

MINUTES

On April 10th, 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	5	5
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	4	3
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	50	47
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	YES	42	40
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	4	4
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	4	4
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	4	4
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	22	22
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	YES	11	9
Mr. Josh Craft	NO	7	5
Mr. Hobert Brown	NO	4	3

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BECKI DRYER	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JAMES STOW	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
MEGAN SMITH	OFFICE MANAGER
KELSEY SARGENT	RECREATION SUPERVISOR
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 01:00 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 Ms. Skylar Gallop, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from March 13th, 2024.
- ITEM 4A

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

1) Department Updates: Mr. Michael Kashuba updated the board about several items being approved by City Council. Standards of Care was approved after two public hearings. A master plan for a 28-acre property in Eastridge was approved. The plan involves community collaboration to address long-term needs and seek funding opportunities. Additionally, a landscape maintenance contract was renewed with expanded services and a cost savings of approximately \$100,000 annually. Discussions also took place regarding park sponsorships and waivers for events, with staff tasked to develop internal processes. Plans to address fencing for soccer fields are underway due to bid complications. In departmental news, the zoo welcomed two new Longhorn steers last week.

2) Staffing Updates: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board that the zoo faced a significant challenge as approximately half of its staff departed recently, leading to operational difficulties. However, efforts to fill these vacancies have been swift, with all positions expected to be filled within a couple of weeks. A comprehensive overview of park maintenance operations was provided, highlighting a marked improvement in work order completion times. The department has successfully reduced the average time to complete work orders from twenty-three days in February to just under three days in April. This enhanced efficiency allows for better resource allocation and strategic planning within the department. Furthermore, the adoption of a net promoter score metric for evaluating departmental performance was discussed. This metric provides valuable insights into customer satisfaction, with a current score of 70.6 out of 100 indicating a strong positive sentiment towards the department's services. This feedback mechanism enables targeted improvements based on community input. Various divisions within the department

reported on recent activities and initiatives. In aquatics, preparations are underway for the summer season, with pool party reservations already being accepted. Recreation events, including flashlight egg hunts and breakfast with the bunny, were well-attended, fostering community engagement. Senior services saw continued growth, with notable increases in participation and positive feedback from attendees. Community gardening efforts, such as the Yellow City Green Thumbs program, have been successful in promoting sustainable practices and fostering green spaces within the city. Marketing efforts, including the upcoming park guide and engaging social media content, aim to further enhance community awareness and participation in departmental programs and events. Updates on capital projects and staffing efforts were also provided. Noteworthy projects include playground repairs, irrigation system upgrades, and facility improvements across various parks and recreation facilities. Plans for seasonal hiring events were outlined, with efforts focused on ensuring adequate staffing levels for the upcoming summer season.

- 3) 5th of July Event at JSM: Ms. Becki Dryer gave the board an update regarding the July 5th event that has been named "Independence Day plus one". The event will feature a concert with an opener and headliner, food trucks, a kid's area, fireworks, and a drone show. Funding for the event was approved by the council, with \$50,000 allocated from last year's salary savings and an additional \$50,000 approved. Partnerships with Outdoor Amarillo and Alpha Media were highlighted, with Outdoor Amarillo assisting with sponsorships, concert staging, audiovisual, and the beer garden, while Alpha Media will promote the event and broadcast the playlist drone shows. Some details are still being finalized, and further updates are expected at the next meeting.
- 4) Southwest Pool Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba tells the board that the City Manager has advised to proceed with opening Southwest unless instructed otherwise.
- 5) Medi Park Repairs: Mr. Michael Kashuba updates the board on the repairs being conducted at Medi Park. Workers were installing new light poles when concrete panels collapsed due to erosion. The contractors promptly resolved the problem by compacting the soil, adding pole fill, and pouring fresh concrete. Mr. Kashuba also talks about the continued work happening at Medi Park, such as updating lighting, removing trees, and trimming. More information on these activities will be given as they move forward.
- 6) Thompson Pool Demo: Mr. Michael Kashuba discusses the ongoing demolition of Thompson Pool with board members, noting the rapid progress with almost the entire pool structure removed within a couple of weeks. The contractor encountered unexpected challenges due to multiple layers of pool shells, resulting in the removal of significant amounts of concrete and steel. Plans are to restore the area with turf and secure the perimeter, considering its importance for picnics and school trips. Additionally, the removal of certain roads within Thompson Park aims to improve circulation and enforcement, with potential future security measures such as gates and cameras. Once the demolition is complete, staff access will be prioritized, and the area will undergo further restoration, paving the way for potential improvements.
- 7) 9th Street Trail Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba details progress on the 9th Street Trails project, which is currently awaiting the signing of bonds before construction can commence, following council approval. The parking lot's location relative to 9th Street is explained, with plans to extend Wallace and align road lanes accordingly. The discussion touches on the timeline for bond signing and issuing the notice to proceed, indicating potential completion by the week's end. Challenges related to archaeological digs and approvals are mentioned, spanning a three-year period. Further discussions involve trail management, including measures to deter motorized vehicles and potential cooperation with a nearby doctor's office for additional parking. Multi-use trail policies, including restrictions on motorized vehicles, are clarified, with a focus on maintaining trail integrity.
- 8) Lighting and Camera Installation Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba discusses recent developments in lighting and surveillance at multiple locations. Four large overhead lights were installed at San Jacinto Park, operational from dusk to dawn, enhancing safety and visibility for law enforcement patrols. Conversations revolve around the need for signage to reinforce appropriate park usage despite increased lighting. Updates on lighting installations at Sam Houston Park and Medi Park North Lake are provided, along with ongoing concrete repairs to address trip hazards. Additionally, two surveillance cameras at John Stiff Park have proven effective in aiding law enforcement, with plans for further camera installations to enhance security. Discussions also touch on the potential cost and efficacy of alternative surveillance options to address safety concerns.
- 9) Bid Updates: Mr. James Stow tells the board that the restroom cleaning bid is the only active one which is set to close Friday, April 12th, 2024. All other bids are either closed or nearing completion.
- 10) Autonomous Mowers: Mr. James Stow discusses the implementation of autonomous mowers in a fenced area. These mowers, once programmed, will operate 24/7, charging as needed. Security measures include GPS tracking and alarms if tampered with. The mowers will be housed in "dog houses" to conceal them during the day. Cost comparisons

and maintenance details are also provided. The goal is to increase efficiency and reduce manual labor. Future plans involve expanding the use of these mowers to other locations.

ITEM 5 Discuss Items for Future Agendas:

ITEM 6 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 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. Samantha Thompson, Board Secretary



Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, Board Chair

Mr. Robert Altman, Board Vice Chair