

AGENDA:

MINUTES

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of the

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING

JULY 27, 1999

THE STATE OF TEXAS) (

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON) (BE IT REMEMBERED that at 9:30 a.m. on this the 27th day of July A.D., 1999, there was begun and holden a SPECIAL SESSION of the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, the following members being present, to-wit:

JOHN C. DOERFLER, County Judge
MICHAEL L. HEILIGENSTEIN, Commissioner, Precinct 1
GREGORY W. BOATRIGHT, Commissioner, Precinct 2
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 27, 1999

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

Kenneth Snyder addressed the court regarding drainage in Northridge Acres Subdivision and Darrell Champeau read a letter to the court regarding public access to Hog Farm Park.

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Again, I ask the indulgence of the court as I am profoundly deaf.

I detest fighting with the YMCA. They are a pillar of society. The aims and value system they impart on the children is laudable. At least to the dues payers and purchasers of there services. But the leaders of the YMCA here are thieves without masks to the citizens of Williamson County and it's non- members while bussing in other counties kids. They have effectively stolen a priceless park. Everything has a price so I suppose the real estate value is about a million dollars but as a park..it's priceless.

The YMCA has spent a lot of money on this park to insure it's claim to it. The vast majority of the expenditure was for stone walls, Mobile home, signs, gates and padlocks and other annuities to keep OTHERS out [like the citizens of Texas] and avoiding the need to spend a million dollars for real estate where they would have a RIGHT to keep the public out.

Doubtless they will say these actions and "Improvements" were needed to protect the children and the people living in the mobile home from harm. Shielding children from harm is a wonderful statement. I am all for it. But it's not true. And as reasonably intelligent people, we can see through that thin disguise. The primary, if not only purpose is to secure the park for themselves. Their actions prove it.

Protect the guy in the mobile home? Gee, he's the YMCA cop! This is Cedar Park. I live here. I feel safe here. I would live in the park if that was my job and I got free rent. What a wonderful estate he gets to live on...spacious lawn huge covered patio, Brushy, Buttercup and Cluck creeks, a beautiful waterfall and private lake! He is in no more danger than I am. He is there to protect YMCA interests....and keep me out! When I say me, I mean you too!

They speak of real and suspected drug use here. Yeah...this park, city streets, county roads, vacant land, in cars and at home too. Probably on school property as well. CLOSE THEM ALL! Right? I don't think so.

In protecting there own interest they protect the Countys. Good. Why else grant the YMCA special rights and privileges? This is supposed to be mutually beneficial...Not the washing of hands to rid the County of the problems. I live in a mobile home. I can't imagine the commissioners allowing me to move it into the park.

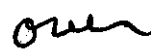
So from my view, the YMCA secures the park from vandals, litterbugs and lovers and any improvements that are made, spends whatever is needed to that end and in return get unrestricted use and the right to make improvements that increase the fees parents are willing to pay the YMCA to go to camp there. I am not allowed to install a swing set for instance. They can.

They also get to keep any fees they can extort from other groups or families? But I bet these fees charged families only entitle the family to the park they already own and not to anything the YMCA puts in like archery targets or canoes. I think most OUTSIDERS LIKE ME go to the park and spend an hour or two, pick up there trash and leave. I and the kids I bring there leave nothing but fading footprints...with the exception of my one man sit-in to research what I was to get for my \$52 entry fee. So I used an archery butt to see if I would be asked to give it up for the kids which I certainly would have. No one asked...but when I returned two days later with a reporter and photographer who didn't want to trespass and probably notified the YMCA of our quest, we were met at the gate by a very large well-muscelled man who's mission it was to keep me out. I went home. The news people probably than were allowed in and got the same old, same old, one sided story.

Bud Oliver of YMCA stated that sense LCRA [a government agency] can charge a fee for the use of the government parks they control which goes into the General Fund of Texas, that it stands to reason his private organization, the YMCA, can collect AND KEEP funds they collect. That may stand to his reason, which Is suspect, but it sure doesn't stand up to mine. Oranges & apples...night & day...Would probably require open bids, contracts, legislative approval to determine just WHOM will 'maintain' and run the park and whom could live there, whom sets a fee and whom that fee belongs to. The entire agreement, whatever it is, probably can't stand a legal challenge. The county entered into this agreement 3 years ago because we had no PARKS DEPARTMENT and was strapped for money. With a 3 million dollar purchase of future park land this month, I have every hope to believe we will have a Parks Department and that it will rectify what, in hindsight was the mistake [forced by County finances] of trusting an organization with high ideals but predatory tactics.

