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A Professional Corporation  
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October 2, 2018

Mayor Kevin White  
P.O. Box 179  
Mineola, TX 75773

Re: Nature Preserve/Liability

Dear Mayor White,

I have spoken with Mercy Rushing regarding the ongoing problem and damage to the preserve caused by the prairie dog population. In reviewing the relevant documents and speaking with Mercy, there are countless large, cavernous holes that have been caused by the prairie dogs.

The City's knowledge of the problems with the prairie dogs and the damage to the preserve are relevant factors. The City would have no liability in the event that someone was injured by a defect at a City-owned facility that was unknown to City staff and officials. However, once the City becomes aware of a potential damage causing defect on City property, and does nothing to remedy the situation, liability could ensue should an individual or property be injured or damaged.

While sovereign immunity and the Texas Tort Claims Act provide layers of protection for cities, that immunity can be waived in certain situations wherein a city knows of a premises defect and ignores its duty to abate the problem. In my opinion, should the City ignore the continuing and ongoing damage being caused at the preserve by the prairie dog population, someone injured at the preserve could potentially have a valid and legal claim against the City. This would also hold true should an individual's property, including a horse(s), be damaged or injured due to the prairie dogs.

From a legal standpoint, I would urge the City to take all reasonable measures to remedy and abate the problems being caused at the preserve by the prairie dogs. Hopefully, this can be done in a humane fashion; however, it is incumbent upon the City to resolve this situation by any reasonable means necessary.

**Birdsong & Armstrong, P.C.**

October 2, 2018

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Mayor, I am happy to entertain any questions or comments that you may have regarding this matter.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blake E. Armstrong', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Blake E. Armstrong

BEA/td

**CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.  
MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Neal Duncan, Chairman at 5:30 pm. Those present were Gordon Tiner, Vice Chairman, Demethruis Boyd, Polly Jones, Mary Lookadoo, Secretary and Mercy Rushing, City Administrator.

2. **Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on August 2016**

Gordon Tiner made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Polly Jones made the second to the motion. Motion Passed.

3. **New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**

**(All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes)**

a. **MHS Presentation of Completed Master Plan – MHS**

Hunter Rush from MHS reviewed the Master Plan for the Nature Preserve.

He asked that the committee share with MHS any additional information or corrections.

b. **Prairie Dog Colony – Mark McDonald**

Mr. McDonald presented a proposal to create a Prairie Dog Colony at the Nature Preserve. He would provide the Prairie Dogs and establish their colony. The Prairie Dogs would be examined for disease.

Demethruis Boyd made the motion to table this item and Gordon Tiner made the second to the motion. Motioned Carried.

c. **Sun Dial-Polly Jones**

The Sun Dial had to be moved due to shade issues that prevented the effectiveness of the Sun Dial.

d. **Park Host – Polly Jones**

Park hosts are volunteers who supplement park staff and serve as representatives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Hosts assist park visitors and support the operational needs of the park. (See Park Host Program handout.)

e. **Fall Youth Hunt – Mercy**

Buster Green reported that Texas Parks and Wildlife will assist in the Fall Youth Hunt. They will obtain the deer counts and permits. Buster indicated that there will be at least one hunt this fall.

Gordon Tiner made the motion to proceed with the Fall Youth Hunt and Demethruis Boyd made the second to the motion. Motion Carried.

f. **Fall Kids Fish – Mercy**

Demethruis Boyd made the motion that the Kids Fishing activity be scheduled in February, 2017. Gordon Tiner made the second to the motion. Motion Carried

4. **Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

a. **Mountain Bike Trail Update Report – Jayne Lankford or Joyce Williams**

b. **Mineola Nature Fest update - Neal**

c. **Peterson Park updates – Polly**

**CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS**  
**PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**  
**300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY**  
**MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**  
Neal Duncan, Chairman, Mary Lookadoo, Secretary, Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman, Demethruis Boyd, Polly Jones, Mercy Rushing, City Administrator.  
  
Ross Whitney was not present.
2. **Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on September 2016.**  
Demethruis Boyd made the motion and Gordon Tiner made the second to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.
3. **New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:** (All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes)
  - a. Bee Hive - Joe Sabedra (Mr. Sabedra was not in attendance.)
4. **Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**
  - a. MHS Presentation of Completed Master Plan Board Discussion & City Recommendation.  
The Board had reviewed the Master Plan and had no additional information to share. The consensus of the Board was for MHS to make their presentation to the Mineola City Council on October 24
  - b. Troop 385 Haunted Hay rides – Neal  
A scheduling problem for Troop 385 created alter their plans.
  - c. Prairie Dog Colony – Mark McDonald  
Demethruis Boyd made the motion and Polly Jones seconded the motion to invite Mark McDonald to make his presentation concerning developing a Prairie Colony at the Nature Preserve. Motion Carried.  
(It was noted that Mr. McDonald would be instrumental in setting up the colony and would remove it if necessary at no charge.)
  - d. Sun Dial – Polly Jones  
Additional Information will be presented in November.
  - e. Park Host – Polly Jones  
Polly Jones made the motion to pursue a partnership with the Park Hosts Program through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in order to present a recommendation to the City Council. Demethruis Boyd made the second to the motion. Motion Carried.

**CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 AT 5:30  
P.M. MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Neal Duncan. Present were Neal Duncan, Chairman, Mary Lookadoo, Secretary, Ross Whitney, Demethruis Boyd, Polly Jones and Mercy Rushing, City Administrator.

**2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on October 18, 2016.**

Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ross Whitney and seconded by Polly Jones. Motion carried.

**3. New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**

(All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes)

a. Bee Hive - Joe Sabedra

Mercy and Buster updated the status of the Bee Hive Project. It was suggested that signage to help locate the Observation Hive be established. It was reported that feeding the bees was key to keeping the bees happy. Demethruis Boyd made the motion and Ross Whitney made the second to provide food for the bees for \$30. Motion Carried.

b. David Crook – Permission for Model Plane Club to use Preserve

Staff will scope out suggested locations for this type use before proceeding.

**4. Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

a. Prairie Dog Colony Update – Mark McDonald Suggested location south of Brandy Trail. It was noted that Mr. McDonald would deliver the Prairie Dogs which would be evaluated to assure that they were healthy. He indicated he would relocate the Prairie Dogs to another location if necessary at no cost.

b. Park Host – Polly Jones

TPWD has examples of Job Descriptions for Park Hosts. Buster will review the examples and prepare a draft that fits with City regulations and legalities.

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**  
**300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY**  
**MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Neal Duncan by 5:45 p.m. Present were Neal Duncan, Chairman, Mary Lookadoo, Secretary, Polly Jones and Mercy Rushing, City Administrator and Buster Green, Preserve Trail Boss.

**2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on January 17, 2017.**

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Gordon Tiner and seconded by Polly Jones. Motion carried.

**3. New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**

(All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes)

Guest Brian Lyle, a student at Mineola High School is working on his Eagle Scout designation. He is proposing that he enhance the Sun Dial at the Nature Preserve by adding Planets and Asteroid Belt. He will bring more information and plans in the near future.

a. Preserve Entrance Ropes - Mercy.

More information will be presented before a decision is made.

b. Buster Update – Mercy

Buster will be retiring January 31, 2017.

**4. Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

a. Model Air Plane Field – Neal.

David Crook presented information concerning the developing a Model Air Plane operation at the Nature Preserve. Options will be explored by the Model Air Plane Group at the Preserve and other City owned property.

b. Disk Golf Update Report – Matthew and Mercy

Matthew Bryan presented the attached Basic 18-Hole Disc Golf Course Estimate. The total estimate for an 18-hole course is \$7776.

Mercy reported that our goal for Hole Sponsorship is \$10,000 with \$7,000 committed for 12 holes with six holes available.

c. Park Host – Polly Jones

Polly is still working with TPWD on the Park Host project. The individuals selected would be paid by using the RV Hookups. Additional information will be considered at the February meeting.

d. Prairie Dog update—Buster & Mercy

Forty-Five Prairie Dogs were installed at the Preserve.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

1. INVOICE NO.

2. PAGE

**RECORD OF ACQUISITION, DISPOSITION OR TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS** (Other Than Dogs and Cats)

1 OF

SALE  EXCHANGE OR TRANSFER  DONATION

3. DATE OF DISPOSITION

DEC 15 '16

4. DEALER'S LICENSE NO.

74 B 0638

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete applicable Items 1 through 13. Original and one copy to accompany animals. When delivery is made - Items 14 through 20 must be completed. Original retained by Buyer (Receiver) and copy one returned to Dealer (Seller or Donor). Copy two to be retained by Dealer (Seller or Donor). Attach Continuation Sheet (APHIS FORM 7020A) as needed.

4. SELLER OR DONOR (Name and Address, include Zip Code)

DARYL HOBUE  
1301 NCR 1350  
LUBBOCK TX 79416

6. BUYER OR RECEIVER (Name and Address, include Zip Code)

MARK McDONALD  
PO BOX 1511 HAWKINS TX  
79765

7. USDA LICENSE NO. (If any)

TX NCR 147360012022

8. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS BEING DELIVERED

A. CON-TAINER TAG NO., CRATE OR PEN NO.	B. NO. ANI-MALS	C. PREVIOUS INVOICE NO. (if any)	D. INDIVIDUAL IDENT., TATTOOS, TAG NOS. (if applicable)	E. SPECIES	F. AGE - SEX		H. EST. WEIGHT (lbs.)	I. REMARKS (Condition, etc.)	RECEIVER'S USE	
					G. NO. YOUNG	G. NO. ADULT			J.	K.
	45			PLAINE DOG	M	M		MIX SEX		
					M	M		FOR RELEASE		
					M	M		MINNEOLA		
					M	M		NADRE CTR		
					M	M		MINNEOLA TX		
					M	M		(WOOD COUNTY)		
					M	M				
					M	M				
					M	M				
					M	M				
					M	M				

