

# Deer Creek Ranch Parks & Lakes Association

**Semi Annual Meeting: 10 AM Saturday, January 9, 2021**

**Deer Creek Ranch Lower Lake, Dripping Springs, TX**



**Website:** <https://www.dcrparksandlakes.org> **E-mail:** [dcrpoa@gmail.com](mailto:dcrpoa@gmail.com)

**SMS Updates:** <https://www.remind.com/join/dcrpla>

**Donations:** <https://www.paypal.me/deercreek>

**Mailing: PO Box 64, Dripping Springs, TX 78620**

## **Membership**

Park land and lakes are association owned amenities intended for the enjoyment of its members. Dues are essential for being able to afford to maintain such a valuable community asset. Membership is \$125/yr or \$12.50 as an online subscription. If the fee represents a financial hardship, we also offer volunteer opportunities to obtain an annual membership.

## **PRELIMINARY Deer Creek Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda**

Location: Deer Creek Ranch Lower Lake, Dripping Springs, TX 78736

10am Saturday, January 9, 2019

### Meeting starts (10:00AM) We observe Robert's Rules of Order

Welcome to the first Deer Creek Ranch Parks and Lakes Association (DCRPLA) meeting of 2021! This is our semi-annual meeting. The board meets the third Wednesday of every month, at 7pm, in accordance with bylaws in order to handle ongoing business. Every meeting is open to members, but the annual meeting held at 10am the second Saturday in June, is usually the most attended.

10:00 - 10:10: Member & board introductions

### Finances (10:10AM)

The association is entirely volunteer-run and is a not-for-profit organization that must reinvest 90% of its annual program revenue back into the community. As a result of tireless work over the last few years, the association has dramatically reduced ongoing expenses, while increasing membership. As a result, the association is in good financial shape and should remain so into the foreseeable future. Membership currently stands at 240 active members.

10:10 - 10:20 Profit & loss statement for 2020

10:20 - 10:25 Summary of ongoing operating costs

10:25 - 10:30 Details of 90% expenditure threshold

10:30 - 10:45 Project opportunities for 2021 and beyond

To-date, property taxes have been paid for 2020. Insurance has been paid for most of 2021 (renewal anniversary is December). Federal taxes for 2019 have been paid (2020 taxes are expected to be zero on account of meeting 90% expenditure threshold). Fish re-stocking (a mandate from 2020 annual meeting) has been pre-paid for 2021. Upper lake erosion project is almost 100% complete and we are in very good shape for re-opening upper lake vehicle access in 2021.

## Project Updates (10:45AM)

10:45 – 11:00 Updates on regular projects

**Beach & volleyball sand:** During 2020, we dumped 4 loads of sand (40 cu yards total) to improve the beach and volleyball areas. We are expecting to drop more sand for the beach in 2021 and are always looking for a bobcat to spread the sand (job takes about 2 hours).

**Upper lake erosion project:** We ended up being able to build a substantial retaining wall to address water breaching the banks around the concrete culvert designed to channel water. We backfilled the area behind the retaining wall to restore ground that had been eroded away and planted rye grass seeds that are beginning to sprout. Existing oak trees were protected. In addition to addressing the erosion issue, the area is now more walkable and visually appealing. We continue to deal with county demands related to the work.

**Fish restocking:** Although there was a unanimous consensus at the 2020 annual meeting to set aside \$4,000 for restocking the lower lake, water levels were never high enough. To ensure this project gets completed, we pre-paid \$4,000 for fish restocking in 2021.

11:00 – 11:25 Updates on bonus projects

Due to record setting membership and program revenue and the first year of not having community center related expenses, the association was in the unexpected position of not meeting the 90% expenditure threshold for 2020. To rectify the accounting issue, the association was able to address two long standing challenges:

**Vehicle gate parking project (lower lake):** The crumbling asphalt that stretches from the vehicle gate to the pedestrian bridge is cost prohibitive to

maintain for vehicle access. Additionally, trucks would tear up the soft ground near the water's edge. To address these challenges, the association created a large parking area, bordered by large quarry stones.

**Vehicle gate parking project (upper lake):** As with the lower lake, a substantial vehicle path at the upper lake is financially unmaintainable and regularly resulted in problems (e.g. mudding and abandoned vehicles) that ultimately forced the association to restrict vehicle access. We are addressing this challenge by creating a vehicle parking area closer to the entrance, bounded by quarry stones. This will allow a discussion about the possibility of installing a coded vehicle gate and re-opening vehicle access to the upper lake in 2021.

11:25 - 11:40 Looking ahead

With optimistic prospects for reasonable ongoing program revenue into the foreseeable future, the association is likely to be in a position to tackle one major project each year and a few smaller ones. In fact, it is vital that such projects be pre-planned in order that the 90% expenditure threshold be met each year. For 2021/2022, the board would like to propose the following projects:

- a.) gated vehicle access to upper lake parking area (similar to what is in place at lower lake)
- b.) restoring the tennis / basketball court and fencing
- c.) replacing missing / warped planks in bridges
- d.) landscape beautification / tree pruning / tree & bush planting
- e.) improving the volleyball area
- f.) fixing playground equipment

**\*\* YOUR SUGGESTIONS HERE \*\***

11:40 - 12:00 OPEN DISCUSSION

12:00 MEETING ENDS

## **Looking ahead**

Whether you are a member or not, the park affects the overall community aesthetics, accessibility, and property values. Catastrophic failure of the dam has the potential to destroy homes downstream and its recent extensive maintenance has allowed Lake Travis ISD to have consolidated routes that transport all students in the neighborhood. A well-maintained park provides many opportunities for members to enjoy nature and the outdoors. A positive overall outlook and involvement ensures good things continue to happen for the community.

The association requires a committed board. Toward this end, it is vital that members of the community step up for service roles. The existing board is ready to train potential new board members to step into positions of leadership or serve the community as members at large. A number of residents have stepped up over the years and we are looking for new members willing and able to serve their community. Interested? Let us know or email [dcrpoa@gmail.com](mailto:dcrpoa@gmail.com).

## **Contacting Us**

The association meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7pm (usually at the community center). Any item for board consideration should be introduced at a meeting. For general inquiries, reservations, and updates, it is best to email [dcrpoa@gmail](mailto:dcrpoa@gmail.com). We also have a Google Voice # for phone calls: (512) 648-3975. We make every effort to respond in a timely manner, but please be patient.

Social media is not an appropriate channel to communicate grievances or any other matter related to the association. It is not a channel that lends itself to productive communication, is frequently trolled by non-members, and we simply lack the resources to properly monitor it. Please direct any social media posters to communicate with us through email, phone call, or by attending a meeting.