

## **Parks and Recreation Board Meeting (Thursday, August 8, 2019)**

### **Members present**

Cyndi Mitchell, Diana Smith, Nieves Marquez, Jermaine McDaniel, Terry Bennett, Lindsay Buhler

Youth Advisor, Caleb Casteel

### **Members absent**

George Kemper

### **1. Call to Order: The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Sachse will hold a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Sachse City Hall, 3815 Sachse Road, Building B, Sachse, Texas to consider the following items of business:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

### **2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flags.**

The invocation was given by Lance Whitworth and the pledge to the U.S. and Texas Flags was led by Caleb Casteel.

### **3. Consider approval of the June 13, 2019 meeting minutes.**

A motion was made by Terry Bennett and seconded by Lindsay Buhler to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Discuss and make a recommendation to the City Council on the naming of the Sachse Community Center.**

Bill Adams, 6219 Crestmont Ln., Sachse, TX - Mr. Adams read a letter for public record to the Parks & Recreation Board regarding his request to name the Community Center the Michael J. Felix Community Center.

If there is one name that is synonymous with Sachse, it is Mike Felix. Sachse is not just a place or a city to Mike; it is his home. Mike has spent more than 30 years, nearly half of his life, completely dedicated to Sachse.

Mike and Kelley Felix moved to Sachse in 1985 to raise their young family. Mike quickly got involved with serving his community by taking on leadership roles with the Lion's Club, the Parent-Teacher Associations at both Sewell Elementary and Hudson Middle School, the Sachse Fallfest event, and the City Council. During his tenure as a Councilmember and Mayor, Mike was instrumental in countless projects that would put Sachse on the map. Among these accomplishments are the widening of State Highway 78, the development of Woodbridge, the establishment of the Sachse Economic Development Corporation, the development of the Kroger shopping center, significant enhancements to public safety, and the passage of the 2006 bond, which led to the construction of the City Hall Complex. He has certainly played a vital role in shaping this community's future.

Above all, it is Mike's love and support of the parks programming that is truly remarkable. He embraced this passion both personally and professionally. On the Council, Mike helped usher in major components of Sachse's park system including Heritage Park, Joe and Patricia Stone Park, Dave Sanford Park, and Firefighters Park. Additionally, Mike served as the founder of Sachse's signature Red, White, and Blue Blast, the Sachse High School Turkey Trot, and the Christmas Parade. He also was an early supporter of Sachse's Municipal Development District. When he was not busy with City projects, you could find Mike out on the ball field, where he served as a longtime coach with the Sachse Sports Association.

As someone who was instrumental in the formation of parks and recreation programming in Sachse, Mike knew that, despite all of the City's accomplishments, it still needed something more. Sachse lacked a common space where residents could come together. Sachse needed a community center. Sachse needed a place where families could bring their kids to practice indoors, away from the summer heat; a place where friends could meet-up in the morning to get in a good jog on a walking trail; a place where a Girl Scouts troop could plan their next project.

Mike understands that while police, fire, and public works are critical public services; the parks and recreation programming is what truly elevates the quality of life in a community. The forthcoming Sachse Community Center is a quality of life enhancer for Sachse. It gives our residents a safe place to play and to convene. It is exactly the place this community needs.

Mike Felix has left an indelible mark on Sachse. I can think of no better way to recognize all of his contributions to Sachse by naming the Community Center after him. It is my honor to submit this nomination for Mayor Michael J. Felix.

Sincerely,

Bill Adams

The Park Board discussed the request. Terry Bennett stated that while he has a lot of respect for Mayor Felix and what he has accomplished he does not feel comfortable naming it after a seated politician. Jermaine McDaniel stated that he thinks it's ok to honor someone while they are here to see it because often we name things after someone once they have already passed and they don't get to see how people feel while they are living. He asked if there was a petition that went out to the Community.

Terry Bennett emphasized that while he doesn't feel that you have to wait until someone is deceased to name something after them, he does think that there is a difference between someone that is seated and someone that is retired. Lindsay Buhler asked staff if this is normally done and if other community centers in the area are named after someone? Mr. Whitworth stated that the Senior Center is named after Laurie Schwenk who was an active member of the Senior Center and had

donated money to the building. Joe and Patricia Stone Park was named after residents that donated land. Dave Sanford Park is named after a resident that was an active citizen in the parks. Ms. Buhler would like to wait and think about this for a month and possibly send it out to the community to get their input.

Bill Adams pointed out that this recommendation follows the City's policies on the naming of city facilities.

Diana Smith stated that while she thinks that Mayor Felix is deserving of this, she doesn't know since he is still seated on the council.

Brett Franks gave advice to the board. He mentioned that they do have the policy in front of them to help with questions on the policy. There are timing issues because signage has to be ordered. However, if there are hesitations he advised the board does not make a motion either way. If you table it then you have to pick a date to bring it back.

A motion was made by Terry Bennett and seconded by Lindsay Buhler to table the item until the next park board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Discuss and receive update on Community Center project.**

Mr. Whitworth reported that the Community Center is on schedule. Mr. Hobbs will update the City Council in September. There will be a tour at the City Council workshop on August 19 and the Park Board members can also attend that meeting at 6:30 PM to take a tour of the Community Center.

**6. Receive staff updates regarding current activities, special events, and personnel.**

Lindsay Buhler thanked staff for the Red, White, and Blue Blast and asked what the estimated attendance was for the event. Mr. Whitworth reported that while we don't have exact numbers, some have estimated around 12,000-14,000. The Park Board discussed the possibility of adding more food trucks next year and emphasizing to the food trucks at the event that they need to be prepared for a large crowd so as not to run out of food.

**7. Request for future agenda items.**

Diana Smith would like to discuss reply all on board emails and receive a new typed up version of the priority list. Jermaine McDaniel would like to discuss the sand volleyball court location and Ranch Road project and amenities at the park as well as a budget for the project. A request was made to discuss the Red, White, and Blue Blast.

**8. Set upcoming Parks and Recreation Board meeting date.**

The next meeting was set for September 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

ATTEST:

  
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Diana Smith, Secretary

APPROVED:

  
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Cyndi Mitchell, Chair