

Village of Volente
Minutes for the Environmental Committee Meeting
Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:00am
Friendship Park
Intersection of Reed Drive and FM2769, Volente, TX

A. Items Opening Meeting

1. Call to Order

Mayor Frederick Graber called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was established, with Frederick Graber, Andy Fogarasi, and Anne Steichen being present, and member Curtis Ratica absent from the meeting.

B. General Business and Action Items

3. Citizens Comments

- a. **Cary Witt**, 7328 Reed Drive, stated he would like to see the design of the park maintain a natural look that compliments the surrounding environment. He stated that the concrete barrier rocks might be better used for retaining wall purposes and instead use limestone and possibly a split rail fence similar to what is used across the street at the firehall to designate the park boundary along 2769. He offered his services as a civil engineer for the Committee to bounce ideas off of.
- b. **Roger Shull**, 7602 Reed Drive, asked that any park improvements not make drainage onto his property across the street worse. (Limestone runoff from the Park was still evident crossing Reed Drive to his driveway from the 4" rains last week.)
- c. **Rex Jackson**, from the Fisher Hollow area outside the village boundaries, stated that he'd helped with the handicapped parking design at Anderson Mill Garden Clubhouse and that he'd be happy to help at Friendship Park. He stated that when considering placement of any ramp, it is critical to consider the treatment and slope of the adjoining grade. He said that the drainage impact and performance of materials should be carefully considered. Where there is a complete change of material type, attention must be paid to the possible consequences. Consider the erosion that occurs at the edge of an asphalt roadway where it meets the natural earth. The continuous edge of differing materials is an opportunity for erosion issues.
- d. **Bob Steichen**, 15807 FM 2769, stated he thought the concrete blocks currently designating the park boundary along FM 2769 could be used for the bulkhead within the parking area and that one side of them was faced and could be utilized attractively. Alternatively they could be faced or clad with limestone to further create a natural look.
- e. **Robert Nelson**, 8215 West Drive, stated that we would need more than the current concrete blocks but that there might be enough of them to use as the footing.
- f. **Cary Witt**, 7328 Reed Drive, agreed that the existing concrete blocks could be used as a footing but again emphasized the use of more natural looking materials for aesthetic purposes, such as limestone blocks, if the blocks would be visible. He introduced that the handicapped pad did not have to be a concrete pad and that a material known as "Pro-teca Grass" might be a more appropriate material to maintain the natural appearance. He offered to donate a roll to be used at Friendship Park.

4. Discuss and consider action on next steps for Friendship Park Masterplan. A lengthy general discussion was held among the Committee members and attendees regarding placement possibilities for handicapped parking, handicapped ramps, general parking and fencing. These improvements are considered "Phase One". Numerous alternatives were discussed regarding location of handicapped parking. After great consideration the choices were narrowed to 3 possibilities. It was decided that no firm recommendation could be made to the City Council without further input from the Texas Dept of Transportation (TXDOT), and the Pedernales Electrical Coop (PEC). It was agreed that the following actions would take place and the Committee would then reconvene.
- i. **Frederick Graber** will contact TXDOT to see what considerations could be made to allow handicapped access to be located in the east corner of the property (corner of VJs and FM 2769); and to see if there were regulations that would dictate where on Reed Drive a formal curb cut or entrance could be placed. Frederick will also place an agenda item on an upcoming Council Meeting to formally receive permission for Robert Nelson and Bob Steichen to make preliminary pro-bono slope improvements, so alternatives can be better defined.
 - ii. **Anne Steichen** will contact PEC to see if the guidewire(s) to the electrical pole (corner of Reed Dr and FM2769) can be relocated and/or shortened by lowering the guidewire on the pole. She will also look into possible grant or matching fund possibilities from PEC.
 - iii. **Robert Nelson and Bob Steichen** will work together to move the rocks currently located in the VJs/2769 corner and see if we might be able to improve that entrance slope such that it could possibly serve as a drive-through /drop-off entrance for the park. If so, there is a possibility that "Pro-teca Grass" could be used to form a handicapped parking pad along the FM2769 side of the Park. The thought is that if TXDOT can't allow head-in parking (as this would then require the vehicle to back out into FM2769 when leaving), even for a handicap space on FM2769, that perhaps the handicap space could be a designated wide area (using Pro-teca Grass) along the drive-through /drop-off single lane that would cut through the Parkland connecting FM 2769 and Reed Drive. Until we hear back from TXDOT, Robert Nelson and Bob Steichen were asked to begin with only improving the slope at the FM 2769/VJ's corner.

Two types of fencing were discussed: black iron and split rail. Both would likely have vegetation grown on them. Black iron would have closer slats that children wouldn't be able to get through and also not have horizontal bars helping a child to climb over. However, either fence material would likely be further elevated along FM 2769 with a limestone retaining wall that could help create a barrier on the park side for safety, as well as to slow down rainwater run-off. Andy Fogarasi suggested we consider an interior fenced area around the playscape to further increase children's safety.

5. Discuss and consider action on next steps for Trails Masterplan. The Committee discussed that the Community Survey would provide a high level response on the desire for a trail system, but that a second, more specific survey could be sent out later in the fiscal year with more detailed visuals of a potential trail masterplan so the Committee can organize and support community consensus on the location material and staged timings of the build out, and pursue grant funding opportunities. Committee members were asked to be thinking about what those survey questions should be. **Bob Steichen** voiced his opposition to a trails system, stating he would never use it. He especially didn't want it being placed across his front yard.

Andy Fogarasi voiced his desire for a trail system and having a way to access other parts of the Village without getting in a car. He stated that it was an important amenity for the Village to have, especially for the children, as well as a way of addressing the safety concern for the numerous people currently walking on Lime Creek Rd and FM 2769. The Committee members were asked to be thinking about what information and questions a secondary survey should contain. Discussion was held regarding the traditional landscape maintenance of the right-of-way in front of property owners land.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6thth day of December 2014