

AGENDA ITEM # 31**JULY 20, 1999****Discuss and take appropriate action on YMCA agreement with county pertaining to Hog Farm Park.**

Commissioner Boatright received a letter from Wade Todd who was unable to appear in court today because he is out of town until August 2, 1999.

Cedar Park City Councilman, Place 5, Phillip T. Duprey expressed his concerns of security, signage, public access and the overgrown pond in the Hog Farm Park.

Mr. Duprey revealed the possibility of a land swap with the City of Austin (in whose extra territorial jurisdiction Hog Farm Park is now located) in order to have the park area located in the City of Cedar Park extra territorial jurisdiction. The City of Cedar Park could then annex the park and provide immediate police protection.

Commissioner Boatright advised the City of Cedar Park turned down an earlier offer of the park. Williamson County was constantly spending money repairing vandalism in the park before the YMCA was involved.

A county parks department would be required if Williamson County took control of Hog Farm Park and opened it to the public. It is not a park which is conducive to continual traffic. If open 24 hours a day the grass would be killed, continual drug activity, vandalism and misbehavior would occur. The commissioner is in favor of having the park as accessible as possible which would require 24 hour patrol. Under the present YMCA agreement the youth of our community are able to utilize the property.

Commissioner Boatright stated one almost full time maintenance employee was required to repair the vandalism and the grass was torn up when the county was operating the park. Involving the YMCA in 1998, was the best decision the court could make. He understands the public feels slighted but at the same time he felt we cannot allow public property to be continually destroyed.

The commissioner advised YMCA has made arrangements for CSR workers to help with clearing the property.

Commissioner Boatright agreed he, Wade Todd and Mr. Duprey would meet after August 2, 1999, to see what could be accomplished to make the park more accessible to the public and still control vandalism.

181

The Commissioner also advised the 50 acres is dedicated as a green belt area.

No action was taken on this item which will be added to a later agenda.

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Deborah Ryle
Jon Sloan

Our Mission:

To put Christian principles into practice
through programs that build healthy
spirit, mind, and body for all.



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.



YMCA of Greater Williamson County

July 19, 1999

Mr. Darrell Champeau
805 Hall Street
Cedar Park, TX 78613

JUDGE JOHN

COPY OF LETTER
MAILED TO MR.
CAMPSAU RE: PARK
Wade

Dear Mr. Champeau:

I am writing in reply to your note of July 15, a copy of which is attached, in which you requested a copy of our agreement with Williamson County for management and operation of the 50 acre park. Your note also refers to two different "letters" previously written to the YMCA. We have not received any letters addressed to the YMCA, but I have read the attached copies of E-Mail messages you sent to other individuals regarding the park and the "prepared statement" you delivered to the Commissioners Court last week.

Enclosed is a copy of the PARK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION AGREEMENT as requested. The agreement clearly states that "The YMCA shall operate the Property as a limited access park whereby the park and its facilities may be reserved for use primarily by youth groups and organizations...." During the time we have managed the park, it has been used by many such groups including boy scouts, girl scouts, church groups, and school groups.

Under the terms of our agreement, the YMCA is "to develop and revise as necessary a fee schedule..., designate all open use and restricted areas..., and establish the park schedule and control access to the park based on such schedule." We are managing and operating the park precisely according to the terms of our agreement.

Regrettably, there has been a high level of criminal activity within the park, including drug and alcohol abuse, vandalism, lewd behavior, and the discharge of firearms. We will take such steps as may prove necessary to "maximize the safe and effective use" of the park as required under the terms of our agreement. Access to the park is restricted in the same manner as access to many state and LCRA parks is restricted. Not every public park is open to unrestricted access by any individual citizen.

RECORDERS MEMORANDUM

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We have spent thousands of dollars to improve and maintain the park, and we are presently preparing a Master Plan that will guide future improvements within the park. When completed, the park will benefit the children and families of Williamson County for many years to come-at no cost to the taxpayers.

As the YMCA is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit association, we would welcome the involvement of any individual, business, or organization sincerely sharing our vision of strong kids, strong families, strong communities. If you have suggestions for how we can better utilize the park property to this end, within the parameters of our agreement and with an appropriate emphasis on safety, please let me know.

Thus far, your actions have been destructive, disruptive, and disrespectful. You were admitted to the park for the stated purpose of fishing. Instead, you used a compound bow to shoot at targets meant for a children's archery program. You also interfered with the operation of other equipment at the pavilion. If you are admitted to the park in the future, you must comply with the rules.

Given the fact that we are serving the children and families of our county precisely in accordance with our agreement, please refrain from any further derogatory comments about the YMCA. If you have further questions about the agreement, or our management of the park, please direct them to my attention.

Sincerely,



Wade Todd
President/CEO

Encl

xc: Greg Boatright, Williamson County Commissioner, Precinct 2
John Doerfler, Williamson County Judge
Keith Hickman, YMCA of Greater Williamson County Board Chair

RECORDERS MEMORANDUM
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clearly legible for satisfactory recordation.

Remarks on Hog Farm Park, by Phil Duprey. 20 July 1999.

Seems to me that there are four concerns about Hog Farm Park right now.

1. Security

In the near term, security could be improved by the County directing the Sheriff to patrol the area of the park more frequently during the times that vandalism is more likely. In the longer term, Cedar Park should renew its effort to swap the Hog Farm Park into Cedar Park's ETJ, then annex it and add it to its patrol area.

2. Signage

Currently the signs at the park say HILL COUNTRY YMCA PARK and PRIVATE PROPERTY. Both are incorrect and have led to some irritation among intended park-goers. This is easily corrected by the YMCA.

3. Public Access

When security is improved, more reasonable access can be allowed. And the signs can reflect the new rules. As the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department letter to the YMCA says: "The park should remain available to the general public under some reasonable use guidelines or fees."

4. Overgrown Pond

If the YMCA is to be caretaker of the Hog Farm Park, then the YMCA should take care of it, including the overgrowth in the pond. They need approval from the state for the use of either special fish or chemical treatment (or both). The YMCA should pursue this.



CITY OF CEDAR PARK

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AGENDA ITEM # 32**JULY 20, 1999*******

Consider authorizing advertising and setting date for preliminary public hearing on the 1999/2000 County Budget.

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Limmer

Motion: To authorize advertising 7 p.m. August 10, 1999, for preliminary public hearing on the 1999/2000 County Budget in Justice of the Peace #3 courtroom on the second floor of the Williamson County courthouse.

Vote: Motion carried 3 - 0

AGENDA ITEM # 33**JULY 20, 1999*******

Hear comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Boatright expressed his appreciation for the morning (9 a.m.) instead of afternoon budget workshop on July 22, 1999.

Commissioner Limmer discussed the department budgets he has read and mentioned he would have liked Road and Bridge to include a back hoe with hoe ram in their budget. The combined costs of the Inner Loop, Brushy Creek at Noack and anticipated rock excavation on Booty's Crossing Road would probably have paid 80% of the purchase price of a back hoe. He felt the work requiring this particular piece of equipment would pay the purchase price in no more than two (2) years at \$250.00 per hour lease price.

Judge Doerfler felt the Road and Bridge budget could be funded with very few cuts. The General fund however is another matter. The budget for this year is looking good.

The 9 o'clock a.m. Thursday, July 22, 1999, budget workshops will be held for all Constables and Justices of the Peace, EMS, Juvenile Services, Tax Assessor-Collector and Sheriff's Department.

COMMISSIONERS COURT RECESSED AT 10:32 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1999