

City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind
113 West Mountain SRage 1 of 18
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-83 TDD 479-521-1316

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In Control: City Council File Type: Resolution

Agenda Number: A. 2

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR PAIGE MULHOLLAN BY NAMING THE WATERFOWL BLIND TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT LAKE FAYETTEVILLE PARK THE PAIGE MULHOLLAN WATERFOWL BLIND

WHEREAS, § 97.088(B)(2)(d) of the Fayetteville Code of Ordinances authorizes the City Council to approve the naming of a park facility in honor of a person who has made a significant contribution to the City in terms of financial donations, volunteerism or dedicated public service upon the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended the naming of the waterfowl blind to be constructed at the Lake Fayetteville Park in honor of Paige Mulholland at its regular meeting on September 8, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the significant contributions Paige Mulhollan has made to the City of Fayetteville through her years public service on the Board of Directors of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and as a member of the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

<u>Section 1</u>: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby approves the naming of the waterfowl blind to be constructed at Lake Fayetteville Park in honor of Paige Mulhollan as the "Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind."

City of Fayetteville Staff Review Form

2014-0401

Legistar File ID

10/7/2014

City Council Meeting Date - Agenda Item Only N/A for Non-Agenda Item

Alison Jumper	Alison Jumper 9/19/2014		Parks & Recreation / Parks & Recreation Department Division / Department		
Submitted By		Submitted Date			
	Actio	on Recommendation:			
Approval to name the Paige Mulhol	lan Water	fowl Blind at Lake Fayetteville	e Park		
		Budget Impact:			
Account Number			Fund		
Account Numbe	1		Fund		
Project Number			Project Title		
Budgeted Item?	NA	Current Budget	\$	-	
-		Funds Obligated	\$	-	
		Current Balance	\$	-	
Does item have a cost?	No	Item Cost			
Budget Adjustment Attached?	NA	Budget Adjustment	<u> </u>		
		Remaining Budget	\$	-	
				V20140710	
Previous Ordinance or Resolution #					
Original Contract Number:			Approval Date:		
Comments:					



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMO

MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2014

TO: Mayor and City Council

THRU: Don Marr, Chief of Staff

Connie Edmonston, Parks and Recreation Director

FROM: Alison Jumper, Park Planning Superintendent

DATE: September 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Waterfowl Blind Naming Request – Lake Fayetteville

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval to name the Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind at Lake Fayetteville Park.

BACKGROUND:

Lake Fayetteville Park, consisting of 590 acres, is a community park serving the entire city as well as the adjacent neighborhoods and communities. The park is situated in the northeast quadrant of town east of College Avenue (U.S. Highway 71B), west of Crossover Road (Arkansas Highway 265) and north of Zion Road.

Lake Fayetteville Park is the most popular recreational area in the Fayetteville/Springdale area attracting many hundreds of people daily who participate in a great range of outdoor activities. It is also an important educational area involving both the Fayetteville and Springdale school districts through the activities of the Environmental Study Center. A facility that allows the general public to closely observe birdlife is lacking in the northwest Arkansas region. Construction of a water fowl blind on the shoreline of Lake Fayetteville will address this need and be an asset to the city's parks system.

DISCUSSION:

As a result of rapid population growth in Fayetteville and Springdale, recreational use at Lake Fayetteville has soared. The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO) and the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society (NWAAS) feel as though an attractive but highly-functional viewing blind would be a productive outreach and educational tool with the least impact on waterfowl and other wildlife. Location of the blind on the lake's southeastern shore will make it highly function during peak waterfowl use times (late fall-winter-early spring) and easy to access from the area adjacent BGO.

Two birders who have visited many blinds, Dr. David Chapman and Dr. Douglas James, were consulted. An architect (Michael Cockram of Bowerbird Designs) was also consulted and conducted additional research on blinds. The design combines aesthetic beauty and highly durable materials. The blind will blend into the shoreline. Much of the lake's highly productive back areas will be visible without disturbing the birds and other wildlife.

The blind will be constructed and maintained by the NWAAS. The blind will be free and open to the public. The BGO plans to make regular use of it as part of its education programs. The blind will be an attraction for birders of all ages and skills, photographers, and those who would like a view of the lake's natural elements.

