

MINUTES

On June 14th, 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	60	52
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	52	38
Mr. Robert Altman	No	43	40
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	35	33
Mr. John Terry	Yes	5	5
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	25	23
Ms. Sherrie Ferguson	Yes	5	5
Dr. Eddy Sauer	Yes	20	12
Mr. Shelby Massey	Yes	15	14
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	Yes	4	4

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
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
DYLAN LONG	ZOO VISITOR SERVICE SPECIALIST
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
JEFF WHITESSELL	SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR
LANDON MILLER	WARFORD ACTIVITY CENTER SUPERVISOR

ITEM 1 **Call to Order**

Chairman, Mr. Luke Austin, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 01:30 p.m.

ITEM 2 Public Comments

Mr. Richard Walton with "Outdoor Amarillo" was present to Announce their first Fundraiser "Rock in the Park" June 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Memorial Park to raise funds to contribute to the Rose Gardens and Pavilion. He also expresses his concerns for the Park Permit fee they had to pay. They paid \$1800.00 for all of the park and Food trucks to be there providing their services.

ITEM 3 Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. John Terry, said motion seconded by Mr. Shelby Massey, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from May 10th, 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) Department Divisional Updates

1) Administration: Mr. Kashuba updates the Board on the following items as follows:

- a. The new admin that has been hired. Rebecca Ferrell as the Athletic Administrative assistant and Sarah Bartel is the new Administrative Technician to help with Recreation and Aquatics.
- b. Supplemental budget requests were submitted for golf and school parks. There were also some fee increases for athletics and some corrections that had to be addressed with some numbers regarding staffing that were off were also submitted.
- c. Parks will be presenting to City Council July 17-19th and he recommended that either the Chairman or Vice Chair be present or a representative from the board be present to hear the conversation and hear the new direction from the Council Members.
- d. Items going to Council for consideration this month.
 - 1. New work order system that will assist with assigning projects to staff quicker and more efficiently. Cost \$12,000/year.
 - 2. Fencing for Rick Klein Soccer Fields and John Stiff.
 - 3. Purchase of trash bailer (Model LP1) to assist with Park clean up.

- 2) **Aquatics:** Mr. Austin Farley updates the board on the following items:
 - a. UV lights at the Southeast and Southwest Pools. They're used to as a secondary option to assist with cleaning the pool and to replace the amount of chemicals but they're currently not working. They should be getting fixed at the end of this month.
 - b. Swim lessons are fully booked for the summer. He also expressed that they did get more instructors but were receiving complaints on the amount of people in the pool during the lessons, so they lowered the max attendance per class from 20 to 15.
 - c. Cooler weather and storms have been affecting the hours of the pools. If it is not warm enough the pools are closed for safety reasons.
- 3) **Amarillo Zoo:** Mr. Dylan Long updates the board on the following items:
 - a. New animals at the zoo: 1 of 2 of the bison are currently being picked up in New Mexico. They have also added two new amazon parrots that were donated. (Charlie and JuJu.)
 - b. The Raven is being transferred into its new exhibit.
 - c. Tortoises also have a new home.
 - d. Summer Camps update –
 1. Wild Texas – 12 full day and 3 half day campers. The child learned about Texas wildlife and what to do when they come across certain animals when they come across them. The campers also built a habit garden during their time at the camp.
 2. Future Camps:
 - a. Once upon a time with a fairytale theme – The campers will be creating their own story books.
 - b. Feasts for Beasts – The children will be making a cookbook for the animals.
 - c. Around-the-world – The children will make a passport and they will also build a habitat garden.
 - d. League of their own – create their own comic book.
 - e. Zoo tours are also doing well with attendance and more families are asking how they can make donations to the Zoo.
 - f. Safari Saturdays begin end of May.
 - g. Zoo Mobile Program will be traveling around to all the libraries.
- 4) **Athletics:** James gives the board an update on the following items:
 - a. League numbers: Spring Volleyball has 113 teams enrolled. Spring Softball has 74 teams enrolled.
 - b. Field renovations – Southeast complex was seeded in May.
 - c. Rick Klein Soccer lights have been installed. Contractors are just finishing the rock walls around the transformers.
 - d. Tennis Center: Lights in indoor courts have been completed. The courts have also been resurfaced.
 1. Outdoor court lights will begin middle of July.
 2. Outdoor court resurfacing will occur in August after the lighting projects have been completed.
- 5) **Beautification and Public Arts:** Ms. Cindy Perez gives the board an update on the following items:
 - a. Adopt-A-Park: There has been one organization reach out and ask questions but nothing more has been done.
 1. Ms. Perez will have a booth at the "Rock in The Park" event that "Outdoor Amarillo" is having to help promote the program.
 - b. Park Clean ups: Community planned park clean ups at Medi Park and McDonald Lake. This will be weather permitting.
 - c. Walking trail: Mr. Kashuba presented the board with some ideas for no mow areas with signs that will have QR Codes explaining the reason for it being a no mow area. These areas will be pollinator habits with taller grass and wildflowers.
- 6) **Capital Projects:** Mr. Kashuba informed the board there has been an offer extended to fill the CIP position, they're waiting to hear back on the status. Mr. Kashuba also informs the board of the fencing proposal that will be submitted to Council. Other updates have been updated with athletics. Mr. Kashuba will send the board an email on the 9th Street Trails update.
- 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 May.
 1. Rounds played were up 800 rounds.
 - a. The combined revenue for both courses was up \$72,000.
 2. They have hosted 13 charity tournaments in the month of May.
 3. Happy Hour update: Started the increase May 1st. there was a noticeable increase even with the bad weather.
- 8) **Park Maintenance:** Mr. Stow updates the board on the following items:
 - a. Maintenance staff is currently going through their normal summer routines