DELIVERY BY COMMERCIAL CARRIER

9. DELIVERY BY ("X" one)

Buyer's Truck

Dealer's Truck (Seller or Donor)

10. TRUCK LICENSE NO.

11. BILL OF LADING NO.

12. NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPANY OR FIRM

13. NAME AND ADDRESS OF TRUCK DRIVER

45-Placed Minneola Puppies  
MIXED SEX

DELIVERY RECEIPT - TO BE COMPLETED BY BUYER OR RECEIVER

14. ANIMALS DELIVERED WERE ("X" one)

IN APPARENT GOOD CONDITION

POOR CONDITION

REJECTED (Attach explanation for rejection)

5. TOTAL NUMBER RECEIVED

42

16. NUMBER DEAD

0

17. NUMBER ALIVE

42

18. BY (Signature)

*[Signature]*

19. TITLE

20. DATE

**CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD  
AGENDA - TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017  
5:30 P.M. MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**The meeting was called to order by Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman with the following present:**

Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman, Mary Lookadoo, Secretary, Demethruis Boyd, Polly Jones, Mercy Rushing, City Administrator and Nickey Minyard, Preserve Trail Boss.

**2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on March 21, 2017**

Demethruis Boyd made the motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Polly Jones made the second. Motion carried.

**3. New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**

***(All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes***

**Neighborhood City Park Request & Info. – Manny Dominquez**

Mr. Dominquez presented a proposed project for a community park to be located at the corner of Hogg Street for which he would facilitate. The Parks Committee suggested that he present budget information, drawings of project and include who, what, why, how and a timeline. It was also suggested that Mr. Dominquez talk with Mineola City representatives on zoning and location, bidding requirements and other aspects of the park. Mr. Dominquez was encouraged to include the above information in a proposal for approval by the Parks Board.

**4. Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

**a. Update on Bike Trails & Heritage Park Development**

Joyce Williams and Holly Herring presented an update on the Bike Trails and the Heritage Park Development around the Iron Horse Square Project. The presentation contained a great deal of history of the railroads in early Mineola and how this project would provide information to the public. The group has obtained grants to help pay for these projects. The Union Pacific Bike Trail will have five trails of about four miles each.

**b. Consider Action on Brian Lyke's Eagle Scout Project – Neal**

Gordon Tiner reported that Brian Lyke's Eagle Scout project is complete and Gordon had signed documents for his submission for his project.

**c. Disc Golf Update – Mercy & Neal**

Mercy provide a diagram of the Disc Golf project and a proposed label for the holes. The sponsors of the holes can have their logo and the name identifying the company or individual representing the sponsor.

**d. Park Host Proposal for City Council Approval – Mercy**

Demethruis Boyd made the motion to present the proposed Park Host information to the City Council with one change on Item 3 listing Park Trail Manager instead of Park Trail Boss. Polly Jones made the second to the motion and the motion carried.

**d. Preserve Map Update -- Polly**

Polly reported that much of the area was underwater. She will complete her recommendations for the Preserve Map and report at a later meeting.



**e. Prairie Dog Update – Nickey Minyard**

Nickey Minyard reported that the Prairie Dogs do not stay in their area and have burrowed holes and tunnels at various places. They have been active along the water lines and electricity lines and other areas. The holes are a hazard to the public and to maintenance personnel.

Gordon Tiner made the motion and Demethruis Boyd made the second to the motion to contact Mark McDonald and have him remove the Prairie Dogs from the Nature Preserve as he had agreed to when he moved the Prairie Dogs to the Preserve. The motion carried with Polly Jones abstaining.

**5. Follow-up / Reminders / Announcements:**

**a. Events Update & Other Announcements – Mercy & Neal**

Mercy reported that The Nature Preserve was listed in the County Line as the Best Walking facility.

Mercy also reported that Randy Morgan resigned and various assignments were made to existing city employees.

**b. Parks Maintenance updates – Nickey Minyard**

Mr. Minyard reported that the fence has been finished, the gates look good. The existing supply of rope was utilized.

Presently the Drone policy at the nature preserve allows the Drones with notification.

The Derby has one covered horse pen.

