



City of Garden Ridge

"A way of life, not just a place to live"

MINUTES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Cynthia Shanahan-Segovia
Vice-Chair David Krawczynski
Commissioner Ken Kneupper
Commissioner Jeremiah McKinney
Commissioner Paul Sullivan
Commissioner Troy Bippert (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)
Commissioner Dawn Hatch
Councilmember Robb Erickson, Ex officio member

Commissioners Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary

Other Appointed or Elected Officials in Attendance:

Councilmember Kay Bower
Dr. Jim Miller, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission
Jesse Valdez, Water Commissioner

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the Wildlife Management Advisory Commission members present, the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge Wildlife Management Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Segovia at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Roll Call

See above.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Segovia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Chair Statement

Chair Segovia stated the Commission is comprised of volunteers that chose to volunteer because of their love for wildlife. Chair Segovia spoke regarding the work, actions, and pro-active approaches taken to manage the deer population, adding the Commission is currently working on developing a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan for the City.

5. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total

No one signed up to speak.

6. Business Items

The Commission may discuss, consider, and/or take possible action, including recommendations, on the following items:

a) Education/Training Session – Game Warden Duties and Responsibilities in the State of Texas (limited to 30 minutes total)(Kneupper)

Commissioner Kneupper introduced Game Warden Nicole Leonard and Game Warden Eric Cooper and stated they would be providing the Commission with an educational session followed by a Commission question and answer session.

Game Warden Leonard and Game Warden Cooper provided the Commission with an educational session regarding their various duties, responsibilities, and regulations in the State of Texas as conservation law enforcement. Game Warden Leonard and Game Warden Cooper answered and addressed various questions, comments, and concerns from Commissioners.

The Commission thanked Game Warden Leonard and Game Warden Cooper for taking the time to attend the meeting and provide an educational session.

b) Approvals

i. Minutes for January 28, 2019, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Kneupper, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve the minutes for January 28, 2019, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting. The Commission voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

c) Discussions/Reports

i. Wildlife and wildlife incidents within the City of Garden Ridge.

1. Police Department

The Commission reviewed the wildlife report from the Police Department.

2. Animal Services

The Commission reviewed the wildlife report from Animal Services. Vice-Chair Krawczynski requested the Commission be provided with numbers from previous years to compare.

ii. Feral cat issues within the City (Sullivan).

Chair Segovia stated the Commission does not have anything further to discuss for this topic and that it could be removed from the agenda.

d) Updates/Recommendations

i. Mayors' Monarch Pledge Action Items

1. Discuss and make possible recommendations regarding action items for inclusion in the development of comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan for Garden Ridge.

Chair Segovia discussed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge Action Items and stated the City Council voted unanimously to do at least eight action items and receive special recognition as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Leadership Circle.

Chair Segovia spoke regarding working with Jan Martin and Comal Master Gardeners, adding the Gardens of Garden Ridge Workday is scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. Chair Segovia stated Mayor Thompson will be signing and issuing the proclamation once the garden is close to completed.

Chair Segovia spoke regarding various initiatives that have already begun as well as future initiatives.

ii. Development of comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan for Garden Ridge.

1. Discuss and make possible recommendations regarding topics and/or items in the Wildlife Management Plan for Garden Ridge.

Commissioner McKinney reviewed and discussed additions and updates to the Wildlife Management Plan outline draft. He discussed the addition of including a map of Garden Ridge to show habitat types and vegetation communities with brief descriptions of each.

The Commission discussed the Wildlife Management Plan outline draft and provided feedback and input. Vice-Chair Krawczynski spoke regarding the documentation he provided about International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The Commission discussed possibly receiving a presentation regarding dark sky at the Commission's May meeting.

Commissioner McKinney spoke regarding brown-headed cowbirds, a native parasitic song bird that would historically travel with bison migrations. The Commission discussed obtaining a permit to trap these birds before they negatively impact other birds and habitats. The Commission discussed obtaining data, documents, and further information to discuss this topic more in depth at the Commission's next meeting.