Paige Mulhollan, a Fort Smith native and former professor at the University of Arkansas, was an early Director of the BGO and later president of the BGO board of directors. An avid birder, upon retirement he and wife Mary Bess became active in Audubon at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina working as nature guides. They became active in the NWAAS when they returned to Arkansas in 2002. He and Mary Bess also had a strong interest in butterflies. Paige was President of the Carolina Butterfly Society. The Mulhollans sponsored the Native Species Garden and the Butterfly House at the BGO. Mary Bess continues these interests since Paige's passing in 2013 and plays a major role in maintaining the BGO Butterfly House.

The Park Facility Naming Policy requires City Council approval to name park facilities. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously recommended approving the name Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind for the blind being constructed at the September 8, 2014 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

None

Attachments:

Paige Mulhollan Naming Request NWAAS Proposal for Waterfowl Blind NWAAS Maintenance Agreement Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind Site Plan PRAB September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

PAIGE MULHOLLAN WATERFOWL BLIND

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY (NWAAS) is lead conservation organization in building and managing the PAIGE MULHOLLAN WATERFOWL BLIND that will be constructed at Lake Fayetteville in fall 2014. We are hoping Auduboners and friends who are able will financially help with this project.

WHY THE BLIND? As a result of rapid population growth in Fayetteville-Springdale, recreational use at Lake Fayetteville has soared, straining natural elements we have long taken for granted. We decided an attractive but highly-functional viewing blind would be a productive outreach and educational tool, with least impact on waterfowl and other wildlife. Location of the blind on the lake's southeastern shore will make it highly function during peak waterfowl use times (late fall-winter-early spring) and easy to access from the area adjacent Botanical Garden of the Ozarks.

WHAT WILL MULHOLLAN BLIND BE LIKE? We consulted with two birders who have visited many blinds, Dr David Chapman and Dr Douglas James. Kelly Mulhollan brought on an architect, Michael Cockram of Bowerbird Designs, who conducted additional research on blinds. Cockram's design combines aesthetic beauty and highly durable materials. We have all necessary permits from Fayetteville Parks and Recreation. The blind will blend into the shoreline. Much of the lake's highly productive back areas will be visible without disturbing the birds and other wildlife.

Dr PAIGE MULHOLLAN: Paige Mulhollan, a Fort Smith native and former professor at UA-Fayetteville, was an early Director of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO) during their formative years and later president of the BGO board of directors. An avid birder, upon retirement he and wife Mary Bess became active in Audubon at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina working as nature guides. They became active in the NWAAS when they returned to Arkansas in 2002. He and Mary Bess also had a strong interest in butterflies. Paige was President of the Carolina Butterfly Society. The Mulhollan's sponsored the Native Species Garden and the Butterfly House at the BGO. Mary Bess continues these interests since Paige's passing in 2013 and plays a major role in maintaining the BGO Butterfly House..

WHO WILL USE THE BLIND? The blind will be free and open to the public. We expect Botanical Garden to make regular use of it as part of their education programs. The blind should be a magnet for birders of all ages and skills, photographers, and those who'd like this special view of the lake's natural elements.

Proposal for the

Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind

at Lake Fayetteville

Justification

This proposal makes the case for the installation of a bird blind at Lake Fayetteville that will allow members of the public to closely observe the wildfowl that regularly visit this park. In recent years, watching birds has become one of the most popular hobbies in the USA and in our region Lake Fayetteville is one of the most frequently visited places for this purpose. The blind will be named in honor of Paige Mulhollan who was at one time Director of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO) and an avid birder who with his family participated in many activities of the North West Arkansas Audubon Society (NWAAS). Included in these activities have been regular field trips by the Society to Lake Fayetteville during which many unusual observations and rare bird sightings have been made. Since 1953 when Professor Douglas James made his first trip to Lake Fayetteville, many others have visited the lake and this has resulted in records of 274 species, testimony to the importance of Lake Fayetteville for birdlife in northwest Arkansas. For the last forty years the lake has been an important location for recording waterfowl on the Fayetteville annual Christmas Bird Count, records of which contribute to the nationwide understanding of changes in winter bird distribution.

Lake Fayetteville Park is the most popular recreational area in the Fayetteville/Springdale conurbation attracting many hundreds of people daily who participate in a great range of outdoor activities. It is also an important educational area involving both Fayetteville and Springdale school district through the activities of the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Center. The BGO plans to provide additional educational outreach in the future. We believe that provision of a blind for public use will complement this mission. Lacking in the northwest Arkansas region is a facility that allows the general public to closely observe birdlife. Construction of a blind on the shoreline of Lake Fayetteville will fulfill this need and be an asset to our Parks system. It should be noted that in 1979, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission classified Lake Fayetteville as a large recreational complex comprising a large area of open space and a natural environment that "provides citizens contact with nature". Construction of the Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind will contribute to this vision.

Location

Observations of water birds are best made from the south, especially in the winter months, because then the sun is behind the observer. At present there are no locations on the south side of Lake Fayetteville where close observation of birds is possible. The importance of a well constructed and well located bird blind is that the observer is screened from the lake, thus minimizing disturbance to any birds that may be present. During spring and fall, and also in mid-winter, large flocks of waterfowl regularly occur on open water at Lake Fayetteville and during severe winter conditions they often

congregate in the southern cove (opposite the BGO). A preferred site for the blind has been selected on a headland that takes advantage of both the open water of the lake and the southern cove (see map on left below).





This site is close to an existing track which prior to construction of the new hard top trail by the city was the only connection between Veterans Park and the BGO. Access to the blind would be by a short spur leading from this existing track. The blind is far enough away from the hard top trail to make noise and disturbance unlikely, a prerequisite for watching birds. In the location chosen it will be possible to construct the blind with minimal damage to nearby vegetation. Some shrubs, mostly invasive aliens, such as multiflora rose, privet, and Amur honeysuckle will be removed from the surrounding area during construction but otherwise disturbance to lakeside vegetation will be kept to a minimum. Our intention would be to plant native shrubs to protect this riparian area. The blind will be screened from the lake by woven panels made of cane. The chosen location is such that if improved access is required then this could readily be accomplished. A photograph of the southern cove looking westward from the shoreline by the botanical garden is shown above right. The blind would be at the tip of the headland on the right of the photo. An aerial view of the headland showing the blind location is shown below left and Cirplan diagrams of the blind from the east (below center) and south (below right).



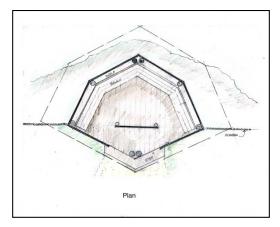


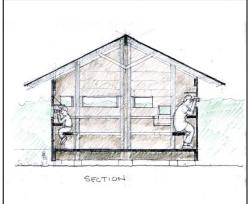


Structure

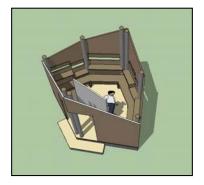
Details of the structure still need to be worked out but some general features are shown in the plans shown below. Desirable characteristics are that the blind is semi-enclosed so that people can observe birds with minimal disturbance and that protection is provided from the weather. We envisage that our blind will be a six sided structure with an open entrance to the south. The walls facing north are

angled to provide different viewing aspects on the north side overlooking the lake and cove. The dimensions are about 13 ft wide, and 10 ft deep.





The blind will be of wood plank and treated timber construction with a wooden floor and mounted on a raised platform, supports for which will be embedded on solid ground close to the shoreline. At this location the ground is only occasionally flooded and so rot should be less of a problem than other wooden structures at Lake Fayetteville (boat dock, environmental center observation deck). The roof is sloping to allow rain run-off. The interior of the blind contains a wooden partition screening the entrance from the viewing areas. This may be used as an information board. There is bench seating which has horizontal ports through which one can view birds (see below). The ports can be closed with hinged flaps. Bench seating and ports are constructed at different levels to cater for adults and young children.



Maintenance

The working life of the blind is expected to be at least twenty five years or longer based upon the longevity of other wooden structures at Lake Fayetteville. The blind is off the main trail system so vandalism hopefully will not be a problem. Limited maintenance is anticipated but the blind will periodically be inspected on a volunteer basis by members of the NWAAS and if problems are encountered then remedial action will be taken. The blind will be included in the biannual Lake Fayetteville Clean-Up which will remove any trash that accumulates on the shore or the trail leading to the blind.

Construction

Once approval has been obtained from the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Department and the BGO for the general concept of a bird blind at Lake Fayetteville then a detailed building plan will be prepared taking account any specific requirements requested. A cost estimate will be included. At this point the plans will be submitted for approval and fund raising will commence.