**6. Adjournment.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY  
BOARD Minutes of the Meeting held on  
TUESDAY, May 16, 2017  
5:30 P.M. MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

*The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m with the following present:*

*Neal Duncan, Chairman, Gordon Tiner, Vice -Chairman, Mary Lookadoo, Secretary, Demethruis Boyd, Polly Jones, Ross Whitney and Mercy Rushing, City Administrator and Nickey Minyard, Preserve Trail Boss. Ross Whitney was absent.*

**2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on April 18, 2017.**

*Gordon Tiner made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Demethruis Boyd made the second to the motion. Motion carried.*

**3. New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**

a. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary

*Gordon Tiner made the motion and Polly Jones made the second to the motion to keep Neal Duncan as Chairman, Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman and Mary Lookadoo as Secretary. Motion carried.*

*Gordon Tiner made the motion and Demethruis Boyd made the second to recommend Manuel Doinguez to the City Council to fill the vacancy on the Parks and Open Space Advisory Board. Motioned Carried.*

*Gordon Tiner made the motion with Demethruis Boyd making the second to change the meeting date of the Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Board to every other month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. or as needed. Motion Carried.*

b. Ladder on the Windmill – Neal

*Nickey Minyard reported that maintenance can do what is needed concerning the Ladder.*

**4. Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

a. Disc Golf Update – Mercy & Neal

*Matthew Bryn will be the Disk Golf Project Coordinator.*

b. Park Host Update – Mercy

*One application has been received with others expected.*

c. Preserve Map Update - Polly

*Polly Jones will meet with Michelle next Tuesday, May 23, 2017 to verify the changes that have been suggested.*

d. Prairie Dog Update – Mercy

*Mercy reported that Mr. McDonald will remove the Prairie Dogs.*

**5. Follow-up Reminders / Announcements:**

a. Events Update & Other Announcements

*Mr. Shaw reported that the Sundial is Finished. Brian Likey made a correction on his project which completes his project. The fences were donated and will pass to the city. Dedication will be scheduled.*

*The Nature Fest Committee will meet to set the date for the Nature Fest.*

b. Parks Maintenance updates – Nickey Minyard

*Designated Parking will be provided for events in the future.*

*Mr. Shaw will help provide a solution for the fire-ants.*

*Maintenance is working on the grass and the lakes.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS  
 PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD  
 MINUTES, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017  
 300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
 MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

X	Neal Duncan, Chairman	X	Mary Lookadoo, Secretary
X	Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman	X	Ross Whitney
X	Demethruis Boyd	X	Mercy Rushing, City Administrator
X	Polly Jones		Nickey Minyard, Preserve Trail Boss
	Manny Dominguez		

2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on May 16, 2017  
 Gordon Tiner made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ross Whitney made the second.  
 Motion carried: 6-0

3. **New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**  
**(All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes)**

- a. Welcome New Board Member Manny Dominguez– Neal  
 Mr. Dominguez was unable to attend the meeting.
- b. Discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> Pavilion – Polly  
 It was noted that many events need extra space. Mercy Rushing will explore different possibilities and report back.
- c. Parking at Greer Hill – Polly  
 It was recommended that parking for four to six cars and a gate at Greer Hill be investigated.
- d. Skatepark Upgrade & Maintenance – Polly Jones and Demetruiis Boyd  
 Pastor Boyd reported that 99.9% has been the church and interest of users has increased and partnerships with the community and the City to help make upgrades and assist in maintenance of the Skatepark will be pursued.
- e. New Signage for the Preserve – Polly  
 Polly Jones reported that she observed individuals attempting to take a snake from the preserve.  
  
 Polly suggested that signs be placed at the entrances stating that removing any wild life is prohibited.
- f. Discuss procedures for reporting any new project with THC – Mercy  
 Mercy reported that “if you want to dig, don’t.” The report from THC will be forward to the City upon completion.
- g. Bike Trail report – Jayne or Joyce  
 Joyce Williams provided a written update for the Parks Board. (See Attached.)
- h. Propose Nature Preserve Budget – Mercy  
 The proposed Nature Preserve Budget was presented and discussed.

4. **Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

- a. Disc Golf Update & Bike Trail – Mercy  
Mercy Rushing reported that any digs have been suspended until approval is granted by THC.
- b. Preserve Map Update - Polly  
Polly Jones reported that some of the trails were missing on the map. She also suggested that some of the trails be renamed to be consistent.
- c. Prairie Dog Update – Nickey  
Mercy reported that the Prairie Dogs are still there.
- d. Update on Neighborhood Park – Manny Dominguez  
No Report Given.
- e. Nature Fest. (any future plans etc..) – Polly  
There are no plans for Nature Fest at present.

5. **Follow-up Reminders / Announcements:**

- a. Events Update & Other Announcements  
Iron Horse Festival- October 28, 2017.
- b. Parks Maintenance updates – Nickey Minyard  
No Report was given.

Minutes prepared by Mary Lookadoo, Secretary.

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\*NOTE: NEXT MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 . REMEMBER WE MEET EVERY OTHER MONTH.

**CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES-TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017  
300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

<u>X</u>	Neal Duncan, Chairman	<u>Absent</u>	Mary Lookadoo, Secretary
<u>X</u>	Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman	<u>X</u>	Ross Whitney
<u>X</u>	Demethruis Boyd	<u>X</u>	Mercy Rushing, City Administrator
<u>X</u>	Polly Jones	<u>X</u>	Nickey Minyard, Preserve Trail Boss
<u>Absent</u>	Manny Dominguez		

2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting on July 18, 2017. Gordon Tiner made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Demithruis made the second. Motion Passed Unanimously.

