

MINUTES

On June 11th, 2025 the Parks and Recreation Board met at 01:30 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	NO	16	15
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	16	14
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	62	57
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	YES	52	49
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	16	15
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	16	15
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	16	16
Mr. Shelby Massey	NO	33	31
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	NO	22	14
Mr. Alan Cox	YES	5	4
Mr. Jeremy Pekar	NO	3	2

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 |
| BERKELEY HILLIARD | ZOO CURATOR |
| SARA BARTEL | MARKETING COORDINATOR |
| ASHLEY GUERRERO | RECORDING SECRETARY |
| MEGAN SMITH | OFFICE MANAGER |

- 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 1:33p.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. Alan Cox, voting aye were 7 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from May 14th, 2025.
- ITEM 4A** The Parks and Recreation Board will Discuss or Receive Reports on the Following Current Matters or Projects:
1. Administration: Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the Board that the City Council has approved a resolution introduced by the City Manager regarding departmental reorganization. As part of this restructuring, the Parks & Recreation Department has been moved from the Community Services Division to the Infrastructure Division. The department will now report directly to Donnie Hooper.
 2. Amarillo Zoo: Ms. Berkeley Hilliard provided the Board with an update on recent activities at the Amarillo Zoo. She reported that zoo revenue increased by approximately \$20,000 over the previous month, reaching a total of around \$52,000 in May. Ms. Hilliard also highlighted the success of the *Dream Night* event, a special after-hours experience hosted for children with special needs. The event welcomed over 300 attendees and received highly positive feedback from participants and families. In addition, the zoo is currently offering alternating weekly summer programs. During off-camp weeks, the *Family Fun Series* is held, featuring a variety of engaging activities such as tortoise encounters, craft sessions, and "Meet the Keeper" experiences designed to enhance guest interaction and education.
 3. Beautification and Public Arts: Two murals have been completed and are now entering the reimbursement phase. The first mural, created by artist Raela Ornelas, is a vibrant, block party-themed piece installed at La Frontera Restaurant. The second consists of a series of three murals by Blank Spaces, each highlighting the diverse identities of the women served by the Haven Health Clinic. Additionally, Mr. Michael Kashuba and Ms. Cindy Perez are collaborating with the City's welding program to fabricate a 400-pound structure intended to showcase rotating plexiglass art displays, including stained glass, blown glass, and photography. The initial installation is planned for

Sam Houston Park, with a long-term goal to expand this dynamic, revolving public art experience to multiple locations throughout the city.

4. **Athletics:** Mr. James Stow informed the Board that the spring sports season is approaching completion, with only the Thursday night softball playoffs and Monday night volleyball playoffs remaining. Registration is currently open for the upcoming summer season, which will feature a condensed eight-game schedule starting July 7 for softball and July 14 for volleyball. To address the summer heat, the annual Hot as a Firecracker tournament is scheduled for the weekend of July 12–13 and will be conducted as an all-night event. Furthermore, the much-anticipated state tournament weekend will host approximately 140 teams from across West Texas. Games will be held at multiple sports complexes in Amarillo, as well as at the Canyon facility.
5. **Aquatics:** Ms. Becki Dryer provided an update on the status of the three city pools following their opening over the Memorial Day weekend. The pools experienced a strong turnout, with ticket sales totaling 654 at Thompson Pool, 295 at Southeast Pool, and 153 at Southwest Pool. Cooler weather led to 5.5 days of closures due to the temperatures falling below 75 degrees. The Southwest Pool experienced a motor issue during this period, which was promptly repaired by maintenance. To date, 125 pool parties have been booked, and an additional swim lesson session was added due to high demand. Total revenue since opening is \$72,000, with \$49,000 from Thompson, \$16,000 from Southeast, and \$7,000 from Southwest.
6. **Capital Projects:** Mr. James Stow reported progress on several city projects. Padel court pads at the Tennis Center are complete, with remaining work expected by month-end. Thompson Park playground equipment arrives late June, though completion may be delayed to August or September due to a custom concrete elephant. John Ward Park’s pour-in-place surface is done, and turf installation is underway. Pleasant Valley is replacing damaged equipment, with a new playground arriving this week and installation next week. Four golf course pump stations are approved, with fall/winter installation planned. Parking lot upgrades at John Stiff Park are approved, and a lighting amendment will be presented to city council in early July.
7. **Golf Operations:** Mr. George Priolo reported a strong finish for May, with course usage increasing by 850 rounds and exceeding the previous year by over 2,100 rounds. May revenue totaled \$770,000, representing a \$100,000 increase for the month and a \$229,000 increase year-to-date. Year-to-date revenue across all golf operations is nearing \$2.7 million. Additionally, Comanche Golf Course recently hosted the local qualifier for the Drive, Chip & Putt competition, and the Asco ABC7 Tall Tower event is scheduled to begin soon.
8. **Park Maintenance:** Mr. James Stow reported that robotic mowers are performing well overall but have required supplemental mowing during the peak growing season due to increased turf density from fertilization and overseeding. These enhanced maintenance practices have resulted in noticeable improvements in turf quality across athletic complexes. With turf conditions now stabilized, the focus is shifting to infield renovation projects aimed at addressing drainage and material deficiencies. A new contractor payment system has been implemented to enhance accountability by tracking specific tasks such as mowing, chemical applications, and fertilization. Furthermore, seed distribution is planned as part of upcoming field renovations at various locations.
9. **Recreation and Special Events:** The new babysitting training program, including CPR certification, has been successfully launched. The day camp at Warford is operating at full capacity, serving 60 to 75 children daily, with waitlists for the remainder of the summer. The recent Battle of the Bites food truck event attracted 4,800 voters, with Soda Jerks, Antojos, and Kings and Queens Fries receiving top honors. Starlight Theater concerts continue to draw strong attendance, featuring the Solano Project with 547 attendees and Velvet Funk with a record-breaking crowd of 1,400. The upcoming July 5th Independence Day celebration will feature performances by Cameron James Smith, Pinata Protest, and Cooder Graw, along with fireworks, a drone show, food trucks, and carnival rides.
10. **Senior Services:** Ms. Becki Dryer informed the board that Kari recently presented at an Older Americans Month event organized by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission and the Area Agency on Aging. This past weekend, a Veterans and Seniors Hooked on Fishing event was successfully held, with 65 veterans participating. Many seniors shared stories of not having fished in decades, while one first-time participant proudly caught her first fish. Supported by partner Boom Adventures, the event included a cookout and the donation of fishing poles, enabling many attendees to take home their own fishing gear.
11. **Tennis Operations:** Mr. James Stow reported that since the last meeting, the Get Out and Play Day drew 150 participants, and the Memorial Day tournament hosted nearly 200 middle and high school players. The recent IPOW pickleball tournament attracted 199 participants despite weather

