

MINUTES

On June 12th, 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	7	7
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	6	5
Mr. Robert Altman	NO	52	48
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	YES	41	42
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	6	6
Mr. Thomas Riney	NO	6	5
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	6	6
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	24	23
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	NO	13	9
Mr. Josh Craft	NO	9	6
Mr. Hobert Brown	YES	6	5

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JAMES STOW	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
SARA BARTEL	MARKETING COORDINATOR
MEGAN SMITH	OFFICE MANAGER
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
LANDON MILLER	WARFORD SUPERVISOR
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
BROOKE FARRELL	RECREATION AND AQUATICS ADMINISTRATIVE
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 01:02 p.m.

ITEM 2 Public Comments
No comments were made.

ITEM 3 Discuss and Consider Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. Shelby Massey, said motion seconded by Mr. Hobert Brown, voting aye were 7 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from May 8th, 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) Administration: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board of the creation of dashboards to track operations of Aquatics, Park Maintenance, Tennis Center, Warford, and Amarillo Zoo. This dashboard showcases total revenue, daily trends on concession items, and attendance. There are plans to create a dashboard to track Golf Operations metrics.

 2) Aquatics: Mr. Michael Kashuba notified the board that Southwest Pool will be closed for the July 5th event, leaving Southeast and Thompson Pool open. Pool admissions are doing well. Swimming lessons have made \$10,000. Pool parties are selling out with only a few available dates left, with 104 total parties between all pools. Staff is looking at potentially adding extra dates for pool parties. Mr. Kashuba informed the board that staff is looking at the possibility of keeping Thompson Pool open on the weekends through Labor Day if there is staff available. Mr. Kashuba shares an update on the inflatable for Southwest Pool. Staff is working with the Purchasing Department to get it ordered.

 3) Amarillo Zoo Mr. Michael Kashuba updated the board of the new sloth on exhibit and the new kangaroo. There is a positive trend in attendance from previous years, with March almost double what it has been in previous years. Mr. Kashuba informed the board of volunteers that have planted a garden at the zoo for produce to be used for the animals.

12) Warford Activity Center: Mr. Michael Kashuba discussed various updates and improvements made at Warford, including the completion of a mural project in the lobby, the replacement of gym lights with new LED lights, and the purchase of new gym equipment for the cardio and weight room. Mr. Landon Miller reports that there has been an increase in memberships at Warford due to the closures of other pools, leading to more lap swimming opportunities at Warford. Water aerobics classes have become popular at Warford, with about 40 people attending the morning class daily and 15 people participating in the Tuesday-Thursday evening class.

- B) July 5th Update: Mr. Kashuba updates the board on details of the upcoming Independence Day +1 event. Shuttles from parking lots to JSM will start running at 4:00 P.M. The event will feature a beer garden, a kid's zone with activities like mini golf and face painting, as well as a performance by Randall King and a drone show followed by a fireworks display. KGNC will be live broadcasting the music during the event. The collaboration with Outdoor Amarillo is highlighted. Additional sponsors are also being sought out for the event.
- C) Budget Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board that the department has met with city management to propose the new budget. The final numbers of the budget are still pending. Mr. Kashuba told the board that there will be future discussions with the board about potential fee increases for facilities like the tennis center and the zoo based off of previous recommendations.
- D) No Mow Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba described feedback received regarding the No Mow areas at Rick Klein North. The area was seeded with wildflowers with the intention of letting them grow naturally. However, during the transition process, large weeds emerged, causing some people to mistakenly believe that the area wasn't being properly maintained. Efforts have been made to address the issue, including knocking down some of the weeds to create a more natural appearance. To address the concerns raised and provide clarity to the community, signs that will explain the purpose of the No Mow area will be put up.