Project leader:

Kelly Mulhollan (still@stillonthehill.com)

Designer:

Michael Cockram (mcckrm11@yahoo.com)

Partners:

Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (contact Bob Caulk: bcaulk@cox.net)

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society (contact Joe neal: (jneal@uark.edu)

Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership (contact David Chapman: dchapman@uark.edu).

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society

Connie Edmonston, Director Fayetteville Parks and Recreation The City of Fayetteville 113 West Mountain Street Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

August 22, 2014

Dear Ms Edmonston,

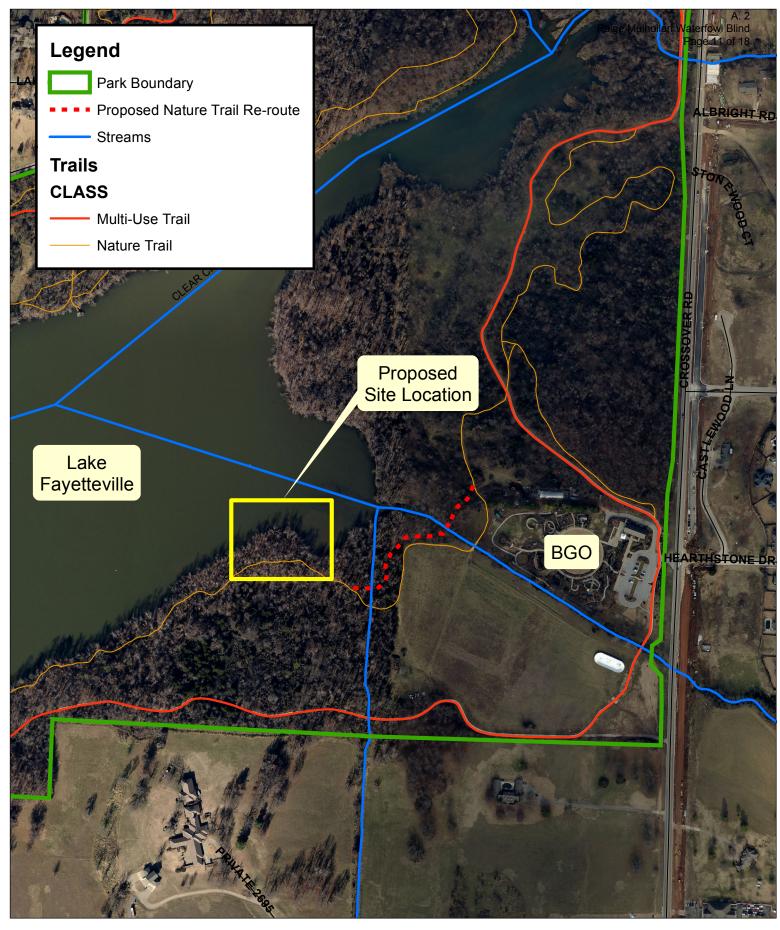
At the meeting of the Fayetteville City Parks Board on July 7, 2014, you requested that Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society (NWAAS) provide in writing a commitment to take responsibility for basic maintenance of the Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind to be constructed at Lake Fayetteville under NWAAS leadership. This letter is written acknowledgment of this commitment. We will mobilize resources for basic maintenance in association with our partners in building of the blind.

Sincerely,

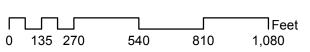
Professor Douglas James,

President, Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society

P.O. Box 4751 Fayetteville



Proposed Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind at Lake Fayetteville Park







MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board September 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. City Administration Building, Room 219 113 West Mountain Street Fayetteville, AR 72701

Members: Phillip Watson-Chair, John M. Paul- Vice-Chair, Wade Colwell, Richie Lamb, Terry Lawson, Chuck Maxwell, Phillip McKnight, David Priest, David Proffitt

City Staff: Connie Edmonston, Director; Byron Humphry, Maintenance Superintendent; Alison Jumper, Parks Planning Superintendent; Alan Spann, Recreation Superintendent; Matt Mihalevich, Trails Coordinator, Melanie Thomas, Senior Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Phillip Watson.

2. Roll Call

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present were Watson, Colwell, Lamb, Lawson, Maxwell, Paul, and McKnight. Proffitt arrived later. Priest was absent.

3. Approval of August 4, 2014 PRAB Meeting Minutes

PRAB Motion: McKnight motioned to accept the minutes as written, and Paul seconded it. Motion passed 7-0-0 by voice vote.

