

**CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS**  
**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Thursday, August 11, 2011 6:00 p.m.**  
**McKinney Senior Recreation Center**  
**1400 South College Street**

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board of the City of McKinney, Texas, met in regular session at the McKinney Senior Recreation Center on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present were: Chairman Manson (Sonny) Fee, David Clarke, John McCaskill, Chris McHale, Peter Bailey, Jay Ray and Leslie Warren. Staff members present were Parks, Recreation and Open Space Director Lemuel Randolph, Parks Maintenance Superintendent Tim White, Recreation Superintendent Charlie Bryant, Parks Development Superintendent Steve Brainerd, Senior Parks Planner Jenny Baker and Administrative Assistant Sharon Lewis. Also attending was Oak Hollow Golf Course Golf Pro Mike Watson.

Chairman Fee presided calling the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Chairman Fee began the agenda with the following Informational item:

**11-21 Information/Discuss on the Location of a Skate Park within Gabe Nesbitt Community Park.**

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Director Randolph presented to the floor for discussion, two locations of the skate park within Gabe Nesbitt Community Park for consideration. Mr. Randolph gave a synopsis of how the skate park will become a reality. Parks Development Superintendent Brainerd continued with providing factors and procedure in selection of proposed skate park site at Gabe Nesbitt Community Park. He stated that to move the site to another location within Nesbitt Community Park would cost the City an additional estimated \$400,000 that is not available in the project fund. He explained what amenities would be an additional expenditure to the project.

Chairman Fee called for Citizen Comments.

Steve Spainhower, 3801 Palo Duro Canyon, McKinney, expressed his support of the skate park but not in the proposed location. He requested city staff to reconsider another location within the Nesbitt Community Park. He expressed the following concerns: no public input meetings conducted for input

from area residents; users would walk to the skate park site instead of using vehicle; soil density test; security; increase in vandalism and noise resulting in increase in calls to the police department.

Ramzi Barakat, 7105 Stone Canyon, McKinney, stated he was supportive of a skate park but not in the proposed location. He stated kids will be kids and he doesn't want to be a person to call the police department. He stated that he feels the lights will be an issue; the skate park will decline his property value; and security could be an issue.

Chris Bermudez, 7017 Bryce Canyon Drive, McKinney, stated that skateboarders have their own etiquette and support the proposed skate park close to the library.

Cade Wilson, 2404 Wells Lane, McKinney, stated that riff raff and culture associated with skateboarders, obscene acts, noise, etc. is not the kind of activities skateboarders do. If the site is moved by the tree line, the police will not get a clear view of the site; support site location proposed by city staff.

Ben Jarvis, 2700 Mountain Creek Drive, McKinney, held up a flyer that was distributed in their neighborhood with false claims of what a skateboarder is. He stated he has never seen any of this on skaters; not any of these activities are part of the skate culture. He asked that the person who created and distributed the flyer to stand and be recognized with no one stepping forward. He stated the flyer is bogus and did not appreciate the attack on skaters.

Dan Jarvis, 2700 Mountain Creek Drive, McKinney, stated he helped with the design of the skate park. He stated the sound at a skate park is in the range of 59-63 decibels. He stated that security should not be an issue as the proposed site location is visible from Eldorado Parkway and Nesbitt Community Park is already established with people using it. The lights at the skate park are low, not intrusive instead of big lights like what is used at athletic fields.

Mona Jarvis, 2700 Mountain Creek Drive, McKinney, stated she really wants to see the skate park become a reality. She stated that users at a city park can be louder than a skate park. She said they go to the Allen Skate Park and have not seen any riff raff; that the park is a plus. If the city decides to move

the skate park from its proposed location, it could affect the design resulting in additional costs to the project. She requests the city move forward with the proposed site and design.

John Slater, 2101 Cotton Mill Drive, McKinney, stated he was on the planning committee of the skate park. He stated noise will not be an issue and he has never in four years seen any drugs, pot, etc. at skate parks or used by skaters as suggested. The skate park should increase the property value of neighboring residents.

Will Mitchell, 2657 Fairway Ridge Drive, McKinney, thank the Board for volunteering their time to serve the community and for bringing park amenities to McKinney. He said he works for the City of Allen Parks Department and love seeing the kids going to the Allen Skate Park. He reiterated that noise at the skate park is not an issue; that they do not receive complaints about noise, drug use, etc. at the skate park in Allen. There are no more issues at a skate park than you would have at any other park in McKinney. He thanked staff, particularly Lemuel Randolph and Steve Brainerd for everything they have done for the City of McKinney.

Devon Babjac, 7309 Claridge Lane, McKinney, said he is a skater and is a straight "A" student, plays other sports, i.e., soccer, etc. Skaters do not do vandalism or cause problems that would require police. The skate park located in a high visibility site and lighting will be no problem to neighborhood residents. He stated he also helped with the design of the park and his team was the winner of the design.