The Commission discussed obtaining a list from City staff of all education/training sessions the Commission has already received.

Chair Segovia thanked Commissioner McKinney for creating and providing a starting point document for the Commission to continue to develop a comprehensive plan, adding this will be an ongoing agenda item.

iii. Update on Deer Management.

Chair Segovia stated the Commission originally thought the City could not release any deer in the traps unless requested exemptions were previously approved by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated in the City's previous permits acquired through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the City has already requested melanistic deer as well as eight point or higher bucks to be released; therefore, those exemptions already apply.

The Commission discussed reviewing these requested exemptions prior to submitting future permits.

iv. Commissioner's Projects

1. Update on research performed on non-drug birth control studies (Segovia).

Chair Segovia stated since research permits cannot be applied for until the Wildlife Management Plan is complete, there is not an update at this time.

2. Health of wildlife in Garden Ridge.

Chair Segovia spoke regarding a growing die off of turtles in Texas, adding if anyone sees unnatural looking turtles they should notify Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and not touch the turtles.

3. Future education/training sessions and Grapevine articles.

Chair Segovia stated Judit Green will be providing an education/training session at the Commission's March meeting. Chair Segovia stated Mrs. Valdez, Comal County Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist, will be providing an education/training session at the Commission's April meeting.

Vice-Chair Krawczynski stated the education/training session at the Commission's May meeting could be a combination of dark sky and bat conversation.

Commissioner McKinney stated he would contact Mr. Hensley regarding an education/training session at the Commission's June meeting.

v. City Council Update/Report

1. February 6, 2019, City Council Regular Meeting.

Chair Segovia stated this item had already been discussed throughout the previous agenda items.

vi. Ordinance No. 210-022018 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge adopting board and commission policy and procedures; providing that this Ordinance shall be cumulative of all Ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date.

1. Discuss and make possible recommendations regarding matters in Ordinance No. 210-022018.

Chair Segovia reminded the Commission about the requirement of notifying two people, the City Secretary and the Chair or Vice-Chair, if anyone plans to be absent during a meeting. Chair Segovia also reminded the Commission to follow the policies regarding social media. Chair Segovia discussed the number of absences allowed in Ordinance No. 210-022018 and asked if anyone on the Commission would disagree with the number being a percentage, adding the Commission is not making a recommendation regarding Ordinance No. 210-022018. The Commission agreed by consensus that they did not have a problem with the absences being a number or percentage.

e) Future Agenda Items.

i. Commissioner input.

Commissioner Kneupper discussed the possibility of the City Attorney providing an education/training session on social media in the future.

Commissioner McKinney discussed communicating with the Parks Committee. Chair Segovia requested Commissioner McKinney to reach out to the Chair of the Parks Committee and report any information obtained during the Wildlife Management Plan discussion at the Commission's next meeting.

ii. Announcement of next Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting (Monday, March 18, 2019, at 6 p.m. at City Hall).

Chair Segovia announced the next Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

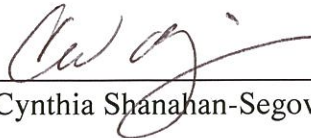
7. Citizen Comment Period - limited to 20 minutes total

Kay Bower, 8947 Garden Ridge Drive, spoke regarding the Parks Committee, dark sky, and plants that are toxic to dogs. She thanked the Commission for their continued education efforts.

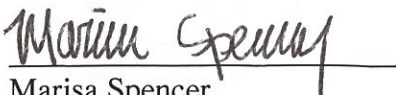
Diane Kruse, 9315 Gardenia Bend Drive, spoke regarding lack of citizens attending meetings, town hall meetings, and deer management in the City of Garden Ridge.

8. Adjournment

Motion: There being no further business, the Monday, February 28, 2019, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. by Chair Segovia.


Cynthia Shanahan-Segovia, Chair

ATTEST:


Marisa Spencer
City Secretary