challenges. Regular leagues and summer camps are ongoing. Recent facility upgrades, including resurfaced courts, new lighting, indoor fans, and updated flooring have significantly enhanced the center and received positive community feedback.

12. Warford Activity Center: Ms. Becki Dryer reported that the facility is operating at full capacity, with both day camp and regular programming contributing to high activity levels. Recent improvements include the completion of the gym floor resurfacing and a new mural by artist Niara Torres, currently halfway finished at the Warford pool. A planned safety enhancement project will involve installing double doors in the cardio weight room to improve front desk visibility and support enforcement of age restrictions.

ITEM 5 Present, Discuss, and Consider Fee Changes for FY25-26 Budget Year:

Mr. George Priolo introduced A \$1 increase on green fees and a \$5 monthly increase for pass holders have been implemented to support ongoing course improvements. The mini pass has been restructured from 20 rounds to 18 rounds at the same price. Additionally, a new 9-round golf pass priced at \$250 has been introduced to offer a more affordable entry point compared to the \$460 full pass.

Ms. Becki Dryer proposed pool pass options to consolidate into a single pass that provides access to all three pools, priced at \$125 for individuals and \$350 for families of four, replacing the previous location-specific passes. Additionally, private pool party rental fees for two hours at the Southeast and Southwest pools have increased from \$200 to \$300 to help achieve break-even operations.

The tennis center fees previously approved by board need inclusion in fee ordinance. Overall, a motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman, said motion seconded by Mr. Ronny Head, voting aye were 7 members, voting no were none, carried to approve fee changes.

ITEM 6 Present, Discuss and Consider Project Ideas for Paramount Park:

Set for next agenda

ITEM 7 Present, Discuss, and Consider a Recommendation Regarding Appointment of Members to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Mr. Michael Kashuba recommended adding a City Council member to the Parks & Recreation Board to enhance communication, representation, and advocacy for parks and recreation initiatives. The proposed change aims to ensure that the board's discussions, challenges, and priorities are effectively communicated to the City Council. A motion to approve the addition of a council member was made by Mr. Thomas Riney and seconded by Mr. Rodney Hill. The motion carried unanimously, with 7 members voting in favor and none opposed.

ITEM 8 Discuss Items for Future Agendas:

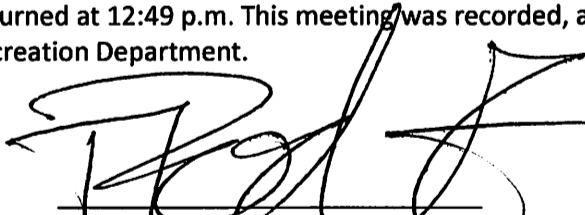
- Present, Discuss and Consider Project Ideas for Paramount Park
- Discuss No-Mow habitat areas
- Aquatic feasibility study

ITEM 9 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:


Ms. Ashley Guerrero, Board Secretary


Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, Board Chair

Ms. Ashley Guerrero, Board Secretary

Mr. Robert Altman, Board Vice Chair