

MINUTES

On August 13th, 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	YES	18	17
Mr. Ronnie Walker	NO	18	15
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	64	59
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	NO	54	50
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	18	16
Mr. Thomas Riney	NO	18	16
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	18	18
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	35	33
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	NO	24	15
Mr. Alan Cox	NO	7	5
Mr. Jeremy Pekar	YES	5	4

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
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION/ARTS
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
ASHLEY GUERRERO	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 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. Howard Smith, voting aye were 7 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from July 9th, 2025.

ITEM 4A

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

- Administration:** Mr. Michael Kashuba recapped the Independence Day +1 event, noting a rise in sponsorship revenue from \$26,000 to \$59,000 and confirmed attendance of approximately 27,800 (based on a Place AI report), far exceeding expectations. Food truck sales topped \$100,000 across 26 vendors, while shuttles provided over 1,100 passenger trips with positive feedback. The beer garden sold 1,400 beers, while Outdoor Amarillo brought in \$3,000 in merchandise sales. Additionally, 32 teams competed in the event's inaugural cornhole tournament. Following the event's success, the council unanimously decided that future celebrations will take place on July 4th instead of July 5th. The Parks Department now aim to host four major community events annually, with *Pirates of the Park* scheduled for October 25th, featuring 25 hot air balloons and trick-or-treating, and drawing an expected 5,000–10,000 attendees. Winter and spring events are also in development.
- Amarillo Zoo:** Ms. Berkeley Hillard informed the board that Boo at the Zoo will kick off with a variety of food trucks on the first night, while plans for food trucks on the

second night are still underway. Kids Night Out is scheduled for Saturday, offering children a fun evening of pizza and a movie until around 8 PM. The Animal and Environmental Education Preschool (AEPP) program is set to begin in September, welcoming preschoolers for nature-based learning. A Minecraft Celebration Day is in the works ahead of Boo at the Zoo, with attendance expected to match the strong turnout seen during Pokémon Day. Although summer camp attendance dropped to a total of 29 campers—typically ranging between 7 and 20 per camp—the program still brought in strong revenue.

3. **Beautification and Public Arts:** Mrs. Cindy Perez reported that the art pad project is nearing completion. The structure stands 10 feet tall, weighs approximately 1,000 pounds, and features vandal-resistant elements such as sliding plexiglass panels and a solar-powered lighting system for nighttime visibility. Artists are currently developing concepts for the display, which will be showcased at the Hoodoo Mural Festival alongside a second, similar art pad. Informational handouts will be available to explain the concept and location of the installation.

Mr. Michael Kashuba provided an update on the No-Mow Area initiative at Rick Klein North, a program aimed at promoting natural areas while reducing city maintenance costs. Wildflowers will be planted this winter to bloom in the spring, and educational signage will be added to inform the public. The potential expansion of this program to John Stiff Park, John Ward Park, and Thompson Park is currently under consideration. Additionally, the Board addressed a concern raised in recent months by a resident regarding an increase in wildlife sightings, particularly snakes, at Rick Klein Park. After discussion, the Board reached a consensus to maintain its support for the preservation of natural areas and to proceed with the program as planned.

4. **Athletics:** Mr. James Stow provided a brief update on athletics, reporting the successful completion of the Hot as a Firecracker tournament despite weather-related challenges. Preparations are underway for the Bomb Fest tournament scheduled for September. Multiple user groups, including TTYSL, ASA Soccer, and Kids Inc., will begin their fall programming in September. Fall sports registration for volleyball and softball is now open, while summer leagues are currently concluding their playoffs.
5. **Aquatics:** Ms. Becki Dryer presented a summary of the summer aquatics season, reporting that the Southeast and Southwest pools closed for the season on Sunday, while Thompson Pool will remain open on weekends through Labor Day. Thompson Pool generated the highest revenue share at 67% (\$225,000), followed by Southeast at 18.5% (\$62,000) and Southwest at 14% (\$50,000). A total of 149 pool parties were hosted this summer, with 68 at Thompson, 42 at Southeast, and 39 at Southwest. Additional revenue included \$15,000 from pre-sale tickets and \$13,000 from swim lessons. Adult swim lessons sold out within two days, indicating strong community demand. In July, 70 children participated in swim lessons, and two Intro to Kayaking programs were conducted, with four participants in the first session and seven in the second. Thompson Pool also hosted a themed Shark Day featuring decorations and a kid-friendly “shark attack” beverage, while Southeast Pool held its annual Cardboard Boat Race, which included 16 boat entries.

