

# Quality of Life & Government Services Committee Meeting Record

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2012      **Convened:** 9:38 a.m.      **Adjourned:** 10:57 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Angela Hunt, Chair  
Sandy Greyson, Vice Chair  
Mónica R. Alonzo  
Dwayne Caraway  
Carolyn Davis

**Members Absent:**

None

**Briefing Presenters**

Daniel Huerta  
*Asst Director, Park & Recreation*  
  
James Childers  
*Asst Director, Code Compliance*

**Staff Present:**

Joey Zapata, Jimmy Martin, Paul Dyer, Margaret Wright, LaToya Jackson, Stephanie McHenry, Clifton Gillespie

**Special Guests:**

Marsha Singer, North Texas Irish Festival

**AGENDA:**

1. **Approval of January 23, 2012 minutes**

**Presenter(s):**

**Information Only:**                   

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**    Motion made to approve January 23, 2012 minutes

**Motion made by:** Carolyn Davis

**Motion seconded by:** Mónica R. Alonzo

**Item passed unanimously:**   

**Item passed on a divided vote:**   

**Item failed unanimously:**   

**Item failed on a divided vote:**   

2. **Fair Park – A Great Public Space For Special Events and Programs**

**Presenter(s):** Daniel Huerta, Paul Dyer

**Information Only:**                   

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

This briefing provided an overview of the major annual events at Fair Park. The upcoming North Texas Irish Festival was highlighted in this presentation. Also discussed was a \$250,000 Department of Interior grant that Fair Park has received for building signage and interpretive, historical graphics. New cell phone tour signage will also soon be installed as part of a self-guided tour of the historical park.

Ms. Davis made the following comments and recommendations:

- Ms. Davis requested a briefing on summer jobs at Fair Park.

- The City should find a way to connect Christmas in the Park with Martin Luther King Blvd. Trees that line the street between the interstate and Fair Park should be lit during the Christmas season. This would connect Fair Park with the surrounding neighborhood.

Mr. Caraway made the following comments and recommendations:

- The City is not aggressive enough in efforts to seek events and market Fair Park. The few events there are at the Cotton Bowl right now do not cut it. Concerts and tractor pulls should take place at the Cotton Bowl.
- The ceiling in the Coliseum could be painted black, and draping similar to what is in the Automobile Building could be installed.
- Fair Park should be competing with the Mesquite rodeo. The park has everything that it takes to hold rodeos in the Coliseum.
- A Park & Recreation Department bond program or something similar to designate funds for Fair Park marketing and development should be considered.
- Parking contracts at Fair Park need to be restructured to allow for free parking during charitable events.
- Outflow traffic following major events is not handled satisfactorily. There should be an even flow, which allows people to exit in both directions on Martin Luther King Blvd. so that area businesses can benefit from the increased traffic.
- Plumbing problems at the Cotton Bowl are due to the lack of events at the facility.

Ms. Hunt made the following comments and recommendations:

- Fair Park and Downtown are neighbors. How can we make a physical connection via shuttle service or something similar?
- Citywide kiosks should display information about upcoming events at Fair Park
- Electronic billboards should display public service announcements highlighting events in Fair Park

Ms. Hunt requested Park & Recreation officials bring an update on Fair Park back to the committee in approximately one month to address some of the points and concerns that were raised by committee members.

### 3. **Community Cleanups**

**Presenter(s):** James Childers

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

This briefing provided background on community cleanup events that take place in the city of Dallas, and how the coordination of Code Compliance, Strategic Customer Services, and other departments plays a role in facilitating these events in conjunction with council members and community organizations. The committee was briefed on staff's plans to better coordinate community cleanups, and to develop a citywide "trash attack" event.

Ms. Davis made the following comments and recommendations:

- The Community Hand Tool Program works with neighborhood groups to provide tools and supplies for community cleanups.
- Dusty the Dumpster should be on everything related to Code Compliance.

Mr. Caraway made the following comments and recommendations:

- Code Compliance should have a night response team in place.
- Neighborhoods should be more responsible for keeping their own communities clean.
- The City should promote a program for neighbors to call 311 to report violations in their community.

Ms. Hunt made the following comments and recommendations:

- The City should move towards having a major citywide cleanup event; a date for this should be decided upon soon.

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**Councilmember Angela Hunt**  
Chair