

Town Council Minutes  
December 5, 2012

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

TOWN OF PANTEGO §

The Town Council of the Town of Pantego, Texas, met in special session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Town Hall, 1614 South Bowen Road, Pantego, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2012 with the following members present:

Melody Paradise  
Don Surratt  
Jane Barrett  
Russell Brewster  
Don Funderlic  
Charlie Price

Mayor  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Council Members

constituting a quorum. The following staff members were present:

Sean Fox  
Lindsay Wells  
Ron Edwards  
Chad Joyce

City Manager  
City Secretary  
Public Works Director  
Community Development Director

Also in attendance:

Fred Adair

PEDC Director

**SPECIAL SESSION 6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Paradise called the special session into order at 6:31 p.m.

**1. Overview presentation of the Park Master Plan and receive citizen opinion and input.**

City Manager Sean Fox provided a brief chronological history of the Park Master Plan stating that work on the proposed plan began in October 2011. A survey asking for citizen input was included in the December 2011 water bill and sent to all citizens and businesses. An initial rendition of the Plan was presented to Town staff in February 2012 and presented to Council in March 2012. Mr. Fox detailed that the plan came before Council, PEDC, and the Community Relations Board several times throughout the year.

David McCaskill of David McCaskill Design Group discussed the results of the survey and stakeholder reviews. Mr. McCaskill next presented the proposal for the South Park area including the addition of sand volleyball courts and relocating current features such as the gazebo and playground equipment.

Mr. McCaskill next presented the North Park concept with features including a small lake, Veterans Memorial and Dog Park and the West Park concept including changes to the basketball court and the addition of a boardwalk, Skate Park, and a small parking lot.

Council thanked the citizens in attendance this evening and acknowledged the need for a strong park. Council discussed issues brought by Mr. McCaskill including a proposed soccer field area and lake on the north side.

Mayor Paradise opened the floor to allow for public comment by citizens.

**Lonnie Webb, 1706 Dickerson Dr. Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Webb stated that he has lived in Pantego for 35 years and remembers when the park was not nice at all and is concerned that the park in its

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current form is not being properly maintained. Mr. Webb stated that the bridges and wood are not being maintained. He does not understand why the Town would spend more money on the park when staff is not maintaining the bridges, restrooms, and gazebos properly.

**Avis Brice, 5 Longhurst Ct., Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Brice feels that the dog park does not belong where it is being proposed. The area is too small, the skate park does not fit with other features and she feels these features would bring in people from outside Pantego.

**Susan Thomas, 12 Las Colinas Ct., Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Thomas informed Council that she has also lived in Pantego for 35 years. She is opposed to the parking lot proposed on the west side of the park which would be directly in front of her home. She was told 35 years ago that the area in question was very small and would most likely never be developed. She stated that she has approached the Town Council previously to purchase the property next to her property and was denied. She has maintained the adjacent property and planted trees and shrubs.

Ms. Thomas also stated that she does not like the basketball court or the proposed skate park because it is used mostly by residents of Shady Valley Apartments and the language used by these teens is inappropriate for families and young children. She feels that spending \$3 million on a park in a town of 2,400 residents is not fiscally responsible and stated that if the town has extra money to spend, it should be diverted to pay for water infrastructure improvements so the infrastructure fee on the water bill can be discontinued. Finally, Ms. Thomas presented Council pictures of her house and the surrounding area.

**Ned Webster, 1201 W. Abram St., Arlington, TX 76013** – Mr. Webster informed Council that he is an attorney in Arlington representing residents on Preston Court. Mr. Webster stated that these residents are opposed to the proposed dog park for several reasons including the fact that it is adjacent to several residences along Preston Court, the noise generated, dog waste and odor, and fleas and other insects. He compared the property in question to a kennel and stated that the town would never allow a homeowner to open a kennel. Mr. Webster is concerned about Mr. McCaskill's comments that people would drive to the dog park and stated that his clients are concerned about the location of the dog park, not the plan as a whole.

**Howard Lackman, 4 Preston Trail, Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Lackman stated that he has contributed to the retainer for Mr. Webster. He asked the question of who takes care of stray dogs and said that every community with a dog park has an animal shelter. He discussed the Dog Whisperer and said that the community dogs appear happy with the way things are. Mr. Lackman informed Council that if they were to walk on Preston Trail, there is a tray in the front yard with bird food for mallards and ducks right in the area where the landscape architect is proposing to pave. He said this plan would be seen as Melody's Tragedy instead of Melody's Wisdom if the dog park passes.

**Max Crouch, 2 Longhurst Ct., Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Crouch stated that he uses the area proposed for the dog park to walk his dogs. He took his dogs to the Arlington dog park once and it was a very bad experience. Mr. Crouch feels that everyone has back yards where dogs can run. He stated that the town does not need a dog park and wants citizens to be allowed to vote on each aspect of the proposed plan.

**Lothar Heller, 3 Preston Trail, Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Heller thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that he and his wife have lived in Pantego for more than 11 years and have seen many issues in the park including vandalism but also improvements such as new playground equipment and doggie bag stands. Mr. Heller feels so strongly about the park that he volunteered on the Park Board and now the Community Relations Board. He feels that many of the ideas are great in the Park Master Plan and he is not opposed to the dog park in general but is opposed to a dog park in the middle of the residential area due to the fact that it is the only green space on the north side of the park.

