

MINUTES

On August 11, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Board met at 1:30 p.m. in the board room at the 509 S. Johnson St, Amarillo, TX, 79101 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr. John Ingerson	No	42	35
Mr. Bob Altman	Yes	25	23
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	42	36
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	34	23
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	No	17	16
Mr. Eric Hunter	Yes	7	7
Mr. Jonathan Grammer	No	7	2
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	7	7
Mr. John Forbis	Yes	2	2
Dr. Eddy Sauer	Yes	2	1
Mr. Jason Tillery	Yes	2	2

Attendees:

MICHAEL KASHUBA
BRIAN MCWILLIAMS
FELISHA KING
KEVIN WILDE

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY ATTORNEY
RECORDING SECRETARY
PARK SUPERINTENDENT

ITEM 1: Public Comments. No public comments made.

ITEM 2: Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from regular Meeting held July 14th, 2021. Co-Chairman, Mr. Bob Altman, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 1:31 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Eric Hunter, seconded by Mr. Jason Tillery, and unanimously carried to approve the regular minutes as written.

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

A. Thompson Park Pool

- Official Ribbon Cutting on July 24th. Pool officially open.
- Mr. Bob Altman asks, “How long will you keep it open?” Director states “Staying open full-time hours until August 15th, moving forward open nights and weekends through September 5th.”
- Mr. Bob Altman asks if all equipment is functioning, director responds with information regarding UV filters not being connected electrically, however installed properly. This issue has been addressed and resolved. The contractor will be covering the cost of the repair made, as it was a mistake on their part. Two pumps were also flooded, and those had to be replaced. This issue has also been resolved.
- Mr. Bob Altman also asks about vandalism and security at the pools. Director states that this has always been an issue in parks in general. Parks marketing department has been notifying the public, in an effort to hold the public more responsible for these ongoing issues.
- Construction will continue during the day when pool hours switch to nights and weekends.
- Ms. Terry Price asks, “Do you have a date for clean up on the outside of the pool?” Director states, “They’re working on it, a lot of it depends when they can get the landscapers back out there. They’re working on the sign right now. They’ve poured the footing, the masons will be back out. They’re finishing pouring the sidewalk along Chaparral. They’re going to start finishing and transitioning to irrigating and landscaping. I would expect with school starting next week, next two weeks, they’ll be out there and starting to put seed down and irrigation down. It’s been stated that we expect them to get this done in the grow season.”

B. Parks Master Plan

- Prioritization challenge handout and YES, parks matter survey summary were discussed. Challenge based off the ‘Red-X Initiative’ survey results.
- Only 27% responded to the survey because of a red X or sign.
- More information can be found on the prioritization handout and Yes Parks Matter Summary handouts, regarding survey results.
- Dr. Eddy Sauer questioned “do you think COVID has changed that?” Regarding the significant changes in terms of the use of public park spaces. Director confirmed this question, as he does believe COVID increased public park use and outdoor engagement.

C. Disc Golf

- Disc golf was an item that was requested by a public comment during the last meeting.
- The disc golf association wants to relocate some of the holes in Thompson park. There are 2 courses in Thompson park. During the drought, one the two courses, saw significant damage to trees outlining that course.
- Parks and Recreation in planning to go to Thompson park and walk the disc golf courses with the disc golf association, in September. During the walkthrough, Parks members will start to compose a draft of resolutions.
- Parks will also propose a discussion about partnering with the association, as the association has mentioned in the past a proposal about partnering regarding irrigation and improvements.
- Mr. Bob Altman questioned the acreage of the disc golf courses. Director does not have a set amount of acreage; however, he does describe in detail that the courses are all over Thompson park. Mr. Bob Altman also questioned if parks has a map of that course, director confirms there is a map on GIS.
- Mr. Eric Hunter inquired if parks is using their budget to maintain disc golf courses. Director affirms that we are not using any of our budget to maintain those courses. Parks only maintains the grass. Director mentions there may be 2 holes that parks has to replace, due to relocation during construction of the new Thompson pool.
- Mr. Bob Altman also inquired about the construction of the disc golf holes, and it was discussed how those are set up and installed.

D. Park Restroom Discussion

- This item was requested by the Park Board Chairman, John Ingerson.
- Best practice, most cities do not have restrooms in neighborhood parks. Restrooms are reserved for community parks and regional parks. Portable restrooms are the proposed idea, for bigger events held at parks and ball fields. Once those events are over, those restrooms will be transported to a safe area. Portable restrooms will eliminate the chances of vandalism and the chance of the homeless community, establishing living quarters inside.
- These restrooms are a safety issue. The plan is to remove the restrooms and leave them a vacant space. The goal would be to remove the restroom and turn the concrete pad back into turf.
- Mr. John Forbis questioned how long it would take to get those restrooms removed. Director states that it just depends because there are a lot. Director forwarded question Mr. Kevin Wilde. Mr. Kevin Wilde states that there are approximately 72 restrooms that would be removed. Director states that it could take up to a couple of years.
- Parks will start putting together a plan of execution to distribute to the board.
- Mr. Luke Austin asked if parks can put together a statement to send out to the public. Director states that once parks has a plan of action, a statement will be put together for official notification to the public.
- Mr. Eric Hunter asked, “aren’t most of them locked anyways right now?” Director confirms and reiterates the lack of staffing to go by in the evenings to lock them, and the safety issues that will present without proper locking of the restrooms in the evenings.

E. Park Monitoring Discussion

- This item of discussion was requested by the Park Board Chairman, Mr. John Ingerson.
- Vandalism continues to be an ongoing issue in public spaces. Director states that there was a break in at Rick Klein that was not publicized. The front gate was broken along with a golf cart, belonging to West Texas Youth Baseball, being stolen.
- Director proposes that security cameras be installed. As budget allows and in areas that make sense. High traffic areas that see the most vandalizing activities.
- Park planning exercises. The idea would be a long-term plan. For instance, most cities, have automatic gates. If a person goes through the gate after hours, it automatically shuts. Upon leaving the complex after hours, the gate will open as one drives up to it and closes after the vehicle exits.
- Amarillo Police Officers have been patrolling Thompson park more frequently than before, based off recent acts of vandalism and burglary. Patrolling has improved significantly.
- Mr. Bob Altman “Do all the big regional parks have signs that say ‘closed from --?’” Director confirms there are posted signs with park hours. Director also explains that Thompson park, being the large park that it is, has many entrances and exits. Park hours are challenging to enforce with so many avenues.

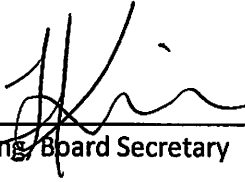
F. Upcoming Events – No upcoming events, currently.

G. Future Agenda Items

- Public Art – more information will be provided in the weekly update.

ITEM 4: Adjournment. There, being no further business, Motion was made by Mr. John Forbis. Motioned seconded by Ms. Terry Price to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:



Felisha King, Board Secretary



John Ingerson, Chairman