ITEM 5 Discuss Items for Future Agendas:

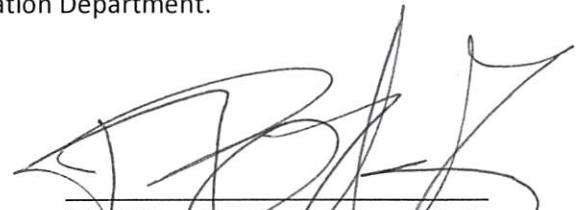
- Event Fees
- Special Event Policy
- 9th Street Trails Signage

ITEM 6 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 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

- 4) Athletics: Mr. James Stow informed the board that Summer Softball and Volleyball are open for registration. There will be a Volleyball Tournament on June 22nd, 2024, and a Softball Tournament July 13th-14th. Mr. Stow updated the board that staff is focusing on field maintenance between seasons.
- 5) Beautification and Public Arts: Ms. Cindy Perez provided the board with an update on the Sustainability Week Clean Up that took place on June 8th, 2024, at Martin Road Park. Coca Cola Southwest pledged to donate \$100 to Keep Amarillo Beautiful affiliate for supplies for every employee volunteer. Twenty employees volunteered, with some of their families volunteering as well, bringing the total of volunteers to thirty-four. Forty bags of trash were collected. Ms. Perez informs the board that Blue Crane Bakery and Cactus Cove have completed their murals and the Habitat for Humanity mural is underway. Mr. Kashuba noted that Warford Activity Center has completed a mural in the atrium area and is transitioning to work on the gym. The mural artist is an employee of the Parks Department.
- 6) Capital Projects: Mr. James Stow gives the board an update on ongoing Capital Projects. Construction at 9th Street Trails is in progress. Installation of the fencing at the John Stiff Memorial soccer fields will be starting soon. The installation for the fencing at the dog park at JSM is in progress. Park Maintenance is working on digging the drains to begin the installation of the dog fountains. Fencing at Thompson Park where the old Thompson Pool was located will begin. Mr. Stow noted that the lighting at Sam Houston Park has been completed. Mr. Kashuba notes that cameras at JSM have been installed, with the tennis center camera expected to be installed July. Staff is working with the IT department on additional cameras. Mr. Kashuba let the board know that upcoming capital projects will be focused on public safety such as lighting, gates, cameras, and concrete work.
- 7) Golf Operations: Mr. George Priolo reported to the board that Golf Operations has seen an increase in the number of rounds played and revenues generated compared to the previous year, with \$2.5 million in revenue so far for 2024. Mr. Priolo states that the golf courses are currently in the midst of tournament season, hosting charity events and major competitions. The Superintendent at Comanche Trails retired in February and a new Superintendent is currently being onboarded. Mr. Priolo informed the board about concerns regarding the impact of happy hour pricing on weekends, such as damage to golf carts and other issues. As a solution, a proposal has been put forth to limit happy hour to Mondays through Thursdays. The proposed changes to happy hour pricing have been submitted to city management for review.
- 8) Park Maintenance: Mr. James Stow gives the board an update on Park Maintenance operations, focusing on contract renewal and terms for the regional parks, school parks, and community parks. Mr. Stow states that there have been ongoing issues with irrigation. The Athletics Staff have focused on getting fields ready. Mr. Michael Kashuba tells the board that wheel stops have been ordered to discourage donuts in parking lots. Additionally, City Council approved swapping out trash receptacles for heavy duty ones. Two new positions have been added to Park Maintenance to address staffing shortages and improve operational efficiency.
- 9) Recreation and Special Events: Mr. Michael Kashuba reports that staffing is full with 23 members. Staff completed training at the end of May. Training included collaboration with police, cash handling, special events, leadership, and diversity and inclusion to support the community. Mr. Kashuba informed the board that Warford Summer Camp is hosting about 45 kids daily. The Amarillo Afternoon Adventures Club, a free summer camp at Glenwood and Memorial for kids aged 5-14 has had good turnout with 67 registered at Memorial and 45 registered at Glenwood. Mr. Kashuba reports that the Hooked-on Fishing Camp had 30 participants at the Veterans Camp and 30 participants at the Kids Camp. Starlight Theater had 473 in attendance with two food trucks.
- 10) Senior Services: Mr. Michael Kashuba reported that Senior Services hosted a Repair Café at Warford Activity Center where attendees brought in various items to be fixed by volunteers. With 10 volunteers and 42 people attending. In addition to the Repair Café's success, it was announced that Jeff Whitsell is leaving Parks and Recreation Staff to work for United Way.
- 11) Tennis Operations: The board received an update on Tennis Operations. The Tennis Center has received positive feedback about a recent pickleball tournament. Summer camps with half-day and full-day options are being offered at the Tennis Center. The importance of having a dedicated manager of the Tennis Center is highlighted as a key factor in the positive feedback received from the community. There are ongoing conversations with the Alex O'Brien foundation to potentially enhance the facility by introducing a new court for the emerging sport Padel.