Mr. Heller is also concerned about liability and maintenance issues and thanked Park worker Ron Johnson for his work. He requested no dog park in the residential area and the best maintenance as a part of the plan. Finally, Mr. Heller implored the attendees to join the Community Relations Board.

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**Chuck White, 27 Gittiban Plc, Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. White informed Council that he has lived here for 30 years and remembers when the gables were installed at the park. He is concerned that children go down into the drainage area and they will get hurt. He is concerned that the dogs in the dog park will hurt each other or other people and asked who will handle these dogs? Mr. White stated that the town does not need a basketball court and wants it removed. He also does not want a sand volleyball court but would like to see distance markers at the park for walkers and joggers. He informed Council that when he was on the Park Board a new metal bridge was being installed that the board was against and were told that if the bridge did not blend in, the company would replace it and feels the public should have had input similar to that instance. He also feels that this meeting should have been scheduled on a day when church services were not happening.

**Vesta Snider, 1505 Wagon Wheel, Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Snider informed Council that she has lived in Pantego for 43 years and feels she has earned the right to say what she wants regarding changes in the town. Ms. Snider stated that the highlight of her day is taking her morning walk and does not want to hear barking dogs. She contributed to the first park, is fiscally responsible and does not want to spend money on features that people do not want. Ms. Snider feels a civil engineer should be brought in to discuss drainage along Wagon Wheel and stated that she is concerned about abandoned homes in the town.

**Mary Claire English, 12 Preston Trail Ct., Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. English stated that she is speaking in opposition to the dog park and is concerned about the smell. Her previous home was next door to several dogs and the urine smell was horrible. When she moved to Pantego, she liked the idea of being near a park and is opposed to the use of chain link fencing with slats though it. She feels that it would look like a salvage yard. She has worked with children's groups and is concerned about perpetrators taking children to an area that cannot be seen.

**Harriett Irby, 3400 Peachtree, Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Irby stated that all of these people are stakeholders in the process and feels that she was not included in stakeholder meetings. In 1985, she informed Council that she brought an expert in to look at the drainage area and was dismissed. She discussed the box culverts and stated that trees cannot be planted on top of box culverts. Ms. Irby mentioned discussions about dogs in the park when she was on the Park Board. She stated that does not want box culverts and would like to see plans in advance.

**Doke Kiblinger, 2606 Kidd Dr., Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Kiblinger stated that he did not plan to speak. He and his wife built their house in 1971 and he served on Council in the 1970s. Flooding issues came up while he was on Council and Smith Barry and Nora Drive were discussed. The town purchased that property creating Bicentennial Park and continued to deal with the flooding issues. Mr. Kiblinger stated that the City of Arlington would not cooperate with Pantego but Tarrant County assisted with flooding issues. His concern is creating more flooding issues.

**Juanita Hopkins, 13 Preston Trail Ct., Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Hopkins stated that she has very nice neighbors and is against the dog park.

**Pat Loe, 2 Preston Trail Ct., Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Loe informed Council that she is a retired teacher. She stated that the citizens in attendance are the people of the community and the Council does not tell the people what they are doing. The citizens want respect, do not need changes to the park, and do not want to spend the money required. She stated that the water infrastructure should be discontinued and citizens did not know anything about it when it was implemented. Ms. Loe stated that the creek is a god given gift to the community and it is beautiful. She discussed flooding issues and feels that a culvert will not work. She feels that people like things the way they are and do not want the dog park. Ms. Loe always says "follow the money" and asked who will benefit from this plan.

Avis Brice inquired where PEDC funds came from and City Manager Sean Fox explained that the 4B sales tax was approved by the voters of Pantego.

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**Diane Robertson, 1608 Arrowhead, Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Robertson inquired as to why the town would spend a great deal of money for other people to enjoy the town's park. She does not want undesirable people, stating that it brings extra traffic. She stated that she moved to Pantego because it is a small town. Ms. Robertson informed Council that she went to a dog park once and had a terrible experience. Ms. Robertson discussed her opposition to a building being removed from the park but acknowledged that once it was gone, she was happy with the results. Ms. Robertson stated that she is in favor of the spray park for children.

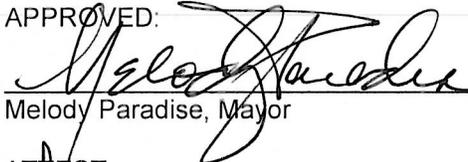
**Paul Hill, 1604 Lillian Ave., Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Hill stated that he does not live near the park but appreciates the citizens in attendance coming to voice their opinion and feels that everyone's opinion should be valued. He feels that significant money would be spent to cover up the creek and felt with the economy the way it is, the money could be better spent elsewhere. He wanted support the people here.

Mayor Paradise informed those in attendance that this issue will come back before Council in January and encouraged people to check the Town's website as the best way to learn about council meetings. She stated that this was an important meeting to hear citizen input. Finally, Mayor Paradise encouraged citizen participation in the town boards.

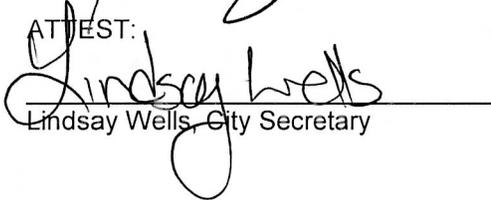
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Paradise adjourned the regular session at 8:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Melody Paradise, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

