

MINUTES

On May 8th, 2024 the Parks and Recreation Board met at 01:00 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
Mr. Howard Smith	YES	6	6
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	5	4
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	51	48
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	YES	43	41
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	5	5
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	5	5
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	5	5
Mr. Shelby Massey	NO	23	22
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	NO	12	9
Mr. Josh Craft	YES	8	6
Mr. Hobert Brown	YES	5	4

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JAMES STOW	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JEFF WHITSELL	SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR
BERKELEY HILLIARD	ZOO CURATOR
KELSEY SARGENT	RECREATION SUPERVISOR
SARA BARTEL	MARKETING COORDINATOR
MEGAN SMITH	OFFICE MANAGER
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
LANDON MILLER	WARFORD SUPERVISOR
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
SAMANTHA THOMPSON	RECORDING SECRETARY

- ITEM 1

Call to Order

Chairman, Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 01:01 p.m.
- ITEM 2

Public Comments

No comments were made.
- ITEM 3

Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Howard Smith, said motion seconded by Mr. Josh Craft, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from April 10th, 2024.
- ITEM 4A

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

A) Department Divisional Updates

1) Aquatics: Mr. Jeff Whitsell provided the board with details on seasonal hiring, pool management, staffing challenges, and engagement strategies.

2) Warford Activity Center: Mr. Jeff Whitsell informed the board that Glow in the Dark Pickleball had 31 attendees. The facility is on track to have 500 rentals for the year. Starting June 3rd, Warford will be facilitating the Summer Break Camp until August 2nd.

3) Recreation and Special Events: Mr. Jeff Whitsell shared with the board that the overnight camping adventure hosted at Southeast Park on April 28th had 35 participants. Boy Scouts were noted as a partner that helped put on this event.

4) Senior Services: Mr. Jeff Whitsell reported a successful day trip to Amarillo Botanical Gardens and highlighted the positive feedback from seniors with a net promoter score of 85.71. Mr. Whitsell also discussed upcoming events such as Older American Celebration on May 24th and the Repair Café on June 1st.

5) Athletics: Mr. James Stow informed the board that spring programs are finishing up and transitioning into summer programs. Mr. Stow noted that bylaws are being updated to ensure that participants in athletic activities have clearer guidelines on acceptable behavior at sports complexes. Mr. Stow updated the board on the review process for the Athletics Supervisor position. Mr. Michael Kashuba noted

the high demand for field usage after improvements were made at Rick Klein and how to address those challenges.

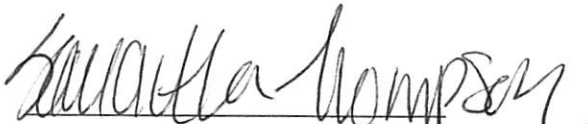
- 6) Golf Operations: Mr. James Stow discussed ongoing work in golf operations, highlighting the completion of aerification and focusing on routine maintenance. Mr. Stow highlights challenges such as pump station problems and delays in receiving equipment. Ross Rogers Golf Course is hosting US Open Qualifier.
 - 7) Park Maintenance: Mr. James Stow reported to the board that Park Maintenance is focusing on routine tasks including irrigation and notes challenges faced with replacing double checks. It is noted that the new work order system is making it easier for Park Maintenance to track and complete work orders.
 - 8) Tennis Operations: Mr. Stow discusses recent activities at the tennis center, including hosting district tournaments as well as facilitating kids learn to play camps. Additionally, the center has hosted various tennis and pickleball tournaments.
 - 9) Capital Projects: Mr. James Stow discusses several current capital projects including the installation of gates to prevent vandalism, collaboration with the mountain bike community to manage trail access and completing concrete and lighting work at locations like North Lake and Sam Houston. Updates on projects like the JSM dog park and Hazelrigg shelter are provided, outlining plans for fencing, concrete work, and other enhancements to these areas. Mr. Thomas Riney comments on his concerns about the persistent issue of vandalism in Amarillo Parks and wants to learn more about how it compares to other cities and what can be done to stop it. Mr. Michael Kashuba states that comparing cities is challenging and that the initial steps to prevent vandalism include putting up barriers, installing cameras, using wheel stops, installing gates, improving lighting, and enhancing enforcement.
 - 10) Amarillo Zoo: Ms. Berkeley Hilliard updated the board on recent events at the zoo including the addition of two new Texas Longhorn calves, named Gambit and Spitfire. Staff turnover has been noted, as Beccah Schwartz joins as the new Visitor Service Specialist.
 - 11) Beautification and Public Arts: Ms. Cindy Perez provides updates, including mural projects and park cleanups, and the Abor Day Event. Ms. Perez notes upcoming plans for a park cleanup in June, partnered with Keep Texas Beautiful and Coca-Cola Southwest.
- B) 2024/25 Budget: Mr. Michael Kashuba provides the board with an overview of the budgeting process within the Parks and Recreation Department, aiming to clarify how the budget is structured and controlled. Mr. Kashuba walks the board through the various budget components that are under the control of the department noting that some budgetary numbers are automatically accounted for by the Finance Department. He also touches on adjustments to the budget and shuffling funds to accommodate additional needs.
- C) July 5th Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba provides the board with the schedule for the July 5th event starting with the opening of parking lots at 4:00 PM and various activities such as the main stage DJ, Beer Gardens, children's areas, and a Strongman Competition managed by CrossFit 806. The concert will begin at 6:30 PM with an opening act leading to the headliner reveal, followed by a fireworks and drone show at 9:40 PM. Sponsorship updates include ongoing efforts to secure additional sponsors, with current commitments at \$35,000. Collaboration with the 100 Club is also planned for the event to promote their cause and engage in fundraising activities.
- D) Summer Parks Guide: Mr. Michael Kashuba informs the board that the Summer Parks Guide has been reintroduced this year. In recent years, the guide was predominately promoted online, but physical copies are now available at various facilities for easy access.
- E) Approval of Eastridge Master Plan: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board that the master plan for a 28-acre property in Eastridge has been official approved by City Council. The intention is to involve community members to receive input and ensure the population has a voice in creating the area and deciding the types of amenities they would prefer. Mr. Kashuba also noted that Bones Hooks Park has been designated as a historical landmark.

ITEM 5 Discuss Items for Future Agendas:

ITEM 6 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 P.M. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:


Ms. Samantha Thompson, Board Secretary


Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, Board Chair