

Park moving one step closer

North Laredo facility would open to public as Trautmann Park

By JULIAN AGUILAR
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Webb County is a step closer to building a 10-acre park in north Laredo following a special meeting of the UISD Board of Trustees Tuesday evening.

The United Independent School District Board members voted to approve an interlocal agreement between the county and the district that states the county provide \$725,000 to construct the facility that would be known as Trautmann Park.

The park would be constructed on land owned by the district between Trautmann Elementary and Trautmann Mid-

dle school campuses and would feature football, soccer, volleyball and basketball facilities, as well as a proposed hike-and-bike trail.

"When we looked at the needs of Webb County, one was for recreational facilities in north Laredo, of which there are none," Webb County Commissioner Jerry Garza told the board.

The district would have the right of first refusal for any use of the park by the county or any third party during regular or summer hours, according to the agreement.

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Garza said that doesn't mean the park will be completely off limits to the public during school hours.

"We still have to work out a lot of minute details," the commissioner said. "We want to be able to plan it to where the park (is partially open during school hours). The fact is the whole thing isn't going to be closed until 5 p.m."

The agreement outlines several duties that will be equally shared by UISD and the county, including landscape maintenance, irrigation, and the maintenance and repair of the fencing, press box and concession stand at the park.

The county is solely responsible for the lighting and maintenance of parking facilities and for the security lighting,

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WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY GARZA

and the district is fully responsible for the operation, maintenance and lighting of the football field, the agreement states. The county and district are also separately responsible for their insurance.

The district's legal counsel, Juan Cruz, said the next step is for the Webb County Commissioners Court to approve the agreement and solicit bids from designers and contractors.

Garza said that agreeing with

the district to move forward with the project was not only a win-win situation, but also the most economical because of the district's willingness to let the county build on their land. Purchasing 10 acres with county funds would not have been feasible, Garza said, because land in north Laredo is too expensive.

The district also agreed to accept post-development rain runoff from a two-acre tract of land near Trautmann Middle School.

An agreement was made between the district and Homeland Builders, which plans to develop the Agape Subdivision near the school with 55 condominiums. The agreement between the company and district states that an existing detention pond near the school be expanded, and an underground drainage facility from the development site to the detention pond be constructed.

Homeland Builders associate Rene Garza said the project would cost the company about \$80,000, but said it was necessary in order to comply with the city's Storm Water Management Ordinance.

(To reach Julian Aguilar, call 728-2557, or email jaguilar@lmtonline.com)