

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On January 14th , 2026 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	23	22
Mr. Ronnie Walker	YES	23	20
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	69	64
Mr. Tim Reid	YES	1	1
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	23	20
Mr. Thomas Riney	YES	23	21
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	23	22
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	40	37
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	YES	29	18
Mr. Alan Cox	YES	12	10
Mr. Jeremy Pekar	NO	11	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
BERKELEY HILLIARD	ZOO CURATOR
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION/ARTS
SARA BARTEL	MARKETING COORDINATOR
ASHLEY GUERRERO	RECORDING SECRETARY
COURTNEY WHITE	SENIOR ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

ITEM 1

Call to Order

Chairman, Mr. Bob Altman established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 1:29p.m.

ITEM 2

Public Comments

Several members of the public expressed dissatisfaction with the Council’s decision to permanently close Southwest Pool and emphasized that they do not want a similar closure to occur with Southeast Pool in the future. The Board acknowledged that such closure decisions were difficult but necessary, noting that the pools were heavily subsidized, with expenses exceeding revenues, and that further investment was considered unsustainable without a new funding model. Additionally, Mr. Craig Gualtiere raised concerns regarding the closure and potential demolition of the school park restrooms. In response, the Board stated that they plan to revisit the 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

These items were not on the agenda, and no action was taken by the Board.

ITEM 3

Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Alan Cox said motion seconded by Mrs. Skylar Gallop, voting aye were 10 members, voting no were none, carried to approve meeting minutes from December 3rd, 2025.

ITEM 4

Present, Discuss, and Consider Action on the Election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Board nominated Mr. Bob Altman to serve as Chairman. The motion was made by Mr. Ronny Head and seconded by Mrs. Skylar Gallop, and it passed with 10 votes in favor and none opposed. The Board then nominated Mr. Shelby Massey to serve as Vice Chairman. The motion was made by Mr. Ronny Head and seconded by Mr. Bob Altman, and it passed with 10 votes in favor and none opposed.

ITEM 5

Present Discuss, and Consider Appointment of Board Members of the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee.

Mr. Kashuba gave a brief description of the Strategic Subcommittee, noting that it focuses on long-term planning, strategic priorities, and recommendations to the Board. The Board nominated Mr. Alan Cox, Mr. Tim Reid, Mr. Thomas Riney, Mr. Rodney Hill, and Mr. Ronny Head to serve on the Strategic Subcommittee, with Mr. Rodney Hill making the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Skylar Gallop. The nomination was approved with 10 votes in favor and none opposed.

ITEM 6 Present Discuss, and Consider Appointment of Board Members of the Outreach Planning Sub-Committee

Mr. Kashuba provided an overview of the Outreach Subcommittee, explaining that it focuses on community engagement, communication, and relationship-building in support of the organization's mission. The Board nominated Mr. Bob Altman, Mr. Shelby Massey, and Mrs. Skylar Gallop to serve on the Outreach Subcommittee. Mrs. Skylar Gallop made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Shelby Massey. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor and none opposed.

ITEM 7 Regular Meeting Items

7.A.

1. **Administration** Mr. Kashuba reported to the Board that Council has permanently closed the Southwest Pool and will close the Southeast Pool for the current year to permit Parks and Recreation to undertake a structural engineering assessment. The results of the assessment will inform Council's decision regarding the future of the facility.

Mrs. Becki Dryer announced that the Spring Guides are now available and can be accessed through the CivicRec website. The guides cover the period from January through April. Additionally, summer employment opportunities have been posted on the City's website

2. **Amarillo Zoo** Mr. Kashuba informed the Board that a meeting was held earlier in the week with Wild West Wildlife, and discussions on the agreement are ongoing. The parties are continuing to negotiate the terms of the agreement, and no action will be taken until it is presented to Council for final approval.
3. **Beautification and Public Arts-** Mr. Kashuba reported that the Bronco Fund provided support for the department to carry out seeding at John Ward Park. Wildflower seeds were added to the steeper slopes to allow for natural freeze-thaw cycles, promoting growth in the spring.
4. **Athletics-** Mr. James Stow reported to the Board that Parks and Recreation will be renting three gymnasiums from recently closed schools—Pleasant Valley, Sunrise, and Park Hill—enabling the winter volleyball season to commence. The season began strongly with 81 participating teams and is scheduled to run for six to eight weeks.
5. **Aquatics-** Mrs. Becki Dryer reported that Warford Pool was closed for several days in December to allow for pool deck resurfacing. During the closure, chemicals were added to prevent algae and mold growth. Mrs. Dryer also announced that the *Every Child Is a Swimmer* grant was awarded, providing five scholarships to offer free swimming lessons to underprivileged children. Information regarding the application process for the scholarships will be announced at a later date.
6. **Capital Projects-** Mr. James Stow reported that three of the four pump stations have been installed and are fully operational. He stated that the Tomahawk course required the construction of a new building to meet building code requirements, with a targeted completion date of mid-February.

