

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On November 12th, 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	21	20
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	21	18
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	67	62
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	YES	57	52
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	21	18
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	21	19
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	21	21
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	38	35
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	YES	27	16
Mr. Alan Cox	YES	10	8
Mr. Jeremy Pekar	NO	8	5

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
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATIC SUPERVISOR
BRADLEY NALLEY	PARK SUPERVISOR
BERKELEY HILLIARD	ZOO CURATOR
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION/ARTS
SARA BARTEL	MARKETING COORDINATOR
ERIC ANDERSON	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
PEDRO SAUCEDO	PROGRAM COORDINATOR
REBECCA FARRELL	ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN
ASHLEY GUERRERO	RECORDING SECRETARY

ITEM 1

Call to Order

Chairman, Mrs. Tiffany Podzemny established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 1:30p.m.

ITEM 2

Public Comments

Mr. Michael Pohlarn proposed the idea of adding a park in the Blue Haven area, recognizing it as a growing community that would benefit from such an addition. Mr. Michael Kashuba stated that staff would revisit the Parks Master Plans to see what the recommendation is for that neighborhood. He also noted that in the past, the city has received park land as part of the development process when developers build subdivisions.

ITEM 3

Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Ronny Head said motion seconded by Mr. Thomas Riney, voting aye were 10 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from October 8th, 2025.

ITEM 4

Present and Discuss the Wonderland Lease

Mr. Michael Kashuba provided an update on the agreement regarding Wonderland Park, which was brought forward by an independent group and discussed with the council. He clarified that while discussions are ongoing with a potential lessee for the park's facility, the final decision on the agreement will rest with the council. Mr. Kashuba mentioned that the terms of the agreement are not yet finalized, as negotiations are still underway. The process will involve further discussions with both the seller and the potential lessee, but ultimately, the agreement will not be finalized until it is presented to and approved by the council.

ITEM 5

Present and Discuss the Zoo Lease

Mr. Michael Kashuba reported that during the last council meeting, a group presented a proposal to establish a 501C3 nonprofit organization to operate the zoo. He noted that legal and city management are currently working on the details of the agreement, but no final decisions have been made at this point. Mr. Kashuba emphasized that the ultimate decision will need to be made by the council.

Mr. Michael Kashuba informed the board that the zoo is currently not leased and remains a city-owned facility, operated by city staff. He explained that the idea of establishing a 501C3 nonprofit to manage the zoo was brought forward by a former council member, driven by the city's limited funding. Mr. Kashuba noted that a 501C3 organization could generally raise more philanthropic support than a city department. Additionally, he clarified that the land on which the zoo sits is city-owned property and cannot be sold without a referendum from the citizens.

ITEM 6

Present and Discuss the communication of Items Listed on The Council Agenda

Several park board members expressed their frustration regarding the zoo lease, with many feeling blindsided by the fact that it had not been mentioned until now. There was a consensus among the members that it is crucial for a council member to attend park board meetings, particularly for important discussions like this, to ensure better communication and transparency between Council and Park Board. Staff discussed ideas for better communication with the park board about items that are going on Council Meetings.

ITEM 7

Present, Discuss and Consider Southwest and Southeast.

Mr. Bradley Nalley reported that both pools, each over 50 years old, have surpassed their expected lifespan. The plaster has lasted 23 years instead of the typical 12, and the facilities face significant issues, including major concrete voids, plumbing degradation, and obsolete equipment. Repair estimates for re-plastering and mechanical upgrades exceed \$2 million, not accounting for potential structural risks. The Southwest pool has experienced significant settling and voids under the concrete, posing safety concerns and requiring extensive deck removal and repairs before it can reopen. The Southeast pool, while less critical, continues to suffer from water loss and outdated galvanized plumbing, which raises concerns about its long-term viability.

Usage metrics indicated that the Southeast pool had 10,400 attendees and generated \$63,000 in revenue, while the Southwest pool had 9,700 attendees with \$51,000 in revenue, suggesting higher demand for the Southeast pool.

Two motions were made: the first, to close both pools, was motioned by Ronny Head and seconded by Shelby Massey, passing with 8 votes in favor and 1 opposed. The second motion, was to evaluate options for a new indoor or outdoor facility based on the recommended closures, was motioned by Shelby Massey and seconded by Rodney Hill, passing unanimously with 9 votes in favor and no opposition.

ITEM 8

Present and Discuss Deposit Fees

Mr. Rodney Hill proposed the idea of adding a deposit fee for tee times, citing concerns that reserved times often go unused, preventing others who want to play from having the opportunity. Mr. George Priolo informed the board that weather patterns make it challenging to implement a deposit fee, as cancellations due to weather could complicate the process. He also noted that golf operates with a general bank account, which would make refunding individuals problematic and administratively difficult. Staff will continue to handle the process administratively by addressing it with individuals that repeatedly don't use their reservations.

ITEM 9

Present, Discuss and Consider National Fitness Campaign and Grant Opportunities

Mr. Michael Kashuba introduced a grant opportunity to the board that could help fund the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in parks. The grant also offers options for incorporating public art, either through the company or by collaborating with local artists, as well as the creation of an outdoor classroom or studio. He noted that the selected site at John Ward Park scored approximately 90% on suitability due to its high foot traffic and existing infrastructure, which would help maximize the competitiveness of the grant application. Other potential sites considered included John Stiff Park, and Sam Houston Park. The grant would cover between \$30,000 and \$60,000 of the \$240,000 total estimated cost for the full fitness court and outdoor studio, with the city

responsible for funding the remaining estimated \$200,000. A motion to apply for the larger fitness grant at John Ward Park was made by Mrs. Skylar Gallop and seconded by Mr. Shelby Massey, passing unanimously with 9 votes in favor and none opposed.

ITEM 10 Regular Meeting Items
10.A

1. **Administration:** Mrs. Becki Dryer took a moment to recognize several staff members for their outstanding contributions. She started with Pedro Saucedo, the Program Coordinator, who has been with Parks and Recreation since 2011. She shared his recent achievement of passing the CPRP exam, which certifies him as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, adding another level of credibility to his role in the industry. Mrs. Dryer then recognized Rebecca Farrel, the Administrative Technician, for completing a 200-hour course to become a certified yoga teacher. Rebecca has since begun running yoga classes at the Warford Facility, contributing to the department's offerings and community engagement.

Mrs. Becki Dryer reported that the Pirates of the Park event on October 25th attracted large crowds despite weather-related cancellations. The event garnered over 1.2 million Facebook impressions, gained 1,000 new followers in just one week, and doubled the metrics from previous events. Ten food trucks attended, with sales ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,500. Additionally, 37 participants showcased creative costumes. However, parking was a significant issue due to rain, which created mud at the parking lot in the undeveloped area between the SW Library and Fire Station.


2. **Zoo:** Mrs. Berkley Hilliard highlighted that Boo at the Zoo exceeded last year's attendance, drawing nearly 2,800 attendees over two nights and generating over \$1,000 in gift shop sales. The event featured 27 vendors, live entertainment from Andy Chase and the Amarillo Youth Flyers, and four food trucks. Additionally, Amarillo National Bank sponsored the candy, and Raising Cane's sponsored the event.

ITEM 11 Discuss Items for Future Agendas

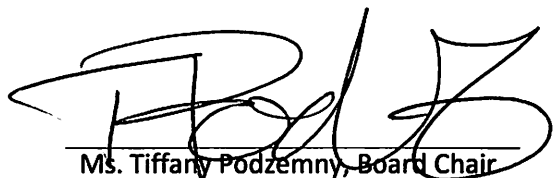
ITEM 12 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45p.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