Eric Babjac, 7309 Claridge Lane, McKinney, said he is the father of Devon and being a skater has been his vocation, he mentor kids and skaters have integrity. If the park site is moved, it will cause a delay in the construction of the project and funds it would take to move the site could be invested better. He stated he is opposed to the site being moved. He said he also is a resident of the neighborhood and buyers knew there was going to be a park or the park was already partially developed when they bought. He stated that the facts about the skate park should have been presented to the neighborhood residents.

Christopher Grider, 2717 Palo Duro Canyon Drive, McKinney, stated he is a teacher in McKinney and these are great kids. He would like to see the skate park moved because the proposed site is so close to housing. The noise the skates make is more than just a conversation level. He said he hopes this is a positive experience for the kids; that this is not based on hurt feelings. He suggested that Eldorado and Alma or by the library would be a better location. He said the skate park should increase the value of the property.

Joey Duenas, 5204 Rolling Rock Drive, McKinney, thanked the Board for giving residents an opportunity to provide input. He stated that the four lanes of traffic is more noise than a skate park. He said he has been a skateboarder all of his life; has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering; did well in school; and not like the stereotype of skater. He stated he was in favor of the skate park in its proposed location by the city.

Shawna Babjac, 7304 Claridge Lane, McKinney, said she is very much in favor of the skate park; she makes excellent grades; no issues. The Allen Skate Park is not like the poster claims. The skaters have nothing but respect for each other. People want this skate park; the kids need a place to express themselves and to grow. The city has done an excellent job in designing the skate park. She hopes the site is not moved as the proposed site is very visible and secure.

Francis Morrison, 2201 Cypress Point Drive, McKinney, stated he is in favor of leaving the skate park where it is as proposed by the city. He stated his son is a skateboarder, Eagle Scout and a straight "A" student. He said he did a cross country tour of parks and the least noise of areas within these parks was the skate park. He stated he is opposed to tax dollars being spent to move this skate park.

John Kansier, 2513 Palo Duro, McKinney, said he prefers the skate park be moved further away from the neighborhood. He also questioned why the neighborhood was not included on the process. He agrees the kids and the city need a skate park.

Jody Sutherland, 7101 Stone Canyon, McKinney, spoke in opposition of the proposed city's location of the skate park. He stated that the neighborhood

was only aware of the skate park project within the last 8-12 days. He stated his home backs up to the proposed site. He also said he visited the Allen Skate Park and he found it to be loud with noises of bang, bang and yells of “way to go”. He said the neighbors would like to work in partnership with the kids as he knows they are good kids. He said the city staff is great, very professional and congenial. He expressed his concern that money has been spent without including the neighborhood for input and getting all of the facts.

Marta Gore, 1821 Savannah, McKinney, stated that she visited the Allen Skate Park and it seems to be a good model of how well a skate park works. She is in favor of the current location as it will provide safety as the police can monitor it regularly as it is highly visible from the street. She said the kids need a place to go so that they are not in an inappropriate place. She complimented staff on the phenomenal job they have in working with residents in developing parks in McKinney.

Chairman Fee stated during his experience in serving on the Board, which is near and dear to their heart, that there have been times of misperceptions; that staff is good at getting the facts out and clearing up any misconceptions.

Mr. Randolph stated that the lighting for the skate park will be within in the bowl of the park. He said there has been no noise level research as it is in the eye of the viewer. The skate park is different and new so it would be more noticeable than ball fields.

The Board recommended that the location of the skate park become an action item at the September 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Chairman Fee continued the agenda with the following Consent Item:

On a motion by Board Member Bailey, seconded by Board Member Clarke, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Item.

**11-22 Minutes of the Regular Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting of May 12, 2011. April 14, 2011.**

Chairman Fee continued the agenda with the Regular Items.

### **11-23 Information/Discuss on Division Reports.**

Division Reports for Golf, Parks Maintenance, Recreation and Parks Development were reviewed by the Board.

Golf: Golf Pro Watson responded to questions from the Board. Board Member Warren stated he recently played Oak Hollow Golf Course for the first time and found it confusing on where some holes started and ended.

Mr. Randolph stated that the master plan of the Oak Hollow Golf Course will be for additional improvements of the irrigation and landscaping.

Parks Maintenance: Parks Superintendent White responded to questions from the Board.

Parks Development: Mr. Brainerd responded to questions from the Board. Board Member Ray asked .

Recreation: Recreation Superintendent Charles Bryant responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Randolph thanked Assistant Chief of Police Randy Roland for attending the Board meeting and asked for his perspective on the meeting.

Mr. Roland stated he had contacted the Allen police department for any issues with the Allen Skate Park and he said they have not had any more issues than you would have at a soccer tournament, Movie Theater, and other various facilities. He said crime prevention is through the design. Facilities that are tucked away are difficult to monitor. He recommends the skate park remain on the forefront as police travel the area regularly and can use parking lots as an opportunity to prevent crime.

Mr. Randolph stated that if the Board acts on the skate park at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the project will also be presented to the Planning and Zoning Committee and City Council so there will be plenty of opportunity for the residents to express themselves.

### **11-24 Citizen Comments.**

No citizen comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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Manson (Sonny) Fee, Chairman  
David Clarke, Vice Chairman