4. Water Fowl Blind Naming Request:

Kelly Mulhollan

This item was tabled at the July 7th and August 4th PRAB meetings. According to the Park Naming Policy, items must be tabled for one month in order to allow for public input. If this item is approved by PRAB, the recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for final approval. Additionally, the maintenance agreement with the NW Arkansas Audubon Society is attached.

Staff Recommendation: To approve the naming of the Paige Mulhollan Waterfowl Blind at Lake Fayetteville and to approve a maintenance agreement with the NW Arkansas Audubon Society.

Mulhollan said he was happy to answer any questions. He said the fund raising was going well, and they hoped to begin construction by November 1. He said he wants to name the blind after his father, who was the director of the Botanical Gardens in the formative years, and later a board member. He created the Audubon Society. He said that David Chapman submitted Mulhollan's father name for consideration.

Paul asked if there had been any response from the public.

Edmonston said nothing had been received.

Mulhollan said he had turned in the signed document for the Audubon Society to completely maintain the blind.

Edmonston said the next step for the naming would be the Council.

PRAB Motion: McKnight motioned to approve the naming of the Water Fowl Blind at Lake Fayetteville and to approve a maintenance agreement with the NW Arkansas Audubon Society. Maxwell seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0 by voice vote.

5. Park Land for Cato Springs Trail Easement: Matt Mihalevich, Trails Coordinator

Matt Mihalevich will be presenting a proposal to accept a donation of 7.03 acres of land needed to build the trail that extends along Cato Springs Road to the Regional Park. The City originally requested a trail easement; however, the easement will bisect the land making the southern portion not accessible. The owner is requesting land south of the trail to help build the trail through his property once he is ready to develop the land. Additionally the land will be utilized to meet tree preservation requirement and will contain a tree preservation area.

Staff Recommendation: To accept an easement for the trail now and accept the 7.03 land donation with defined tree preservation area for the trail within three years.

Mihalevich said that they are working on a trail to connect Cato Springs with the Regional Park. He said the Moon Distributors are building on Cato Springs Road and they want to donate 7.03 acres for the project. He added that a lot of it is riparian creek corridor on the north edge of the Cato Springs Trail. The donor wants credit for tree preservation. Mihalevich said, for tree preservation, the developer must actually own the property at the time he's building. He's not quite ready to build the rest of his project yet. When he is ready, the tree preservation area will be established.

Paul asked if he will come back to PRAB.

Mihalevich said that was given a time period of three years to do it if PRAB is okay with that. After three years, if he hasn't done it, he will have to come back to PRAB.

Maxwell wanted to know why he couldn't bank it.

Mihalevich replied that per ordinance, tree preservation can't be banked.

McKnight said that he would give us the trail easement now.

Watson wanted to know what was best for the donor.

Mihalevich said that was why we're waiting until he's ready.

Paul asked how much of the trail has easements.

Mihalevich said quite a bit of it does. He added that the University of Arkansas is working with us.

Paul asked when construction would begin.

Mihalevich replied that he was hoping by the beginning of 2016.

Paul wanted to know how long it would take for construction.

Mihalevich said that it would take less than a year, but probably more than six months.

Watson asked how PRAB should vote on this.

Edmonston said to give him approval to do a tree preservation.

Lamb wanted to know what would happen if the property changes hands. Would the same thing be done for the new owner?

Edmonston said we would have the easement.

PRAB Motion: Lamb motioned to accept the donation of 7.03 acres of land, and add that the tree preservation would be available to the next owner should the property change hands. Paul seconded it. Motion passed 8-0-0 by voice vote.

6. Update of Fayetteville Tennis: Chris Cash

Presentation by Chris Cash of Fayetteville Tennis to inform PRAB of status of programming including participant numbers, court usage, and future of partnership.

Cash said that the Arkansas Tennis Association is the governing body. He said he does public tennis programming in Fayetteville. There are 118 kids and adults playing, and most of the players are under 14 years old. He said that some of the players went to the tennis state tournament and dominated everyone. The program has been featured in a magazine. He said there has been some pushback from people due to the limited number of tennis courts. He said his program is mostly using just two courts at Wilson.

Watson asked what the program's needs would be for the next five years.

Cash said the demand is huge, and more tennis courts are needed.

Watson asked how many courts will be at the Regional Park.

Edmonston said there will be eight courts.

Cash said that his program is the largest program in the area and it's doing very well.

