas at the field. He spoke about other cities charging each child to use the facility and use towards updates and upkeep on the park.

Casey Hitt addressed the board with concerns that the people are losing faith because nothing is being done. Mr. Hitt spoke about the condition the fields are in and wants to know when construction will begin.

III. Items to Consider

1. Consider and act upon approving Minutes from March 31, 2022.

Member Benjamin Dodd made a motion to approve minutes from March 31, 2022, second by Member Emma Smith and a vote of 5/0 for approval.

2. Consider and discuss Parks Projects Financials.

City Manager Greg Hutson went over the financials line by line with the board. There was much discussion regarding the funding for the park's projects.

3. Consider and discuss SWEPCO transmission line upgrade from Gilmer to Pittsburg.

City Manager Greg Hutson went over the timeline for the SWEPCO transmission line project.

4. Consider and discuss TPWD local parks non-urban outdoor recreation grant (\$750,000).

City Manager Greg Hutson and Stan Hayes, Hayes Engineering explained the TPWD grant application with the board and public. There was much discussion regarding the grant. Councilmember Michael Chevalier entered the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Vice Chairman Todd Stansbury stated to the public the agenda is regarding Abney Park and we need to stick with the agenda. Chairman John McWhorter will get with City Manager Greg Hutson to setup another meeting to talk more about Yamboree Park.

5. Consider, discuss, and make recommendation to City Council to consider using TIPS for the improvements at Abney Park.

Rick Ogden, TIPS, explained to the board the background of TIPS and how it works for the Cities.

Vice-Chairman Todd Stansbury made a motion to recommend to City Council to use TIPS for the improvements at Abney Park, second by Member Benjamin Dodd and a vote of 5/0 for approval.

6. Consider, discuss and make recommendation to City Council using Red River Recreation for the construction of the improvements at Abney Park.

David Barnes, Red River Recreation, explained the plans and ideas for Abney Park.

Member Willie Grant left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Member Benjamin Dodd made a motion to recommend to City Council to use Red River Recreation for the construction of the improvements at Abney Park, second by Member Emma Smith and a vote of 4/0 for approval.

IV. Adjourn

Vice-Chairman Todd Stansbury made a motion to adjourn, second by Member Benjamin Dodd and a vote of 4/0 for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Kimberly Smith, TRMC, City Secretary