3. **New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**  
**(All Special Guest Presentations are max. of Ten (10) Minutes)**

- a. Mercy introduce Special Guest Presentation by Case Karch, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Mineola Middle School and son of Cindy & Rodney Karch. Case addressed the board concerning the need for young people to ride their scooters within the City of Mineola. Case read reasons why they need a place to ride and that the Civic Center do not allow skate boarders and scooters. Board member Demethruis Boyd explained to Case Karch that ST. Paul Baptist Church and other volunteers are working on cleaning up and reworking the skateboard park off South Front Street. He said he would like to have him and other young people to come out and help to make this a great place for kids to use. Case and his mother Cindy, said they will be there to help, just let her know when work days will be set.
- b. Mercy informed the board that Manny Dominquez our newest board member is not present because he received a promotion at work and is working more and different hours. He is gone for a long period at time and he said unfortunately he will need to resign from the Parks Board. The board unanimously agreed to accept his resignation and will talk about a new member to replace Manny from Ward I.
- c. Neal talked about doing a big event for the 2024 Eclipse. He would like to put together a committee under the Park & Open Spaces Advisory Board and ask for volunteers who may be interested beyond our board. Neal talked about how he brought his family to Missouri and experience the Eclipse and it cost him \$20.00 to get into the event area. The event area consisted of food and memorabilia items etc. to purchase and everyone had a good time. Neal said if we do a 2 or 3 Day event on April 2024 (Like Sat, Sunday and Monday) at the Preserve, we may make more money and it would be good PR for the Preserve as well as providing an event for the Community. Neal stated that we should be well prepared since we have 7 years to plan this event. Gordon Tiner made the motion to move forward with planning for the Mineola Eclipse 2024 Fest. and seconded by Demethruis Boyd. Motion passed unanimously. So far for the committee it will be Neal, Mercy, Polly, Demethruis and Allison Utley.
- d. Mercy Discussed that she has met with Clay Walker management group who wants to put on a Memorial Weekend Trail Ride and ending with a Concert to benefit MS Foundation on May 25, 26 & 27, 2018 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday). All we will be doing is to rent the Preserve all three days and their organization will handle everything else. Mercy did tell their management group that she will share the Hometown Hang Event info. to help them get started.

- e. Nickey addressed the board to let them know that he had not gotten a date from Texas Parks and Wildlife concerning our hunt for November or December, he said he will contact them again and that he will also get with Buster to make sure who his contact was for the hunt. Mercy said in the past the hunt was not advertise, Buster and David Stevenson would just do it by asking employees if they have kids who may be interested, friends or board members kids. This year we will put it on Facebook and let people know by word mouth also that we will be doing a hunt (once we know dates) and hunt education at the Preserve. Mercy explained that we have limited number of deer blinds (we actually have only 7), and that we will only be able to allow 7 kids per lottery system to participate. We do need to know how old they are as well as if they have ever hunted before, ages we will accept is 10 to 16 years old. Mercy and Nickey will take care of setting this all up for the Youth Hunt with Parks & Wildlife. Hopefully we will have more information on this at our next meeting
- f. The board appointed Polly Jones as the rep for the newly formed Iron Horse Square Committee if she is able to get off to come to the meetings monthly. The meetings will be held at 5:00 p.m. , every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at City Hall.

4. **Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

- a. Disc Golf Update & Bike Trail – Mercy reported that the City received the final archeology study and they have approved the Disc. Golf and Bike Trail to move forward, with very little changes to the original plan for both project.
- b. Preserve Map Update - Polly reported that ETCOG is almost finish with the Map project and that they hope to visit the Preserve with David Madsen and make sure that they have classified everything and has the GPS correctly identified on the map. David hopes to get with Michelle Cahal from ETCOG before the first of the year to physically look at everything at the Preserve. Polly also suggested that some of the trails be renamed to be consistent. The board asked Polly to bring back the trails that needs to be rename and then we can discuss.
- c. Mercy told Nickey to move forward on placing more parking area at Greer Hill. Polly asked about doing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Pavilion. More discussion on this later, possibly asking Brian Steck to help and put a metal roof where the playground was located. We do have concrete on this area. This maybe a cheaper way to get another covered Pavilion for the Preserve right away.
- d. Prairie Dog Update – Nickey reported that the Prairie Dogs are still there and have not seen Mark McDonald back. Nickey said the Prairie Dogs have moved all around and have not stayed in one place. The board asked Mercy to contact Mr. McDonald again and ask when he plans on coming back like he promised to get all the Prairie Dogs out of the Preserve. It was discussed that the Parks Board voted on record to take this out awhile back.
- e. No update on Neighborhood Park at this time.

5. **Follow-up Reminders / Announcements:**

- a. Events Update & Other Announcements  
Mercy reminded everyone of Iron Horse Festival- October 28, 2017. Annual Fall Clean Up for the City will be this Saturday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Farmers Market is open now till Nov. at the Pavilion downtown on Front Street.

