

MINUTES

On January 15th, 2025 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	13	12
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	11	12
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	58	54
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	NO	46	48
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	12	11
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	12	11
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	12	12
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	30	29
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	YES	19	12
Mr. Alan Cox	YES	1	1
Vacant Position			

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
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
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 12:59 p.m.
- ITEM 2

Public Comments

No comments were made.
- ITEM 3

Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Ronnie Walker, said motion seconded by Mr. Rodney Hill, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from December 11th, 2024.
- ITEM 4

Resolution – Public Hearing

The following people spoke during the Public Hearing to consider the renaming of a park, open space, or city facility in honor of Mr. John Ward:

Donna Ward, of Amarillo

Citizen

Ryan Hodge, of Amarillo

Citizen

This item conducts a public hearing and considers the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of Amarillo Texas for the proposal to rename a park, open space, or city facility in honor of Mr. John Ward. The two proposed locations were Comanche Trail Golf Course and Medical Center Park.

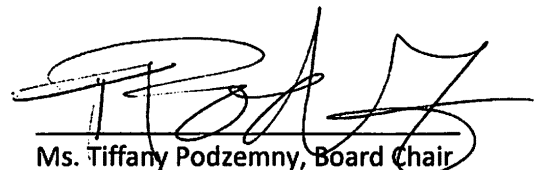
Mrs. Donna Ward expressed her appreciation for the idea of naming a park, open space, or city facility after her late husband, acknowledging his long service and dedication to the city. She highlighted his love for golf, making a golf course a fitting tribute. Additionally, she emphasized his passion for helping others and creating comforting spaces for families in need. She specifically mentioned Medical Center Park as a meaningful option, sharing how it provided her personal comfort during her husband's four-month hospital stay. She found peace there and enjoyed seeing others use the space for walking, fishing, and relaxation. Ultimately, she felt that either a golf course or Medical Center Park would be a perfect way to honor his memory.

Following public comment, the board discussed which location would be recommended to Amarillo City Council. Mr. Ronny Head moved to recommend renaming Medical Center Park to John Ward Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Altman. The motion passed unanimously, with 9 votes in favor and none opposed.

- ITEM 5** The Parks and Recreation Board will Discuss or Receive Reports on the Following Current Matters or Projects:
- A) Standards of Care: Ms. Becki Dryer presented an overview of the Standards of Care governing the youth camps and programs operated by the Parks & Recreation Department to the board members. Since Parks & Recreation programs and camps are exempt from the Childcare Licensing requirement by the State of Texas, it is advised that the organization adopt Standards of Care to guide operations. These standards encompass guidelines for program effectiveness, appropriate child-to-worker ratios, safety inspections, and procedures. Discussed modifications included clarifying the language regarding the criminal background check and enrollment information.
- ITEM 6** Present, Discuss, and Consider Action on the Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:
Board members will consider nominations for two existing Parks and Recreation Board members to serve a one (1) year term as Chairman and Vice Chairman.
 Mr. Ronny Head made a motion to reappoint Ms. Tiffany Podzemny and Mr. Robert Altman as Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Howard Smith seconded the motion. Voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve said motion.
- ITEM 7** Present, Discuss, and Consider Appointment of Board Members to the 'Strategic Planning' Sub-Committee:
This item is to consider the appointment/re-appointment of members to the 'Strategic Planning' subcommittee that will research and provide input on strategic planning. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to asset management, park master plan, park development, and various types of agreements.
 Ms. Skylar Gallop made a motion to reappoint Mr. Shelby Massey, Mr. Howard Smith, Mr. Thomas Riney, Mr. Ronny Head, and Mr. Rodney Hill to the 'Strategic Planning' Sub-Committee. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Shelby Massey, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve said motion.
- ITEM 8** Present, Discuss, and Consider Appointment of Board Members to the 'Outreach' Sub-Committee:
This item is to consider the appointment/re-appointment of members to the 'Outreach' subcommittee that will research and provide input on department outreach. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to community engagement, community sponsorships and other possible financial partnerships.
 Mr. Shelby Massey made a motion to reappoint Mr. Robert Altman, Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, Ms. Skylar Gallop with the addition of Mr. Alan Cox to the sub-committee. Mr. Ronny Head seconded the motion, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approve said motion.
- ITEM 9** Present and Discuss Park Board Meetings:
This item is to discuss Park Board Meetings. Discussion may include but is not limited to location, frequency, days of the week.
 All members of the board agreed to change the time of meetings, to meet every second Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation office.
- ITEM 10** Discuss Items for Future Agendas:
- Mountain Bike Trails Update (Six Pack Outdoors)
 - Naming Considerations for 9th Street Trails
 - Discuss Recommending Council Member to Parks Board
- ITEM 11** Adjournment
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 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