Mr. Michael Kashuba reported that the Council discussed the current status and future of the city’s pool facilities. A request for an external feasibility study was brought forward but ultimately rejected, with Council directing staff to conduct an internal analysis instead. Both the Southeast and Southwest pools reportedly have 19-year-old plaster and are in need of replastering—a maintenance task usually required every 10 to 15 years—at an estimated cost of \$400,000. Structural voids have been

discovered beneath the Southeast pool, and similar conditions are suspected at the Southwest pool. Financial concerns were also noted, as the pools currently operate at a significant subsidy, with annual expenses exceeding \$900,000 and generating only approximately \$340,000 in revenue. Additional challenges include a lack of expansion space at the Southeast pool and potential market saturation affecting the Southwest pool.

6. **Capital Projects** Mr. James Stow reported that construction at John Stiff Park is scheduled to begin soon, with a projected completion timeline of 75 days. Parking lot construction is also underway at Rick Klein Park, which will provide over 400 parking spaces upon completion. The lighting project at John Stiff Park has been approved and is currently in progress. The padel courts are fully operational and in use, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony pending. The inclusive playground at Thompson Park is nearing completion, with the elephant structure expected to arrive on August 20. A ribbon-cutting event is planned for the first or second week of October.
7. **Golf Operations:** Mr. George Priolo reported that golf rounds for July totaled 9,724, representing an increase of 970 rounds compared to the previous July and raising the year-to-date total by 4,300 rounds. July revenue reached \$717,474, an \$82,000 increase from the prior year, contributing to a record-breaking year-to-date total of \$4 million, the first time this milestone has been surpassed. Comanche Trail generated \$277,000 in revenue for July, while Ross Rogers brought in \$439,000, with year-to-date revenues of \$1.5 million and \$2.498 million, respectively. Additionally, \$893,000 has been raised for charities through golf course events. The 31st Annual Coors Tournament of Champions is currently in progress, featuring a \$240,000 hole-in-one contest.
8. **Park Maintenance:** Mr. James Stow informed the Board that contractor maintenance quality issues were identified through the work order tracking system and are currently being addressed. He also noted challenges faced by Park Maintenance due to fencing installed by some schools, which has restricted access to areas requiring regular upkeep. Furthermore, recent rainfall has accelerated grass growth, increasing the workload for Park Maintenance staff during the month.
9. **Recreation and Special Events:** Ms. Becki Dryer reported on the successful conclusion of the Day Camp program, which operated at full capacity with 60–75 children weekly and maintained extensive waitlists, reflecting strong demand for affordable childcare. Warford staff engaged participants with field trips including fishing, swimming, and bowling. The free soccer camp also reached capacity with a waitlist, and the Hooked on Fishing event attracted 60 children. The inaugural Women's Camping Retreat was well-received, filling 24 of 30 available spots. Starlight Theater's season finale drew over 1,000 attendees, while the Starlight Cinema screening of *Grease* had 143 participants. Additionally, the Harry Potter birthday celebration at Stephen F. Austin Library attracted 450 guests and featured themed activity stations such as wand making and themed crafts.
10. **Senior Services:** The Seniors Lunch Program will continue through December with support from the High Plains Food Bank and the Mary Bivens Foundation. Free lunches are provided Monday through Friday at the Warford Center for individuals aged 50 and older.

11. **Tennis Operations:** Mr. James Stow noted that the Tennis Center has experienced steady activity throughout the summer across mornings, afternoons, and evenings, though a decline in participation is expected with the start of the school year. New programming and activities for the Tennis Center are currently being developed. Meanwhile, pickleball has maintained strong participation and performed exceptionally well throughout the summer season.

12. **Warford Activity Center:** Ms. Becki Dryer reported that in June, the facility recorded 11,651 visitors, with the gym and pool being the most utilized areas, hosting 1,800 and 2,600 users respectively. Warford recently hosted the 10th annual Braids and Fades event, attracting approximately 1,000 attendees. The event provided 800 backpacks, 85 haircuts, and braids for 125 children during a 12-hour period on Sunday. Staff expressed pride in supporting this important community initiative. Additionally, the facility's community garden continues to thrive and remains an integral part of the center. Ms. Dryer also noted that a dehumidifier was approved by Council to help control humidity levels in the pool area during the colder months.

ITEM 5 Discuss Items for Future Agendas

ITEM 6 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50p.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