

MINUTES

On August 14th, 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	8	8
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	7	6
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	53	49
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	YES	42	43
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	7	7
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	7	6
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	7	7
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	25	24
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	YES	14	10
Mr. Josh Craft	NO	10	6
Mr. Hobert Brown	YES	7	6

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JAMES STOW	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BECKI DRYER	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
SARA BARTEL	MARKETING COORDINATOR
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
DEACON CEASER	ATHLETICS SUPERVISOR
KELSEY SARGENT	RECREATION SUPERVISOR
NIARA TORRES	PROGRAM ATTENDANT
SAMANTHA THOMPSON	RECORDING SECRETARY

- ITEM 1

Call to Order

Vice Chairman, Mr. Robert Altman, 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. Ronny Head, said motion seconded by Mr. Ronnie Walker, voting aye were 10 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from June 12th, 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) Beautification and Public Arts: Ms. Becki Dryer gave a staff spotlight to Ms. Niara Torres. Ms. Torres was hired as a Program Attendant for the summer. Ms. Torres previously interned for Blank Spaces and was able to paint murals at Warford Activity Center and Southeast Pool.

2) Administration: Mr. James Stow introduced the new Athletics Supervisor to the board, Mr. Deacon Caesar. Mr. Caesar has over 20 years of experience and previously held the same role in Houston, Texas.

3) Amarillo Zoo: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board that attendance numbers are up and plans to present a more in-depth summer recap at the next board meeting. Mr. Kashuba let the board know that there was damage at the Kangaroo enclosure from a storm. Repairs of the area are being made.

4) Athletics: Mr. James Stow gave the board an update on summer leagues, with softball and volleyball coming to an end. Mr. Stow informed the board that registration is currently open for the Bombfest Softball Tournament. Additionally, registration for fall volleyball and softball is open. Mr. Stow stated that youth sports is gearing back up to include, softball, football, and soccer.

5) Aquatics: Mr. Michael Kashuba gave the board some preliminary numbers for the summer season, emphasizing that number aren't final until Thompson Pool closes

on September 3rd. Approximately, \$300,000 was earned from concessions and admissions, \$40,000 from pool parties, and \$14,000 from swimming lessons and special events. Showcasing the Aquatics Dashboards, Mr. Kashuba, talked about the numbers in June being strong, but falling off in July. Mr. Kashuba noted that the pool at Warford Activity Center gets approximately 2,700 users per month, with 32,000 swimmers per year. Mrs. Kashuba gave the board estimates for replastering Southeast and Southwest Pool at about \$400,000 each.

