

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On May 10th, 2023 the Parks and Recreation Board met at 01:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Board Room located at 509 S. Johnson Street Amarillo, TX, 79107 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	59	51
Mr. Luke Austin	No	51	37
Mr. Robert Altman	Yes	42	40
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	34	32
Mr. John Terry	Yes	4	4
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	24	22
Ms. Sherrie Ferguson	Yes	4	4
Dr. Eddy Sauer	Yes	19	11
Mr. Shelby Massey	Yes	14	13
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	Yes	3	3

ATTENDEES:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BECKI DRYER	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JAMES STOW	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
MEGAN SMITH	RECORDING SECRETARY
COURTNEY WHITE	ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
BERKELEY HILLIARD	ZOO CURATOR
DYLAN LONG	ZOO VISITOR SERVICE SPECIALIST
KELSEY SARGENT	RECREATION SUPERVISOR
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
JEFF WHITESELL	SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR

ITEM 1

Call to Order

Vice Chairman, Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 01:33 p.m.

ITEM 2

Public Comments

No public comments made.

ITEM 3

Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman, said motion seconded by Mr. Shelby Massey, voting aye were 8 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from March 8th, 2023, as written.

ITEM 4

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

a) **Seasonal Staffing**

- (i) Ms. Becki Dryer updates the board on the recruiting efforts that have been made to fill the aquatics and recreation positions for the upcoming season. Despite extensive recruiting efforts, they are struggling to find enough lifeguards. As a result, they must make hard decisions about which programs to cancel or modify. They recommend operating only certain days at some pools and suspending booking any pool parties at Warford. Mr. Kashuba informed the board they will still be accepting applications through the summer in hopes of filling more positions and opening pools, parties, and lessons back to the previously planned schedules.

b) Department Divisional Updates

1) Administration

- a. Mr. Kashuba discusses the budget process and where the Parks department is with the current year's budget.
- b. Mr. Kashuba also explained a new work order system (MGO) that will streamline processes in the department. This system is a cost-effective option for city governments that is tailored to their needs.
- c. Mr. Kashuba shares that among the new City Plan, Parks are among the top three preferred investments in a high-level city plan, with 45 percent of survey respondents favoring their maintenance or improvement.
- d. Mr. Kashuba states we have already interviewed applicants to fill the CIP Position

and we are currently waiting for HR to complete the hiring process. Mr. Stow has been managing the projects until the new Project Manager can begin work.

2) Aquatics

- a. Mr. Austin Farley updates the board on aquatic lessons. They will be having them at an earlier time due to the shortage of lifeguards. They evaluated last year's enrollments and were able to see the earlier times were more popular. The Spring Aquatic lessons have had full registration with 20 plus students in both classes the last three sessions.

3) Amarillo Zoo

- a. Mrs. Berkeley Hilliard introduces Mr. Dylan Long to give the board updates on the Easter Eggciment Event at the Zoo. Mr. Long shared attendance this year was a little over 2500 people that arrived for the event. Total admission and gift shop revenue for the event was about \$16,500. Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Long also shared some issues during the event and what they did to resolve them. A Parent informed one of the staff their child was missing so they shut the front entrances and implemented their "Code Adam Protocol" to retrieve the child. He was found waiting in line to get candy and was returned to his guardian.

4) Athletics

- a. Mr. James Stow updates the board on the current City leagues as follows:
 - a. Spring Volleyball – 113 teams
 - i. 9 Ladies Divisions
 - ii. 13 COED Divisions
 - b. Spring Basketball – 13 teams
 - c. Spring Softball – 72 teams
 - i. 6 Mens Divisions
 - ii. 4 COED Divisions
 - iii. 1 Ladies Division
- b. Mr. Stow also updates the board on current maintenance and renovations with the athletic fields. Athletic fields are improving in quality and appearance, with positive feedback from users. However, there is an ongoing issue with undersized parking lots at tournaments and youth sports events that needs to be addressed through education and potential enforcement. Mr. Kashuba also shares that moving forward they may look into other ideas on how to address some of the parking issues.

5) Beautification and Public Arts

- a. Mrs. Cindy Perez shares a photo with the board of the first mural from the Mural Grant Project that has been completed at 2105 Taylor Street. Blank Spaces will begin on the next mural within the next week or two.
- b. Mrs. Perez also shares with the board; the Beautification Board created a subcommittee on the art installation pad. The committee is beginning to look into ideas that they hope to incorporate with "Hoodoo Mural Festival".
- c. Mrs. Perez also shares her seed balls that she plans on handing out at the business connection. Attached to the bags is a QR Code that will take you directly to the park clean up website so you may sign up to volunteer and help clean up the parks.

6) Capital Projects

- a. Mr. Stow updates the board on the status of the park projects as follows:
 - 1. Alamo – still waiting on swings.
 - 2. West Hills – Waiting for the right-handed guardrail to arrive so it may be installed.
 - 3. JSM, West Hills and East Park - Plans have all been submitted to council and approved. Playgrounds are currently ordered.
 - 4. Stephan F Austin - concrete has been replaced. Waiting for swings to be shipped.
 - 5. Thompson Park – the second boat has arrived and been installed they're just finalizing the ADA requirements.
- b. Mr. Kashuba informs the board Parks are working with CDBG and they have identified the desire and need to put in another additional inclusive playground but are still discussing plans and possible locations.
- c. Mr. Kashuba updates the board on the following lighting projects.
 - 1. Southeast Complex, Martin Road Complex and the Indoor Tennis Courts at the Amarillo National Tennis Center are up and running.
 - a. The outdoor tennis courts at the Amarillo National Tennis Center will be next. (This is being coordinated with the resurfacing of the courts.)
 - 2. Rick Klein Soccer area has 11 lights up. The contractors will still need to finish up concrete pads and install some panels and then they can start turning them on.