MEETING ADJOURNED BY CHAIRMAN NEAL DUNCAN.

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**JANUARY 23, 2018**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINEOLA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
300 GREENVILLE HIGHWAY,  
MINEOLA TX.**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order with the following present:

Neal Duncan, Chairman	Mary Lookadoo, Secretary
Gordon Tiner, Vice-Chairman	Ross Whitney
Demethruis Boyd	Mercy Rushing, City Administrator
Polly Jones	Nickey Minyard, Preserve Trail Boss
Allison Utley	

**2. Consider approval of minutes for regular meeting November 21, 2017.**

**3. New Business: Discuss, Review & Consider Action if needed on items:**

- a. Welcome New Board Member Allison Utley - Neal  
Neal Duncan, Advisory Board Chairman welcomed new board member, Allison Utley, on behalf of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Board.
- b. Welcome New Park Host, Linda Skinner – Nickey  
Nickey Minyard, Preserve Trail Boss introduced Ms. Skinner as the Preserve New Park Host and welcomed her on behalf of the Advisory Board.
- c. Discuss Canoe & Kayak Rental for the Preserve– Linda Skinner  
Ms. Skinner has contacted Paddle EZ Canoes and Paddle Boards. More information will be provided as it becomes available
- d. Discuss Horse Rental for the Preserve – Linda Skinner  
Ms. Skinner has been in touch with Rose Horse Park. They are currently unable to participate; however, they are investigating other vendors for Trail Rides and Wagon Rides. Each vendor must have insurance and other guidelines will be developed.
- e. Kid Fish Scheduled for Sat. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Mercy  
Mercy provided information concerning the Kid Fish Event.

**4. Old Business/Updates: Discuss, Review & Consider Action:**

- a. Youth Hunt – Nickey & Mercy  
Mercy reported that the Youth Hunt will not be held at this time.
- b. Disc Golf Update – Neal & Mercy  
Mercy provided update information concerning the Disk Golf Project.
- c. Discuss Trail Ride & Concert – Clay Walker MS Foundation for Memorial Day weekend, May 26 & 27, 2018 – Mercy  
Mercy reported that she had not heard from this group.
- d. Preserve Map Update – Polly & Mercy  
Polly and Mercy reported that Michelle had asked for revisions and they were reviewing the map and making suggestions for additions and revisions. They requested input from the Advisory Board for the maps.
- e. Update on Neighborhood Park – Mercy  
Mercy reported that the Neighborhood Park is on hold due to the change in work responsibilities of the individual who is facilitating this project.

**5. Follow-up Reminders / Announcements:**

- a. Parks Maintenance updates – Nickey Minyard
  - \*Nickey Minyard reported that the washout near the old Tyler highway area has been repaired.
  - \*The culvert at John Thomas is repaired.
  - \*They worked on the Wishing Well.
  - \*Main entrance sign has been painted.
  - \*Heaters were installed in the restrooms to protect the pipes.
  - \*The Prairie Dog removal is still pending.
  - \*Nickey reported there were miscellaneous trashed items which include an old fire truck, abandoned equipment and other scrap metals which he will look into having these items removed.
- b. Events Update & Other Announcements

NEXT MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD WILL MEET  
EVERY OTHER MONTH.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



< Back

Lisa Hopper

*From Nature Preserve Facebook Message*

AUG 30, 11:03 PM



Saw a prairie dog this evening.  
Could be come a problem. It  
was located just past the small  
fishing pond just by the parking  
lot.



SEP 19, 6:34 PM

Sorry we are working on this with City.

We actually enjoy go to visit them.



Aa







## Mercy Rushing

---

**From:** Mercy Rushing  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 9:45 AM  
**To:** Allison Utley; Demethrius Boyd; Gordon Tiner (gordontiner@suddenlink.net); Karen Hysell; Mary Lookadoo; Neal Duncan; Polly Jones; preserve@mineola.com; Ross Whitney  
**Cc:** William Crump; Mayor Kevin White (kwwhitellc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Prairie Dogs - Mercy Rushing

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Allison Utley		
	Demethrius Boyd		
	Gordon Tiner (gordontiner@suddenlink.net)		
	Karen Hysell	Delivered: 9/20/2018 9:45 AM	Read: 9/20/2018 9:52 AM
	Mary Lookadoo		
	Neal Duncan		
	Polly Jones	Delivered: 9/20/2018 9:45 AM	Read: 9/20/2018 1:07 PM
	preserve@mineola.com	Delivered: 9/20/2018 9:45 AM	
	Ross Whitney		
	William Crump	Delivered: 9/20/2018 9:45 AM	Read: 9/20/2018 9:57 AM
	Mayor Kevin White (kwwhitellc@gmail.com)		
	Nature Preserve		Read: 9/20/2018 11:22 AM

Hi All,

As we have discussed several times in Parks Meeting, we are working toward getting rid of our Prairie Dogs from Preserve. Mark who put those in our Preserve will not get back to me anymore, he had promised me twice he would get them out and he did not do anything. As a result they have multiplied and they are everywhere even on our property that Tom Jones is taking care of and using for his cattle and for the buffalos at the Preserve.

