

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

**FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

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, February 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Board Chair Bruce Mead called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. upon determining a quorum consisting of Board Chair Mead and the following Board Members were present: David Clarke, Monica Escamilla, Osiola Henderson, Mohammed Elhindi, Todd Burton, Bruce Mead, Leslie Warren, Todd Royal

Board Members Absent: LuAnne Malnory

These Staff and City Council Members were present: Councilman Patrick Cloutier, MCDC Liaison Joy Booth, Visit McKinney Liaison Keith Gall, Parks & Recreation Director Amy Kinkade, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Ryan Mullins, Parks Superintendent Marty Sillito, Parks Planning Manager Jill Yount, Parks Planner II Dakota Cryer, Parks Supervisor Boady Sandlin and Administrative Specialist Kayla Chrisman.

There were 12 members of the public present in the audience.

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

Brad Douglas spoke in favor of agenda item 25-2439. His only concern was about the commercial lighting.

Shelly Mead spoke in favor of agenda item 25-2439. She is excited about what it could mean for the community. She believes it will be a great environment for families but also has concerns about the lighting.

Kim Eubanks is also in favor of agenda item 25-2439. He believes it is a perfect fit for the area but also has concerns about the lighting. He wants to see the lighting kept to a minimum or not at all.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**25-2437** Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting of December 12, 2024

Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member Leslie Warren, seconded by Board member Osiola Henderson, to Approved and Referred 25-

2437 Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting of December 12, 2024.

## REPORTS

### **25-2438** Director's Report

Director Kinkade introduced City staff member Josh Arias. Josh Arias provided information on the City Hall and Audio Visual for the event space at City Hall, as well as information about training for board members taking place soon. Director Kinkade shared photos of the new City Hall. Director Kinkade highlighted the following events: Daddy Daughter Dance, Summer Hiring event, SRC Sweetheart dance, Trout Derby, PPA Tour at the Courts of McKinney and the Inaugural International Girls Cup of McKinney. Project updates included completion of Horizon Park, progress on Aviator Park, EA Randles Park, Wilson Creek Greens Trail, Recreation Center at Towne Lake and Towne Lake Light Walk projects.

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

### **25-2439** Consider/Discuss/Act on a Request for the use of a portion of the Gray Branch Parkland for a Community Farm

Chair Bruce Mead recused himself. Vice Chair David Clarke led the discussion. Rick Wells provided the McKinney Roots presentation. Executive Director of the Seed Project Foundation and McKinney Roots Lenda Fidelman explained that 100% of the harvest is donated to the local non-profit partners. Lenda also provided details about the partnership with McKinney ISD for immersive 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trips.

Rick Wells spoke about McKinney Roots at Gray Branch showing his proposal to utilize half of the barn and how the barn would be updated. He discussed the benefits of relocating to Gray Branch and the benefits of having McKinney Roots at Gray Branch. This agreement would be a

minimum 10-year lease agreement. Board Member Leslie Warren questioned the lighting concerns. The parking lot will need to be lit and there will need to be lighting for safety. Board Member Warren asked why the MISD location wasn't chosen. Rick Wells explained that Gray Branch is just better location.

Leslie Warren asked why they are requesting to use 60 acres. Rick Wells explained that they would reduce the acreage footprint if needed to. Leslie Warren asked how long the lease is going to be. Rick Wells explained that they would be good with a 10-year lease with options after that. Board Member Todd Burton asked if the existing trail will still be kept as they are. Rick Wells doesn't want to limit the current access to the existing trails. David Clarke questioned potential expansion of production in the future. Rick Wells feels strongly that they could produce there but don't want to take too much away from the parkland. Osiola Henderson question impact of terracing. Rick Wells discussed preventing runoff. Board Member Henderson also asked about the cost of maintenance and about chickens and the potential smell for the park. Rick Wells said zero because they don't leave chickens in one spot for very long. Board Member Henderson also asked if there were plans to add cows or sheep to the farm. Lenda Fidelman felt that they weren't at the point of considering adding cows or sheep and really didn't see that they would be in the future. Rick Wells spoke to the required fencing for cows or sheep would block access to park use. Board Member David Clarke questioned how we educate McKinney about the existence of this. Leslie Warren spoke against McKinney Roots relocating to Gray Branch. He doesn't think it is the right place for it and the 10-year lease restricts any future park development. Board Member Warren thinks there should be some public input. Additionally, he thinks the McKinny ISD location is a better location. Rick Wells believes it will be better use of the land to utilize some of it to farm. The MISD property doesn't provide

what the Gray Branch property can. Board Member Clarke likes the idea of farming at Gray Branch and sees it as an enhancement to Gray Branch. Board Member Burton spoke to what Leslie Warren stated and how the Board has really explored the pros and cons of this project.

Board members approved the motion by Board member Leslie Warren, seconded by Board member Todd Burton, to Approved 25-2439 Consider/Discuss/Act on a Request for the use of a portion of the Gray Branch Parkland for a Community Farm with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1, Leslie Warren voting no.

**25-2440** Consider/Discuss/Act on a Recommendation to City Council on a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for the Renovation of Fields and Various Park Improvements at the McKinney Soccer Complex

Board Chair Mead came back to lead the meeting. Jill Yount spoke about the updates and contract with Hellas Construction. Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member Leslie Warren, seconded by Board member Mohammed Elhindi, to Approved 25-2440 Consider/Discuss/Act on a Recommendation to City Council on a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for the Renovation of Fields and Various Park Improvements at the McKinney Soccer Complex

PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding Matters not on the Agenda - None

#### BOARD AND MANAGER COMMENTS

Chair Mead mentioned McKinney Parks Foundation workdays for trails and the February 22 workday for East McKinney Learning Garden which will be opening in April.

Visit McKinney Liaison Keith Gall provided updates about the Division 2 Championship game and encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletter. Councilman Cloutier provided updates on the airport, upcoming election, the new City Hall, delays with Oncor project and two new cell towers coming as well. A work session item coming up this week to discuss what the firefighters experienced when fighting the wildfires in California.

ADJOURN

Board members unanimously approved the motion by Board member David Clarke, seconded by Board member Todd Burton, to Approved ADJOURN at 7:02 p.m.

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, March 13, 2025 and referred to the City Council Regular Meeting of Tuesday, April 1, 2025 for City Council approval.

SIGNED:

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BRUCE MEAD, Board Chair  
WINDY GALLAGHER, Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:

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KAYLA CHRISMAN, Meeting Clerk

City of McKinney, Texas