7) Golf Operations

- a. Mr. George Priolo gives a year-to-date update on the rounds played and the

monthly revenue for the month of April.

1. Rounds played were up 912 rounds.
2. The combined revenue for both courses was \$165,000.
 - a. Contributed from the previous fee increase.

8) Park Maintenance

- a. Mr. Stow updates the board on the Easter cleanup at the parks this year. The clean-up was not as bad but they still gather 428 bags of trash.
- b. Mr. Stow also explains the maintenance staff are currently doing their regular preparation for the upcoming seasons with the splash pads, spraying, irrigation, clean up and much more.

9) Recreation and Special Events

- a. Ms. Kelsey Sargent presented a presentation to inform the board of the past events as follows:
 1. Nerf Gun Wars 3/10 – 10 attendees and on 4/14 – 13 attendees
 2. Mario Cart Competition 3/17 – 13 attendees
 3. Coding 101 – 6 attendees
 4. Lego Camp 4/11 & 4/25 – 7 attendees
 5. Fit & Play - 22 attendees.
 6. Kids Day Out Camp – 29 attendees
 7. Mother/Son Adventures – 51 attendees
 8. Gameapalooza – 10 attendees
 9. Spring Break Camp 3/18-17 – 48 attendees
 10. American Girl Doll Tea Party 3/12 – 34 attendees
 11. Breakfast with the Bunny 4/1 – 149 attendees
 12. Earth-Day clean-up 4/22 – 93 volunteers, 128 bags of trash.
- b. Ms. Dryer also gives an update on the upcoming Mommy and me paint night. It is currently maxed out with 40 enrollments.

10) Senior Services

- a. Ms. Dryer updates the board on the recent “Grand Opening of Senior Services” that occurred on April 26th. They had a ribbon cutting in the morning and a lot of different tables set up to share information such as...
 1. Transit was there to discuss transportation.
 2. Membership table to discuss “Silver Sneakers” and help the seniors renew or create a “Silver Sneakers” membership.
 3. Public health was present to share some of what they offer to Seniors.

11) Tennis Operations

- a. Mr. Kashuba discusses the partnership with Alex O’Brein Tennis Foundation and the USTA. There will be free giveaways to get people more involved in Tennis and a free tennis day at the Amarillo National Tennis Center where there will be free lessons and instructors there from 9-6. He also shares council proclaimed Tennis month the other day at the City Council meeting.

12) Warford Activity Center

- a. Ms. Dryer updates the board on the student membership that launches this summer to capture those college kids that are home for the summer and need a place to work out. It is a \$45 membership fee from Memorial Day to Labor Day and includes the weight room, cardio gym, swimming in the pool and the game room.

4.B. Present, Discuss and Consider Action on Proposed Fee Increases in the Parks Department for FY 23-24

This item will include discussion and consideration of actions to approve the proposed fee adjustments for Parks Department FY 23-24.

A motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman, said motion seconded by Mr. Jeff Brian, voting aye were 7 members, voting no were none, carried to approve fee increases over the next three years at 50%, 25% and 25%.

4.C. Present and Discuss the Creation of a Community Focus Group(s).

This item will include discussion about creating a community focus group(s) to provide feedback to the Outreach Sub-Committee.

Mr. Kashuba informs the board this is something we hope to develop in the future. Mr. Altman stated he feels “the more we hear, the better off we all are. We can react and listen to what the public wants and doesn’t want.”

ITEM 5

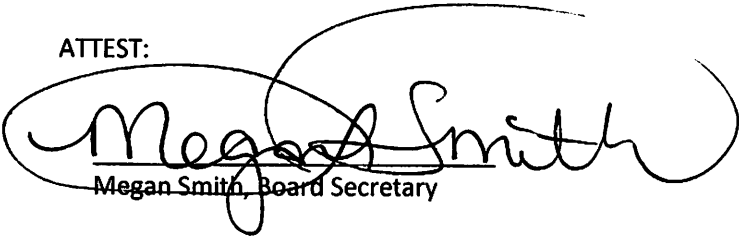
Discuss Items for Future Agendas

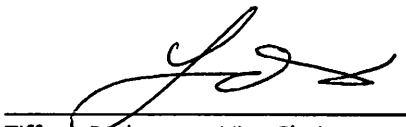
- 13) Adopt-A-Park
- 14) 9th Street Trails Update
- 15) Crosswalk to John Stiff playground from Southwest Complex.

ITEM 6 Adjournment

There, being no further business, Motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman to adjourn the meeting, said motion was seconded by Ms. Skylar Gallop, voting aye were 7 members, voting no were none this meeting was adjourned at 03:29 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:


Megan Smith, Board Secretary


~~Tiffany Podzemny, Vice Chairman~~
Luke Austin, Chairman