7. Park Land Dedication: Alison Jumper, Park Planning Superintendent

Development Name:

Engineer:

Owner:

Lierly Lane Phase II

Jorgensen and Associates

Riverwood Homes / TTO, LLC

Location: North of Mount Comfort Road, south of

Lierly Lane, west of Rupple Road

Park Quadrant NW

Units: 11 single family
Total Acres: 5.17 acres
Land Dedication Requirement: 0.25 acres
Money in Lieu Requirement \$10,120

Existing Parks: Salem Park, Gary Hampton Softball

Complex, Clabber Creek Trail and

Hamestring Creek Trail are located within a

one mile radius.

Developer's Request: Money-in-lieu Staff Recommendation: Money-in-lieu

Estimated Annual Maintenance: N/A

Justification: The existing parks in the area will meet the

recreational needs of this development.

The development was reviewed in August of 2007 for 15 single family homes. A recommendation of money in lieu was given at that time.

PRAB Motion: This dedication will be tabled until next month.

8. Park Land Dedication: Alison Jumper, Park Planning Superintendent

Development Name: Uptown (CMN Lots 3 and 4)
Engineer: Specialized Real Estate Group
Owner: MSB Properties and Nanchar, Inc.

Location: North of Van Asche Drive, south of Joyce

Boulevard, west of Steele Boulevard

Park Quadrant NW

Units: 312 multi-family
Total Acres: 14.01 acres
Land Dedication Requirement: 4.37 acres
Money in Lieu Requirement \$174,720

Existing Parks: Scull Creek Trail, Clear Creek Trail and Mud

Creek Trail are located within a one mile

radius.

Developer's Request: Money-in-lieu Staff Recommendation: Money-in-lieu

Estimated Annual Maintenance: N/A

Justification: The existing trails in the area will meet the

recreational needs of this development.

Jumper discussed the particulars of the development. She added that Leslie Tabor from Specialized Real Estate Group was present to answer any questions.

Paul wanted to know what quadrant the development was located.

Jumper said it was in the southwest quadrant.

Colwell asked what the demographics were in that area.

Tabor said young professionals.

Paul asked what the \$175,000 would be used for. He added he had some ideas.

Edmonston asked when the project would begin.

Tabor said it was planned for next year.

PRAB Motion: McKnight motioned to accept the \$174,720 money-in-lieu, and Proffitt seconded it. Motion passed 8-0-0 by voice vote.

9. Park Land Dedication: Alison Jumper, Park Planning Superintendent

Development Name: T.J. Lefler Development Engineer: Blew & Associates, P.A.

Owner: T.J. Lefler

Location: South of MLK, Jr. Boulevard, north of 15th

Street, east of Razorback Road, west of

Rose Avenue

Park Quadrant SW

Units: 2 single family
Total Acres: 0.90 acres
Land Dedication Requirement: 0.046 acres
Money in Lieu Requirement \$1,840

Existing Parks: World Peace Wetland Prairie, Hill Place

Land, Greathouse Park, Walker Park, Hotz Park, Tsa La Gi Trail, Oak Ridge Trail, Town Branch Trail and Frisco Trail are

located within a one mile radius.

Developer's Request: Money-in-lieu Staff Recommendation: Money-in-lieu

Estimated Annual Maintenance: N/A

Justification: The existing parks and trails in the area will

meet the recreational needs of this

development.

Jumper talked about the particulars of the development. She said the situation was unique because the project is proposing to split the four existing structures down the party walls. She said there will be an assessment of lot fees on two lots. The developer is requesting to pay money in lieu.

Paul asked if there would be four units.

Jumper said there are eight individual units, and they are like duplexes.

Paul asked how many acres there are for the development.

Jumper said it was just under an acre.

PRAB Motion: Maxwell motioned to accept \$1,840 money-in-lieu, and Paul seconded it. Motion passed 8-0-0 by voice vote.

10. Announcements

Humphry said he and Jumper met with the Corp of Engineers at the Botanical Garden and looked at the two creek crossings. They said that as long as the project stays on the bank and spans the water, there are no issues. Humphry said Parks will go through the formal process and get it in writing.

September 1 Fall Volleyball Registration begins

September 8 Fall Soccer games begin Fall Kickball season begins

September 30 YRCC Celebrate Our Kids Banquet, 6 pm

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Minutes taken by Melanie Thomas.