I have found a man that knows how to get rid of them for us and he will be working on this with Nickey starting today. I have had some of the horse riders worried that it would hurt their horses and now we had issues also all along the fence line where our electricity are place for booths for events. So for the past week, our guys at the Preserve were filling up holes (these were pretty big holes) all around the fence area before the event that took place last weekend to make sure no one got hurt.

Sincerely,  
**Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE**  
**City Manager, City of Mineola**  
**Executive Director Mineola EDC**  
[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)  
 903-569-6183 (w)  
 903-245-8505 (c)

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## Mercy Rushing

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**From:** Mercy Rushing  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:08 AM  
**To:** 'neal@duncanmultimedia.com' - Parks Board Chairman  
**Subject:** RE: FW:

I meant last time I left message with him is about 3 months or so and he did not respond.

Sincerely,  
Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE  
City Manager, City of Mineola  
Executive Director Mineola EDC  
[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)  
903-569-6183 (w)  
903-245-8505 (c)  
[www.mineola.com](http://www.mineola.com)

### Attention Public Officials (Appointed, Elected and Employees)

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**From:** Mercy Rushing  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:06 AM  
**To:** neal@duncanmultimedia.com  
**Subject:** RE: FW:  
**Importance:** High

Hi Neal,

About 2 months ago, I called and talk to him twice this year and he said he would get them out and then he did nothing. Last time I called I left message about 3 months ago or so ago and he did not respond. No call back from him.

Sincerely,  
Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE  
City Manager, City of Mineola  
Executive Director Mineola EDC  
[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)  
903-569-6183 (w)  
903-245-8505 (c)  
[www.mineola.com](http://www.mineola.com)

### Attention Public Officials (Appointed, Elected and Employees)

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**From:** Duncan Multi-Media [<mailto:neal@duncanmultimedia.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:21 AM

**To:** Mercy Rushing <[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)>; Allison Utley <[allutley@gmail.com](mailto:allutley@gmail.com)>; Demethrius Boyd <[pastordboyd@gmail.com](mailto:pastordboyd@gmail.com)>; Gordon Tiner ([gordontiner@suddenlink.net](mailto:gordontiner@suddenlink.net)) <[gordontiner@suddenlink.net](mailto:gordontiner@suddenlink.net)>; Karen Hysell <[marketing@mineola.com](mailto:marketing@mineola.com)>; Mary Lookadoo <[mary.lookadoo@gmail.com](mailto:mary.lookadoo@gmail.com)>; Polly Jones <[pjones@mineola.com](mailto:pjones@mineola.com)>; Nature Preserve <[preserve@mineola.com](mailto:preserve@mineola.com)>; Ross Whitney <[rawhitney@yahoo.com](mailto:rawhitney@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** Mayor Kevin White ([kwwhitellc@gmail.com](mailto:kwwhitellc@gmail.com)) <[kwwhitellc@gmail.com](mailto:kwwhitellc@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: FW:

Mercy,

I just got off the phone with Mark. He said he removed 30 last month and that there are about 5 left that he will remove next week.

Karen,

Will you put prairie dog removal on the next agenda?

Neal Duncan  
Duncan Multi-Media  
(903) 638-0328  
Deus Caritas Est

On 09/20/2018 09:59 AM, Mercy Rushing wrote:

Hi All

Attach pictures of the holes Prairie Dogs have been making around the Preserve taken recently by myself and William Crump.

Sincerely,  
Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE  
City Manager, City of Mineola  
Executive Director Mineola EDC  
[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)  
903-569-6183 (w)  
903-245-8505 (c)  
[www.mineola.com](http://www.mineola.com)

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## Mercy Rushing

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**From:** Mercy Rushing  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:39 PM  
**To:** 'neal@duncanmultimedia.com'; Allison Utley; Demethrius Boyd; Gordon Tiner (gordontiner@suddenlink.net); Karen Hysell; Mary Lookadoo; Polly Jones; Nature Preserve; Ross Whitney  
**Cc:** Mayor Kevin White (kwwhitellc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: FW:

**Importance:** High

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'neal@duncanmultimedia.com'	
	Allison Utley	
	Demethrius Boyd	
	Gordon Tiner (gordontiner@suddenlink.net)	
	Karen Hysell	Delivered: 9/20/2018 1:39 PM
	Mary Lookadoo	
	Polly Jones	Delivered: 9/20/2018 1:39 PM
	Nature Preserve	Delivered: 9/20/2018 1:39 PM
	Ross Whitney	
	Mayor Kevin White (kwwhitellc@gmail.com)	

Neal,

I really cannot believe theirs only 5 there right now those 30 I am told had multiplied. Maybe he is just getting his original number, because they are everywhere. I was out there with William just looking over all the holes just last week. Let hope he right that their only 5 left, then we don't have to worry about it anymore.