Mr. Stow further reported that lighting improvements at John Stiff Park are approximately 95 percent complete, with final details and inspections currently underway, and that the next lighting project is scheduled for Thompson Park. He also noted that fencing of the soccer fields at John Stiff Park is planned to protect turf quality and to provide separate spaces for different user groups, thereby improving overall field conditions and user experience. In addition, Mr. Stow reported that the parking lots at John Stiff Park (north and south) and Rick Klein Park have been completed, with ADA inspections still pending. Once finalized, the new parking lots will be gated and closed except during scheduled park events, due to prior incidents of vandalism. He further

stated that construction of the new park road at John Stiff Park is more than halfway complete.

7. **Golf Operations-** Mr. George Priolo reported to the Board that the golf courses experienced a strong start to the fiscal year, with 2,658 rounds played in the first three months, representing an increase of nearly 3,000 rounds compared to the same period last year and generating an additional \$193,000 in year-to-date revenue. He further noted that December revenues reached a record \$298,000, contributing to a projected first-quarter total exceeding \$1 million, a historic high for the golf courses. Mr. Priolo also provided an update on the *Explore the 4* Black Friday promotion, reporting that 264 passes were sold, generating \$31,000 in revenue in January.
8. **Park Maintenance-** Mr. James Stow stated that the summer season was challenging for the athletic fields due to excessive rainfall. To help mitigate these issues, improvements including leveling, grading, infield material replacement, and field conditioning will be implemented. He noted that the sports complexes are aging and require ongoing maintenance, with staff continuing winter work to ensure the facilities remain operational and leagues can continue to play. With games scheduled nearly every evening beginning in March and April at the Martin Road, Southeast, and Southwest complexes, preparations will include painting buildings and restrooms, interior maintenance, and irrigation improvements. Planned projects also include potential irrigation installation near the new playground at Thompson Park, frontage road work at the Martin Road complex, and replacement of irrigation heads at Rick Klein Park. Mr. Kashuba additionally reported that Council approved the purchase of laser grading equipment and new top-dressing materials to improve drainage, absorb rainfall, and reduce rainouts. In addition, park restrooms are being addressed during winterization in preparation for the spring season.
9. **Recreation and Special Event-** Mrs. Becki Dryer updated the Board on recent program activities, reporting that 23 children attended the Winter Break Camp, with the Noon Year's Eve celebration noted as a highlight of the program. She also provided an update on the Homeschool Fit and Play program, a physical education initiative for homeschool students that includes one hour of organized curriculum, games, activities, and skill development, followed by one hour of swimming. The program concluded the previous semester with 23 participants, and the current semester with 35 registered participants. Additionally, Mrs. Dryer reported on the breakfast with Santa event, which drew 115 attendees across two sessions and included a hot breakfast, crafts, and photo opportunities with Santa.
10. **Senior Services-** Mrs. Dryer also noted that a Winter Wonderland event was hosted by Ms. Kari Bachman at Warford, with 58 seniors in attendance. The event included a meal and a White Elephant gift exchange. She further reported that a trip to the Amarillo Museum of Art was organized with 11 participants. Mrs. Dryer stated that in November, Warford hosted a cornhole tournament during which Ms. Kari Bachman invited participants from the Wesley Community Center, and the event was well received by all attendees. As a result of the partnership, Wesley Community Center later invited Warford participants to a Christmas gathering where enchiladas were served. Additionally, Mrs. Dryer reported that Warford has been working collaboratively with the Hilltop Senior Citizen Center, led by Warren Coble, and has assisted with recruiting volunteers to support food delivery services for homebound individuals.
11. **Tennis Center-** Mr. James Stow reported that tennis activities remain busy throughout the winter season, with most courts in daily use. He noted that recent upgrades at the tennis center have contributed to increased visitation and usage of the facility. Mr. Stow also announced that a USTA tournament is scheduled to be hosted in February.
12. **Warford-** Mrs. Becki Dryer informed the Board that six new pieces of cardio equipment have been added over the past few months. She also reported the installation of two new infrared auxiliary heaters in the gym, along with a new full boiler and a new water heater. Additionally, she noted that operating hours at Warford have been adjusted in response to member requests, with weekday opening hours shifted earlier from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. to accommodate members wishing to work out before work. Mrs. Dryer further announced the recent hiring of a new Health and Wellness Coordinator,

who is a certified personal trainer and will provide personal training and related wellness services as needed.

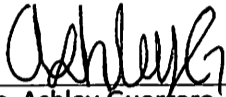
ITEM 8 Discuss Items for Future Agendas

- School Park Restrooms
- SE and SW Pools

ITEM 9 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:01p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:



Ms. Ashley Guerrero, Board Secretary



Mr. Bob Altman, Board Chair

Ms. Ashley Guerrero, Board Secretary

Mr. Shelby Massey, Board Vice Chair