

AGENDA:  
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MINUTES

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of the

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING

JULY 13, 1999

THE STATE OF TEXAS                    ) (

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON                ) (   BE IT REMEMBERED that at 9:30 a.m. on this the 13th day of July A.D., 1999, there was begun and holden a REGULAR SESSION of the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, the following members being present, to-wit:

JOHN C. DOERFLER, County Judge  
Absent.....MICHAEL L. HEILIGENSTEIN, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
GREGORY W. BOATRIGHT, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Absent.....DAVID S. HAYS, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
FRANKIE LIMMER, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
EUGENE D. TAYLOR, County Attorney  
NANCY E. RISTER, County Clerk  
DAVID U. FLORES, County Auditor

AGENDA ITEM # 1

JULY 13, 1999

Hear any interested person and consider forming the next agenda or adding items to today's agenda.

Mr. Darrell Champeau, 805 Hall Street, Cedar Park, Texas (331-1746) read his letter regarding the Hill Country Family YMCA Park to the court (copy attached).

Since he has served on the court for only 6 1/2 months Commissioner Limmer asked for information on the park.

Commissioner Boatright advised, "The YMCA park is 50 acres out of the old Hog Farm which the State of Texas in 1991/2 agreed to lease 50 acres to Parks and Wildlife who in turn gave a 50 year lease to Williamson County. Williamson County was/is not set up for park management and suffered constant vandalism and drug activity.

The YMCA was utilizing the area during the summer for summer camps, soccer and baseball fields. Williamson County and the YMCA reached an agreement for the YMCA to manage the park which included mowing. There never was a clear understanding as to park hours"

Commissioner Limmer asked "Or fees?"

Commissioner Boatright advised, "Williamson County required a fee for large groups while operating the park because of clean up. Week-end CSR workers were the only source of help. When you get into the parks business, you better be ready to commit the personnel, time and money to care for the park. We don't have that and that's still up in the air as to whether we want to get into the parks business. We have been looking at park land but do we want to get into the business of managing and maintaining a park?"

Commissioner Limmer asked, "The City of Cedar Park would not do it, Greg?".

Commissioner Boatright answered, "The City of Cedar Park at the time was in between Parks Managers and we were never able to reach an agreement. Also the park is located within the extra territorial jurisdiction of the City of Austin. Since the YMCA has begun management, the City of Cedar Park has asked why they didn't get the park."

Commissioner Limmer added, "You know how city management goes, it's almost like county."

Commissioner Boatright added, "It has changed....they have had a complete turn over since that time - Parks Director, City Manager, some City Council members."

I think we should talk to YMCA Director Wade Todd since there is a full time manager there."

Commissioner Limmer suggested, "Let them pick up the deposit there".

Commissioner Boatright added, "Keeping the park open during the day, especially when there is not....I can see limiting access if 250 children are already on the property for summer camps, etc.. The park was getting over used from the traffic - no park supervision - four-wheeling up and down the back side of the dam and open fields, as well as constant bathroom destruction. There are some negatives regarding the YMCA park management and positive due to supervision on the grounds. There is now much less vandalism. We were having some of the same problems as McNeil Park. We will talk with Wade Todd and arrange his appearance in court for all to hear and ask questions. I do agree with Mr. Champeau that this park should be utilized without cost during the day light hours by everyone and we will work on that."

Mr. Champeau advised, "Nobody knows about that unless the gate says family as well."

Commissioner Boatright agreed, "Right. Mr. Champeau, you wrote a good letter. We will invite YMCA Director Wade Todd to attend court next week to speak to these issues and see what we can do to clarify them."

Mr. Champeau suggested Mr. Todd would feel vandalism and destruction would occur if the park were opened to the public during the day. He also suggested posting a notice the park would close at dusk on the public park gate.

Commissioner Boatright told Mr. Champeau, " We will have you some answers next week".

Mr. Champeau asked if he could return next week to which Commissioner Boatright replied, "Yes Sir".

Please be patient with me. I am non-political, disabled, profoundly DEAF and intimidated with public speaking.

I want to know how the YMCA got control of my favorite park off Hy. 183, and turned it into private enterprise when it is owned by the State and leased to Williamson county. A recent Hill Country News article reports that officers of YMCA state they have no desire to close the park to the public yet the 4 by 8 foot sign on the barricade reads

"HILL COUNTRY FAMILY YMCA PARK  
RESTRICTED ACCESS ENTRANCE BY GROUP RESERVATION ONLY CALL 250-YMCA"

Any reasonably intelligent person that reads that says to himself "I am not allowed here anymore" Only the newspaper article states that YMCA is not closing the park to the public and in most homes that article is wrapping garbage and gone...along with the park.

I called 250-YMCA and drove the 3 mile round trip, put down the required \$50 damage deposit and assumed the responsibility of the entire facilities and agreed to return to pay \$2 a person for the other guests....which, sense my deposit was misplaced took a full hour to get back at the YMCA office. This run-around while there is a full time YMCA employee living in a mobile home facing the only legal place to park a car in the park.

My questions are simple. 1. When this commission dealt with the YMCA was there a requirement to keep it open at least during the day for a guy like me that likes to take my grandkids and neighbor kids to feed the ducks and geese? 2. Can you require them to change the sign and the name THEY gave the park which so blatantly implies YMCA owns the park? 3. Can you require the YMCA to collect the fee AT THE PARK and not at their corporate office? 4. Can you require that if I use a picnic table I don't require to take responsibility for the entire park? And finally, 5. if you can't require any of the above, than how did you let that park get away from "We the people" who paid for and own it? ....and then ask "we the people" for 3 Million dollars for empty land and will be asking more hundreds of thousands of dollars to someday have a park run by Williamson County. There is an oxymoron here if question #5 is answered "We are powerless".

Please cause the YMCA to share the park with us. Daylight hours and a locked gate at night will automatically take care of 99% of the mutually hated vandalism. There never was any signs as to limits of parking or any other behavior, never a locked gate, never limiting hours. So yes there was inappropriate behavior there. Now there is 15 signs installed by YMCA in recent weeks. Why didn't they install them 3 years ago? Could it be simply to allow and document misuse of the park privileges and than to present a power grabbing plan to "SAVE THE PARK", unfortunately for their own vested interest at the expense of "WE the people" That's simple politics. "Only I can save your city, nation, neighborhood or PARK." But you folks are politicians! Surely you didn't fall for that line....did you?

In the unlikely event I don't like the answers I get from you than I would like a copy of the agreement between you and the YMCA and if that doesn't help me, a copy of the meeting minutes that gave the park away. Thank You.

Darrell Champeau 805 Hall Street Cedar Park, Tx. 331-1746  
**CHAMP39036@austintx.net** I am nearly deaf so the telephone may be the hardest for me to communicate with you depending on your voice pitch, speaking speed and my changeable hearing at the moment. PLEASE HELP!

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AGENDA ITEM # 2

JULY 13, 1999

Read and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Moved: Commissioner Boatright

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting of July 6, 1999.

Vote: Motion carried 3 - 0

AGENDA ITEM # 3

JULY 13, 1999

Hear County Auditor concerning invoices and bills submitted for payment and take appropriate action including, but not limited to approval for payment provided said items are found by the County Auditor to be legal obligations of the County.

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Limmer

Motion: To authorize the payment of \$933,247.90 in computer print-out from the proper line items, if found by the County Auditor to be legal expenses as appropriated in the 1998/99 County Budget.

Vote: Motion carried 3 - 0

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