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City of Denton Appoints New Director of Parks and Recreation

DENTON, TX, Feb. 26, 2018 – City Manager Todd Hileman has announced the appointment of Gary Packan to the position of Director of Parks and Recreation. Packan brings more than 20 years of public service experience in parks and recreation to the City. He will begin his employment on Mar. 26.

“Denton is known for its exceptional parks and recreation services,” said City Manager Todd Hileman. “I am excited to welcome Gary to Denton. His experience and leadership will be an asset to the Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Denton.”

Packan most recently served as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Arlington, a position he has held since 2007. Prior to Arlington, Packan served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Sandusky, OH where he managed Parks, Recreation, and Economic Development, and as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Huron, OH. In addition to his professional experience, Packan has contributed significantly to the parks and recreation management profession through his involvement in the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS), and the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. While with the City of Arlington, Packan contributed to the department being recognized with the TRAPS gold medal in 2012 and 2015 and the department was an NRPA gold medal finalist in 2014, 2016, and 2017.

“I’m excited about being chosen as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Denton,” said Mr. Packan. “I’m looking forward to joining and leading a great team that provides exceptional parks and recreation services to the citizens of Denton.”

Packan holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education in Recreation and Leisure Services from Bowling Green State University. Packan currently is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and has previously held certifications as a Certified Pool Operator, Playground Safety Inspector, and Youth Sports Administrator.

In Dec. 2017, the City contracted with Ralph Andersen & Associates to conduct a nationwide search. After a thorough review and screening of 71 applicants, five finalists were interviewed by executive staff, with Packan chosen as the final candidate.

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