I wished Mark would have told me this himself, since I have called and left messages and never heard from him again in months.

Sincerely,  
Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE  
City Manager, City of Mineola  
Executive Director Mineola EDC  
[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)  
903-569-6183 (w)  
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## Mercy Rushing

---

**From:** Duncan Multi-Media <neal@duncanmultimedia.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:52 PM  
**To:** Mercy Rushing  
**Subject:** Re: FW:

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I think he didn't recognize my number.

Neal Duncan  
Duncan Multi-Media  
(903) 638-0328  
Deus Caritas Est

On 09/20/2018 01:25 PM, Mercy Rushing wrote:

Ok, great I wonder why he did not returned my call, after I left messages?

Sincerely,

Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE

City Manager, City of Mineola

Executive Director Mineola EDC

[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)

903-569-6183 (w)

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## Mercy Rushing

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**From:** Mercy Rushing  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 8:14 PM  
**To:** Allison Utley — *Parks Board Admin member*  
**Cc:** pastordboyd@gmail.com; gordontiner@suddenlink.net; Karen Hysell; mary.lookadoo@gmail.com; Duncan Multi-Media; Polly Jones; Nature Preserve; Ross Whitney; William Crump; kwwhitellc@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: Prairie Dogs - Mercy Rushing

Hi All,

I spoke to the Mayor White and he will want to bring this item for discussion for our City Workshop on Oct 15th where council and Park Board can discuss the Prairie Dogs at the Preserve. I have left message for the trapper not to do anything until we all sit down and discuss then decide what to do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 20, 2018, at 7:31 PM, Mercy Rushing <[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)> wrote:

Ok then I am confused, yes he is a trapper and he will get rid of them it did. I will call him and put stop to it but it's now time I take this to city council and parks board to decide what to do. Then I will do whatever city council tells me to do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 20, 2018, at 7:27 PM, Allison Utley <[allutley@gmail.com](mailto:allutley@gmail.com)> wrote:

Mercy,

I know the majority of the Prairie Dog discussion took place before I became a parks board member, so I'm just trying to clarify.

When you say you have "found a man that know how to get rid of them" does this mean trap and relocate or does it mean eradicate?

I for one am not ok with eradication. Especially since Neal stated that Mark would come remove the remainder of them next week.

Allison

On Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 9:45 AM Mercy Rushing <[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)> wrote:

Hi All,

As we have discussed several times in Parks Meeting, we are working toward getting rid of our Prairie Dogs from Preserve. Mark who put those in our



Preserve will not get back to me anymore, he had promised me twice he would get them out and he did not do anything. As a result they have multiplied and they are everywhere even on our property that Tom Jones is taking care of and using for his cattle and for the buffalos at the Preserve.

I have found a man that knows how to get rid of them for us and he will be working on this with Nickey starting today. I have had some of the horse riders worried that it would hurt their horses and now we had issues also all along the fence line where our electricity are place for booths for events. So for the past week, our guys at the Preserve were filling up holes (these were pretty big holes) all around the fence area before the event that took place last weekend to make sure no one got hurt.

**Sincerely,**

**Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE**

**City Manager, City of Mineola**

**Executive Director Mineola EDC**

[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)

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Polly



To Macey RUSHINE

From: Polly Jones  
- City Council Alderman  
- Also Parks Board Member

Text Message  
Yesterday 6:57 PM

9/20/2018

Did you hire someone to kill the remaining prairie dogs?

I told the trapper to remove them from Preserve.

Is this not what the parks board wanted me to do is get rid of them?

I don't anything else I can do?

Since I never heard back from Mark. But now I am told he removed 30 when Neal talked to him, but he never told me?

I've spoken to a few parks board members and they also understood we voted for the prairie dogs to be relocated. This person that was hired said



Search





Polly



I've spoken to a few parks board members and they also understood we voted for the prairie dogs to be relocated. This person that was hired said he would not be relocating. I read your email response to Allison Utley.

*To Mary Ruckey  
From Polly Jones*

I will let Trapper know not to do anything tomorrow morning. Then I will talk to Mayor about bringing this to city council and let parks board also come to this meeting to discuss how to handle this and I will do what city council say I need to do.

I spoke to the Mayor and he will want to bring this item for discussion for our City Workshop on Oct 15th where council and Park Board can discuss the Prairie Dogs at the





Polly

To: Mary Rushy

he would not be relocating.  
I read your email response to Allison Utley.

I will let Trapper know not to do anything tomorrow morning. Then I will talk to Mayor about bringing this to city council and let parks board also come to this meeting to discuss how to handle this and I will do what city council say I need to do.

I spoke to the Mayor and he will want to bring this item for discussion for our City Workshop on Oct 15th where council and Park Board can discuss the Prairie Dogs at the Preserve.

Ok thanks

Your welcome.