- 6) Capital Projects: Mr. James Stow informed the board that the lighting projects at San Jacinto Park, Medi Park, and Sam Houston Park have all been completed. He noted that concrete repairs have been taking place throughout the parks. Mr. Stow showed the board some photos of the progress of the 9th Street Trail parking lot, estimating it will be completed around Labor Day. Additional projects Mr. Stow spoke about included JSM Fence installation, JSM Dog Park, Mary Hazelrigg shelter repairs, and Southeast Pool bathroom renovations. Mr. Stow spoke with the board about purchases made including a Mini Skid, Football Goal Posts, and portable scoreboards.
 - 7) Golf Operations: Mr. George Priolo provided the board with an update, highlighting the busy schedule surrounding the partnership with Coors for the Coors Tournament of Champions. The Tournament takes place over several local courses including Ross Rogers Golf Course, Comanche Trail Golf Course, Amarillo Country Club, and Tascosa Golf Club. Mr. Priolo noted a decline in rounds played in July and attributed to factors such as heat and tournaments scheduling. Mr. Priolo mentioned ongoing issues with irrigation and pump station. Mr. Priolo stated that the new greenskeeper of Comanche Trail has received positive feedback from players.
 - 8) Park Maintenance: Mr. James Stow informed the board that Park Maintenance has been focused on irrigation repairs, seeding and fertilizing fields, installing goal posts, and tree trimming.
 - 9) Recreation and Special Events: Ms. Becki Dryer informed the board that the Summer Break Camp was a success, with approximately 45 children attending weekly. The Starlight Theater summer concert series was a hit averaging 400 attendees per week and approximately 950 at the final concert. Other notable events included Harry Potter's Birthday Celebration at Westover Park, Outdoor Sports camps, and Community Pop-Up Parties. Ms. Dryer let the board know that a recent backpack and fishing pole giveaway was a success, giving away over 200 backpacks with overwhelming positive response from the community. It was noted that Colonel Michael Lowery donated the fishing poles and has facilitated the donation of fishing poles in the Amarillo area over the last few years.
 - 10) Senior Services: Ms. Becki Dryer informed the board that Jeff Whitesell, Senior Services Coordinator, had resigned. Interviews for the position have been held and an outgoing offer will be made soon.
 - 11) Tennis Operations: Mr. James Stow noted that the Tennis Center hosted a summer camp, with 97 attendees. The Junior program will begin on August 28th. Mr. Stow informed the board that Pickleball League registration is currently open. Mr. Stow let the board know that Peggy Harris, a longtime employee of the Tennis Center and the Parks & Recreation Department had passed away. She will be missed.
 - 12) Warford Activity Center: Ms. Becki Dryer informed the board that Warford Activity Center has been busy throughout the summer with the Summer Break Camp being held there. Ms. Dryer stated that new lights have been installed in the gym and noted the three new murals. New basketball backboards will be installed soon. Warford is averaging 10,000 users per month, with 25 rentals per month, and 2000 membership scans per month.
- B) July 5th Event Review: Mr. Michael Kashuba presented a video featuring Ms. Becki Dryer discussing the Independence Day +1 Event, which attracted an audience of approximately 10,000 to 15,000 people. The event included a range of entertainment options such as a concert, a drone show, fireworks, food trucks, a beer garden, and activities for children. Partnerships with various city departments and sponsors were credited for the event's success. For the upcoming year, there is a proposed budget increase of \$125,000 to enhance the event. Some challenges identified from this year's event included a shortage of restrooms and food trucks. To address these issues, there is an aim to secure more food vendors and restroom facilities for the next Independence Day +1 celebration.
- C) 9th Street Trail Signage: Ms. Tiffany Podzemny discussed trail signage at the 9th Street Trails, emphasizing the need for directional signage to make the trail safer. Ms. Podzemny noted that instances of jumpers creating dangerous jump lines over existing trails. Suggestions included establishing designated riding days such as "Wrong Way

Wednesday” to better manage the space. The board also discussed whether horse riders have the right to use the trails. It was pointed out that horses may damage the trails and cause safety issues for bike riders. Further research is needed to determine whether trail signage can include horse exclusion.

- D) Budget Update: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board that meetings with council have taken place to discuss the upcoming fiscal years budget. The budget should be finalized in the upcoming weeks.

ITEM 5 Present and Discuss Capital Projects for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year

Mr. Michael Kashuba presented to the board a variety of project proposals that are being discussed with City Council. These projects include Bones Hooks lighting, the installation of the Mary Hazelrigg gate, and necessary concrete repairs. The discussions highlighted the decision between pursuing several smaller projects or focusing on a larger initiative like John Stiff Lighting. Mr. Kashuba mentioned the necessity to allocate ARPA funds, which are linked to neighborhood associations and could involve potential partnerships. He also noted an energy efficiency grant that could potentially cover costs of two lighting projects, and the O’Brien Foundation’s interest in co-funding the development of Padel Courts at the Amarillo National Tennis Center. Furthermore, the Amarillo Zoo was identified as another potential project for consideration.

ITEM 6 Discuss Items for Future Agendas:

ITEM 7 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 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

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Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, Board Chair

Mr. Robert Altman, Board Vice Chair