Parker County Republican Party May 1, 2025 Minutes

Strain Community Room, Weatherford College

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, followed by the invocation from Kelton Gunter, the US Pledge led by John Korpal and the Texas Pledge by Tom Paez. There were no candidates or guests to recognize.

The planned speaker was not available so Chairman Gray instead addressed the issues brought up at the last meeting of the County Commissioners Court. There was an application by a group of family members, organized as Muslims United for Progress, a 501c3 holding 40 acres out of the 50-60 acres owned by the family, on which they plan to build two homes and a mosque.

Many Parker County residents are concerned about this and whether it will become a magnet to form an enclave. All indications are that the family has been good neighbors and caused no problems, but people are concerned about the possibility of a large development. The Chairman said that there may be no legal path to halt this project, and referred CEC members to The Center for the Study of Political Islam and RAIR Foundation, an opponent of CAIR.

The Commissioners Court also approved a Bond for a new Jail and Justice Center, needed because the county spent \$16 million this year to house inmates in other counties.

The Secretary called the roll, with 25 present: Mindy White, Marsha Hardin, Jeannine Kuhnell, Lynn Monaco, Jim Forgey, Kevin Cleveland, Kelton Gunter, Michael West, Holly Hazlett, Rajae Mosely Larue, MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, Matt Ticzkus, Todd Kuenster, Betty Reinert, Barbara Chapman, Heather Chapple, Mike Phillips, Bruce Melberg, Tom Paez, Jacob Will, Lori Traeger, Jennifer McGill, Rob Looper, Laura Heffelfinger, and John Korpal.

Jim Forgey moved to approve the minutes from the April 3rd meeting, seconded by Rob Looper and the motion passed.

The Officer Reports commenced with Richard Heizer reporting that there had been 5536 early votes in the May election. Treasurer Ray Young presented his report, copies of which were on all the tables.

Committee Reports began with Holly Hazlett for Nominations with nothing to report. No report from Budget and Finance as Donna Couch was absent. Kelton Gunter for Resolutions moved for a resolution to the legislature to amend state law to allow local municipal and school board candidates to declare a political affiliation, seconded by Betty Reinert. It was approved.

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Chairman Gray introduced the New Business, to discuss and vote on the renewal of the Executive Director's contract for one year. She will be responsible for social media, expanding the mailing list, mailers and signs. Jeannine Kuhnell made a motion to approve the extension, seconded by Mike West. Approved.

At 8:03 PM Lori Traeger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barbara Chapman and it was approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Bozzell, Secretary