I don't care if YMCA runs the park. Cedar Park would be a better choice as that city runs one on Revera Drive not 1/4 mile from the contested park and also run a day camp for kids. Is Cedar Park less concerned for the safty of those kids? They don't have stone walls or locked gates and threatening signs to keep out outlaws like me! Bring in all the kids you want from wherever you want. Close the gate at night...99% of the vandalism will cease by that act alone...and most of the other problems will end with greater use of the park by your client kids and the adults that

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accompany them simply by being there. Don't allow them to make it a criminal act [literally] to step foot in my park. I don't blame the YMCA for there maneuver to keep the park for themselves. Closure would solve some problems they will probably have. If I was a YMCA CEO, I would try to do the same thing if I were smart enough to think of it. But you have been caught. It's time to quit the fight to keep the park for yourself. The harder you fight to justify your past tactics, the more you will show yourself as untrustworthy to manage a public park and the harder I will fight to take the park away from YOU!. You have much clout including a former mayor of Cedar Park and members of the Chamber of Commerce on your board of directors. You have money and prestige.....but I have THE RIGHTS of the citizens on my side and perhaps I can get "We, the people" aroused. I can afford to keep them informed. I have given a draft of this letter to at least two newspapers, The City of Cedar Park and Bud Oliver of the YMCA 5 days ago.

The real reason I gave a copy of this statement to the YMCA is not to give the officers lots of time to marshal an attack against it but rather for them to meditate on the walls of there office where the Creed is written in 3 inch letters that elegantly states the purpose and values of the YMCA and to apply them to there own behavior...To be an asset to the people of the County, not a userper of the peoples rights...to be a champion of All kids...not just the ones that can afford your services.

Caring, Faith, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility These are your words...

As

a child, my parents sacraficed to allow me to go to YMCA camp Miniconi in Wisconsin. A better memory I can hardly generate! Must all childhood memorys always be dashed! I won't say what I think of the YMCA now but I play a game finding new words for the letters ymca...and Christian isn't one of them.

The opening round of my fight last week was aimed at the YMCA because I knew only them as my enemy. I didn't know this boards posision or have a clear understanding of what happened here. I still am mostly ignorant but won't stay that way.

I know this board negotiated the deal that gave the YMCA control and, by my simple reasoning would not want to resend the deal unless for good cause. So I don't expect any cancellation of whatever agreement we have with the YMCA. Litagation is messy and costly and only one side wins. AND I sure don't want to antaganize this court with insistance that it un- do a done deal.

In that light with fear and treptation, I want to risk my standing, which I hope is still OK, by disagreeing with some statments of Mr Boatright made to this court and Mr Lammer which I only realized were made when my copy of the meetings minutes arrived in the mail a few days ago.

My Boatright suggested that he could see limits to access if 250 children are already in the park. As the park was getting overused. If you think 250 is a proper upper limit than insure that the YMCA doesn't bring in the 251st kid if I can't either. The rules must be the SAME for them as it is for me. In my many trips to the park I don't believe I ever saw more than 6 or 8 people not counting YMCA kids....most often only the 3 or 4 I bring with me...and when the park seemed to crowded, I left and went to Riveria park instead. Usually. Wouldn't most of us do the same?

Also Mr. Boatright I quote another statement you made to Mr. Lemmer, "We are looking at park land but do we want to get into the business of managing and maintaining a park" Wait a minute! This is not a rhetorical question! The voters just gave this board \$3,000,000 TO CLOSE THE DEAL THIS MONTH on park land. For Gods sake and the Taxpayers, don't give management to The YMCA! They will close it to you and me, folks! Saftey of the kids of course. Wall it up in stone, Have that same huge guy guard the gate. Fill the perimater and park with No Trespassing, Private Property, Violaters will be Prosecuted signs. Keep the outlaws FAT SUSPENDERS and BLIND BOY TAXPAYER and there TRAILER TRASH GANG out of here. This isn't funny or imposible. It has already happened in this same County To US, "We the people."

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Commissioner Heiligenstein advised he requested the Health Department test the water in ditches of Northridge Acres at the same time Brushy Creek water was tested. The Health Department found no fecal coliform in the water and no contamination from the septic systems in the ditches. The accumulation of water in the ditches is caused from failed septic systems of the residents of Northridge Acres.

Commissioner Heiligenstein does not think the citizens and tax payers of Williamson County want the county to bail out every one who fails to maintain their septic system.

Commissioner Heiligenstein noted he will take criticism every day to avoid paying tax money to solve a problem created by the residents of Northridge Acres who have been offered a solution and completely failed to respond.

AGENDA ITEM # 2

JULY 27, 1999

Read and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Moved: Commissioner Limmer

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: Approve the minutes of the meeting of July 20, 1999.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0 with Commissioner Boatright absent from the dais.

AGENDA ITEM # 3

JULY 27, 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 Hays

Motion: To authorize the payment of \$1,373,094.62 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 4 - 0 with Commissioner Boatright absent from the dais.

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