



**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
CITY OF ODESSA, TEXAS**

April 16, 2019

On April 16, 2019, a workshop meeting of the Odessa City Council was held at 3:32 p.m., in the fifth floor conference room, City Hall, 411 West 8th Street, Odessa, Texas.

City Council present: Mayor David R. Turner; Council members: Malcolm Hamilton, District One; Dewey Bryant, District Two; Detra White, District Three; Tom Sprawls, District Four; Mari Willis, District Five; and Peggy Dean, At-Large.

Others present: Michael Marrero, City Manager; Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Secretary; Gary Landers, Interim City Attorney; Phillip Urrutia, Assistant City Manager; Cindy Muncy, Interim Assistant City Manager; and other City staff.

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order and the following proceedings were held:

Council member Sprawls gave the invocation.

Discuss the Parks Master Plan. Steve Patton, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that Jim Carrillo, Halff Associates, was awarded for the Parks Master Plan. He would review the process of the Master Plan, a document for the next five to 10 years.

Council member Willis arrived at 3:36 p.m.

Mr. Carrillo was involved in the 2005 and 2014 Parks Master Plans. He introduced Kelly Cook, architect. He stated it was important to decide what was critical that affects Odessa in the long-range future, 50 years. He stated that everyone seeks happiness. In the last ten years, surveys show results well-being rated as high. Texas was ranked highest and over the years, Texas has fallen in well-being. Well-being included purpose, social, financial, and community. He reviewed the cities ratings of happiest cities. Many factors were considered with the ranking of happiest cities. He reviewed city parks plans from many years ago that set the aspirations of the community to make it successful cities today. He identified factors of health, mobility, social, economic and environmental that add value in communities. The most valuable factor was social for the citizens. He discussed today's competitive market. Council Member Dean stated kids do not play like the other generations. Mr. Carrillo asked Council to consider the legacy of the future as we move forward on the plan. He asked to establish the value of the parks. He stated what we do today creates tomorrow. Central park was an example. Another way to look at the value was proximity. The value of a home was higher when its proximity was close to a park or trail. Property value was impacted by parks. He discussed parks and public space. He provided examples of bigger and broader perspective of parks. Planning for parks was needed. He stated to understand the deficiencies, project future needs, address needs, future expenditures and develop the opportunities. Steps to planning included establishing the vision. The second step was to have citizen focus groups. The surveys will identify the feedback. The surveys would be on-line to reach many people. There would be workshops and meetings in all districts. Events would be held to answer surveys. Need assessment methodologies would be evaluated based on demand, target level, and opportunity needs. He stated that 50% of Odessa citizens live within half a mile of a park.

Council member Bryant arrived at 4:15 p.m.

Mr. Carrillo reviewed the City's 2014 target levels of service. Mr. Patton stated that the study was unique with the population of sports programs. There were many people outside of the city that use the park facilities. Many outside people were being served by City of Odessa's facilities. Mr. Carrillo reviewed the 2005 Master Plan recommendations. He stated that prioritization was needed once projects were identified. He pointed out the key needs for future neighborhood parks. Parks needed to be a part of the future for the neighborhoods. He stated trails was an opportunity as studies identify trails. He asked to consider if there should be a connection between parks. Mr. Carrillo stated that possible funding mechanisms needed to be identified including certificates of obligation, parkland dedication, developer construction of parks, General Fund expenditures, Hotel/Motel funds, partnerships and grants. Overall, Texas has a support of park bonds. He elaborated on some of the options. He asked Council to keep the options open with the funding mechanisms. He emphasized to consider long and short term, to be ambitions, and it takes a legacy to make a difference. Parks add benefits and value to the entire community.

Council member Dean was concerned on the surveys; questions should be tailored to specific people. A big issue was the parks in the new neighborhoods. She asked how to find out if they would pay and if it was important the citizen. Mr. Carrillo stated it needed to be addressed. Many people do not want to pay that extra cost. Mr. Patton stated that there was a special interest group that was paying for a park. The developer has not developed a park.

Council member Bryant stated to utilize the land that was available for trails. Council member Dean stated that were many opportunities for parks by thinking outside the box. Council member Bryant stated that Memorial Garden was water and a trail. It did not take much to develop. There were plenty of areas to utilize drill sites and easements. Mr. Marrero stated that funding needed to be identified.

Council member White asked about the existing parks' needs. Mr. Patton stated that there was a dilapidated park system received from the County. Many projects have been rehabbed and the next big project was Floyd Gwin at \$6 million. The park was the target for West Odessa as it was utilized the most. He stated the design does not accommodate the needs. It was about 50-acre park. The dollar donation has greatly assisted up to 20 parks out of the 36 parks. An average about one playground a year. It was a model for many cities.

Mr. Patton stated that the vision for the north and east could be drill sites and easements utilized. He stated that the sport facilities was a huge economic impact. The sports facilities needed to be assessed. The trend was changing in the sports arena as a sports complex was the popular facility. Mr. Patton stated need on north and east was flat property that can accommodate fields and athletics.

There was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

David R. Turner
Mayor

