

MINUTES

On November 18, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Board met via video conference at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall at 601 S Buchanan Street, Room 201 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr. John Ingerson	Yes	34	28
Mr. Bob Altman	Yes	17	15
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	34	28
Mr. Matt Sanders	No	26	20
Mr. Gerald Malkuch	Yes	26	19
Mr. Mubashir Subhani	No	26	10
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	26	18
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	9	9
Ms. Angela Harney	Yes	9	8

Attendees:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DAVID WILSON	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
GEORGE PRIOLO	GM OF GOLF OPERATIONS
SHERYLENE MORRIS	RECORDING SECRETARY

ITEM 1: Public Comments. No Public comments.

ITEM 2: Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from Meeting held October 14, 2020. Chairman, Mr. John Ingerson, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 1:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Luke Austin, seconded by Ms. Angela Harney and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as written.

ITEM 3: The Parks and Recreation Board will Discuss or Receive Reports on the Following Current Matters or Projects.

A. Operational Changes Due to COVID. The Director provided the operational changed due to COVID that would affect the Parks Department.

1. City Hall will limit public interaction beginning Monday, November 9th.
2. No city services will be reduced. In-person appointments or curbside services are available as well as telephone/email and virtual capabilities.
3. Parks will remain open. Reservations, park rentals and league operations have been discontinued to reduce gatherings of 10 or more.
4. Golf Courses will be open for individual play but will not allow tournaments.
5. The Warford Activity Center will stay open for general use with no more than 10 allowed in the gym or pool.
6. The Amarillo Zoo will be open for general use with indoor facilities closed and no groups exceeding 10.
7. The Tennis Center will be open for individual use and no tournaments or league play.

This will be the guidelines that the Parks Department will follow under the guidance of the City Manager until further notice. This information is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

B. Thompson Park Pool. The Director updated the board on the progress for the construction of the Thompson Park Swimming Pool such as providing pictures to show the progress of this project. A discussion was concerning the change order for the event center that will affect the construction cost. Staff indicated that they were working with the consultant and the contractor to come up with a reasonable solution to include the event center in the project within the allotted budget. If this event center is not included in the first phase of the project, it would be a standalone project for next year. This project will be updated every month to the board until completion. This PowerPoint Presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

C. Parks Master Plan. The Director gave a brief update on the Park Master Plan presentation that was presented to the Council on October 13th. The presentation included four phases within this plan:

1. Phase 01 - Existing Conditions
2. Phase 02 - Needs Assessment
3. Phase 03 - Strategies
4. Phase 04 - Action Plan

Within these phases are various needs, recommendations, opportunities, programs, cost recovery, improvements, services, inventory, community priorities and preferences, trail opportunities and needs, amenities and facility need's, arts and beautification need's and potential strategic directions. Questions of concern pertained to what the city spends on parks compared to other cities and what are we recommending to the council as well as concern for the parks part in helping with the Hike and Bike Master Plan along with other departments. This PowerPoint Presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Angela Harney, Mr. Luke Austin and Mr. John Ingerson expressed concerns pertaining to Amarillo subsidizing their operations such as golf, zoo, pools and activity center per capita compared to other cities subsidizing their operations and how realistic it is that we are cost neutral. Ms. Harney expressed her concerns on the Hike and Bike Master Plan as the community expressing a demand for more trails in the city and that the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee would gladly look at the bike lanes and bikes and pedestrians intersect with traffic as a focus on a better plan. Mr. Austin asked why the consultants are not being more involved by giving their ideas and then going to the rule makers on safety to get their feedback and not waiting for a Safety Department to come up with a Hike and Bike System. Ms. Harney stated that the committee is made up of Traffic and Public Works representatives that look at dangerous intersections, pedestrian and bike accidents and bike lanes and do not develop trail systems, off road/paved systems to connect parks or develop new trails within the parks. Ms. Tiffany Podzemny stated the need to express what the parks expectations are when implementing these trails/bike lanes that the citizens are wanting. This will be a topic of discussion by the Strategic Sub-Committee.

D. Golf. The Director stated that golf will be a standing item on our agenda with GM of Golf Operations to answer any questions. Mr. Ingerson complemented the golf course on how well the golf courses look even with little resources due to COVID challenges.

E. TABC Discussion. The Director stated that staff is looking for recommendations from the board on locations to serve alcoholic beverages and whether the Department should obtain a TABC license. This discussion could allow the sale of alcohol at venues for adult sports leagues or certain hours at the new Thompson Pool to generate revenue. The Director went over the city ordinances as to where alcohol is allowed or not allowed in our park facilities. The GM of Golf Operations explained the ins and outs of how the golf courses maintain their operations pertaining to serving alcohol at their facilities.

F. Park Board Communication. The Director informed the board members that Parks staff will be sending out weekly updates related current Parks projects/operations along with the monthly Parks Newsletter to all the board members.

G. Thompson Park Pool Metrics. The Director asked the board members what information they would like to see such as daily operational numbers, attendance, etc. as future items or weekly reports.

H. 9th Street Trails. The Director stated that this proposal/concept would be similar to the John Stiff model which is focused on Private-Public Partnerships. A private developer could, build an amenity such as a restaurant or retail business suitable for that location. The development could be required to provide a parking lot that serves the business but also the trails and other park amenities while generating revenue as a part of the lease agreement. Concerns were discussed on safety issues, traffic, crossing 9th Street from Medi Park and interest from a private/partnership but overall board members liked the idea. This PowerPoint Presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Podzemny stated that her concern was Medi Park already had the amenities provided and wanted to know if this area would be considered an open space park without amenities or it would be a park. Mr. Bob Altman stated that he thought this was a great idea for this growing area. Ms. Harney, Ms. Podzemny and Mr. Ingerson agreed that this was a great idea if there were Private-Public Partnerships involved.

I. Staffing Changes. The Director stated that Kelsey Sargent, former Special Events Coordinator, has become the new Recreation Coordinator who will be over all recreation programs making them year-round instead of seasonal. The Warford Center will be getting a new Center Supervisor in the near future.

J. CCHB Grant Update. Park Staff is looking at a Public Health partnership focused on health and wellness. This grant was received by Public Health that would be a referral program for people to create a healthier lifestyle and encourage health and wellness. This would include a mobile unit to provide various healthy activities at the parks and a body scanner to check on participants results from the activities. A suggestion, due to COVID, was to partner with different gyms in the city to provide instructors for classes and use their equipment.

K. Upcoming Events. The Director announced that effective December 31st, three board members would be leaving the board, Mr. Matt Sanders, Mr. Gerald Malkuch and Muhammad Subhani. Two members are reappointed, Ms. Terry Price and Mr. Luke Austin. Four new members will join in January, Councilmember Elaine Hays, Mr. Jeff Brain, Mr. Jonathan Grammar and Mr. Eric Hunter. Council is currently reaching out to an individual to see if they would consider taking the vacant position to the board.

L. Future Agenda Items. No future items were suggested.

ITEM 4: Present, Discuss and Consider Action on the Amarillo College Proposal for Improvements in Memorial Park.
This item was requested to be tabled until the December Board meeting.

ITEM 5: Adjournment. There, being no further business, Motion was made by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, seconded by Mr. Bob Altman to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Clarence John Ingerson
John Ingerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sherylene Morris
Sherylene Morris, Board Secretary