- maintaining the pools, playgrounds, and parks.
 - b. Concerns of the department being short staffed.
 - c. Recent rains have shown some roof leaks at the Warford Activity Center they have also had to address. The main leak that caused the most damage was above the gym.
 - 1. Other rain related issues involve damage to transformers, wood chips washing away, flooding and more. Mr. Kashuba is tracking the damages for potential reimbursements.
 - d. Preparations for the Juneteenth celebrations are currently underway.
 - 1. Two large events
 - a. Thompson Park
 - b. Bones Hooks Park
- 9) Recreation and Special Events: Ms. Becki Dryer updates the board on the items as follows:
- a. Glenwood Elementary reached out to Parks to run their Field Day on May 22nd.
 - b. Summer Camps – Ave. 38 kids per day.
 - 1. Great partnership with transit so they have been able to do fields trip.
 - a. Amarillo Museum of Art.
 - b. Air and Space Museum
 - c. Hooked on Fishing had to be rescheduled.
 - d. Camping Experience had to be canceled due to the weather. They hope to have one in the fall.
 - e. Mommy and me Paint Night – Event was fully booked but only 26 attendees ended up showing up due to the weather.
 - f. Starlight Theatre – Concerts in the Sam Houston Park.
 - 1. Every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. May 30th to August 1st
 - a. May 30th – 416 Attendees
 - b. June 6th – 520 Attendees
 - g. Summer Free for All – Sam Houston Park
 - 1. Was promoted as part of the Route 66 Festival
 - 2. About 500 in attendance
 - 3. Several partners had booths set up there as well as Recreation, Beautification, Amarillo Zoo and many more.
- 10) Senior Services: Mr. Jeff Whitsell updates the board on the Senior Services area at the Warford Activity Center.
- a. Some lighting improvements and baseboard repairs have recently been completed.
 - b. 140% growth with attendance and continues to grow.
 - c. Planning a Senior Corn Hole tournament middle of August to bring in more potential members.
- 11) Tennis Operations: Mr. Stow updates the board on the activities at the Amarillo National Tennis Center as follow:
- a. Summer Camps are currently going on.
 - 1. June 5th to July 31st.
 - a. Half day and full day sessions.
 - b. He also shares they're reviewing their pricing on the concession stand fees and merchandise to make sure the prices are good or if they need to be adjusted.
 - c. Mr. Kashuba mentions there may be some possible partnerships with the Tennis Center in the future as well.
 - 1. He also mentions future plans at the location as an attempt to deter some of the vandalism and issues that have been occurring.
- 12) Warford Activity Center: Mr. Landon Miller updates the board on the following items:
- a. Gym floor maintenance – On average a wooden gym board gets relaced or resurfaced every eight years. They plan on keeping an eye on the damaged area but if they stick to the 8 years mark their gym will be due for resurface in 2025.
 - b. Other damages due to leaks:
 - 1. They received a bid to reseal around the roof top units and areas where the leaking has occurred. It was a little over \$8,000.
 - 2. There was also a piece of gym equipment that is now rusted due to water leaking on it, but it was in the plans to be replaced soon.
 - c. Due to the staffing shortages, they have had to limit operations at the Warford pool so that the lifeguards can be at the outdoor pools.
 - 1. This has also affected their summer student membership numbers. They have only sold 5 memberships in the last 30 days.
 - a. Youth memberships are up to 30 in the last 30 days.
 - d. They're also working on creating gift cards to sell. Mr. Miller states he has finally figured it out and will just have to train staff on them.

ITEM 6 Adjournment

There, being no further business, Motion was made by Mr. Jeff Brian to adjourn the meeting, said motion was seconded by Ms. Skylar Gallop, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none this meeting was adjourned at 03:12 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:


Megan Smith, Board Secretary


Luke Austin, Board Chairman