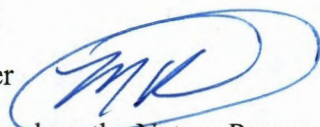


MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 20, 2018
TO: Mayor White & City Council
FROM: Mercy Rushing, City Manager 
SUBJECT: Discuss and consider action to close the Nature Preserve for the annual Youth Hunt with Texas Parks and Wildlife Youth Hunt
-December 20, 21 & 22, 2019
-January 17, 18, & 19, 2020

Council Meeting Agenda Item for November 25, 2019

Background Information:

This request is from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Texas Youth Hunting Program. This year we will be holding two (2) hunts one in December 2019 and another in January 2020. As you know the past 3 years we have had to cancel this event due to several circumstances beyond our control. This year our area Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel will once again be able to partner with the City in holding this event at the Mineola Nature Preserve. TX Parks & Wildlife are requesting to close the park beginning late afternoon around 5:00 p.m. on Friday for a meeting with the kids and their parents along with our City Staff (Nickey & Jeff) to provide some information about the hunt and safety rules. The hunt will begin early Saturday morning, December 21 and end Sunday, December 22, 2019 at noon. TX. Parks & Wildlife also suggested that we do another one January 18 through Sunday, January 19, 2020 due to excess of wildlife population on the Preserve. They will also want to close preserve the Friday before on January 17, 2020 to meet, brief and feed the kids and parents prior to the hunt on Saturday through Sunday noon.

This event is at no cost to the city, however the city will provide RV sites at no charge to the TX. Parks & Wildlife staff members and City Staff (Nicky and or Jeff) to assist the hunters as needed. Mineola Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Board did discuss this at their September 17, 2019 meeting and agreed to hold these hunts on December and January, at the specified times and dates.

Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of the Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Board along with the City Manager that the council consider approval of the Mineola Nature Preserve's closure for December 2019 and January 2020 Youth Hunt.

Final Disposition: