

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL  
CITY OF AMARILLO

**MINUTES**

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 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	24	23
Mr. Ronnie Walker	NO	24	20
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	70	65
Mr. Tim Reid	YES	3	2
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	24	21
Mr. Thomas Riney (Late)	YES	24	22
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	24	23
Mr. Shelby Massey	YES	41	38
Mrs. Skylar Gallop	YES	30	19
Mr. Alan Cox	YES	13	11
Mr. Jeremy Pekar	NO	12	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
DUSTIN JOHNSON	DEPUTY 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 1:30p.m.

**ITEM 2**

Public Comments

Kim Benson asked how the fitness instructors will be compensated once the fitness studio for the national fitness campaign is completed, expressing concern about the overall project cost, particularly the financial impact on the public. Separately, Mike Fisher shared his support for Parks and Recreation programs, stating that such initiatives positively influence children's futures by promoting health and constructive activities. He also emphasized that transparency with the public regarding costs and decision-making processes should be mandatory to ensure accountability and maintain community trust.

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. Shelby Massey said motion was seconded by Mr. Ronny Head, voting aye were 8 members, voting no were none, carried to approved meeting minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**ITEM 4**

Present, Discuss, and Consider Action on the 2026 Standards of Care.

Mrs. Becki Dryer reported to the Board that the Standards of Care had been revised to promote program consistency and enhance safety measures. Revisions included incorporating the Tennis Center's operational structure, including independent contractor roles; requiring background checks for all staff age 18 and older and drug testing for all staff; and implementing tornado safety training with designated shelter locations identified within each facility. Mrs. Dryer also confirmed child-to-staff ratio requirements stating the minimum ratio is 20:1, although programs typically operate at a 10:1 ratio with two staff members per classroom and additional floating staff. Staff members receive comprehensive training in child abuse identification, sex trafficking awareness, and emergency response procedures. The Board raised concerns regarding

emergency limitations related to medication administration, noting that situations may arise in which visitors require medication, but staff are not permitted to administer it. Mr. Shelby Massey made a motion to approve the Standards of Care as presented and to forward the Board's concerns regarding medication administration to Council for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodney Hill and approved with eight votes in favor and none opposed. Final approval authority rests with the Council.

**ITEM 5** Present Discuss and Consider Coffee with a Park Board Member.

Mrs. Dryer presented the idea of Public Engagement and Transparency Initiatives to the Board, and the Board contributed to developing program details. The plan includes holding quarterly "coffee with a Park Board member" sessions at neutral locations, such as libraries across city regions, with Board members attending to encourage citizen-to-citizen dialogue. Civil conversation agreements would be implemented to manage expectations and maintain decorum. Sessions are designed to address community questions and concerns directly, either with the general public or groups to inform Board decisions and provide Council with vetted community input. The Board endorsed moving forward with the pilot program and agreed to review progress prior to an official launch.

**ITEM 6** Present and Discuss the 2021 Park Master Plan.

Mr. Michael Kashuba provided the Board with an overview of the Parks Master Plan and Asset Management Plan. He noted that the 2021 Parks Master Plan, which incorporated extensive public input from over 10,000 residents and multiple community events, now requires a timely update to align with current Council priorities. The plan is rooted in asset management findings, which indicated that approximately 40% of \$100 million in park assets were in poor or failed condition. Initial funding for the plan decreased from \$2 million to nearly zero over the past ten years, prompting a scaling back of services. The update is also necessary to comply with Texas Parks and Wildlife grant requirements and to reflect post-pandemic priorities. Mr. Kashuba emphasized that alignment between the Park Board, staff, and Council is critical to avoid conflicting directions, and the Board urged clear communication and joint decision-making regarding future park investments and priorities.

**ITEM 7** Regular Meeting Items

7.A.

1. **Administration** Mr. Michael Kashuba provided brief updates to the Board. He reported that, per Council direction, the Southeast and Southwest pools will be temporarily closed while a study is conducted to assess structural concerns, repair costs, replacement costs, and overall viability of these aquatic facilities. The study will also evaluate splash pads, many of which are nearing the end of their life expectancy.

Mr. Kashuba noted that the \$60,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the National Fitness Courts had been approved by Council. Additionally, he stated that the drone show for the July 4th celebration will be brought to Council for approval at an upcoming meeting, noting an unexpected increase in cost due to the 250th celebration and the event being held on July 4th rather than July 5th.

2. **Amarillo Zoo** Mrs. Berkley Hilliard informed the Board that the Zoo is continuing to operate on its usual schedule. She noted that a recent fire came within approximately two miles of the Zoo, prompting staff to bring animals indoors due to smoke and to revisit safety protocols. Mr. Kashuba added that discussions are ongoing between Council and Wild West Wildlife regarding the lease, and that any final decisions will be made by Council.
3. **Beautification and Public Arts** Mrs. Cindy Perez reported to the Board that the Beautification team is working on revising a tree planting booklet originally created by Dusty McGuire, with the last published version dating back to April 2013. She noted that the Texas A&M Forest Service has approached the City about updating the booklet, which provides guidance for individuals wishing to plant trees on their property, including information on species that thrive locally. The City holds the rights to the booklet from Dusty McGuire, allowing ongoing updates while acknowledging McGuire as the founder. Mrs. Perez also reported that the Beautification Board reviewed applications for the Mural Grant Program. Murals approved include Kismet Salon on 6th Avenue and the Don Harrington Discovery Center. Two additional applications were

returned for design and application revisions before final approval, while one application was rejected for not meeting program qualifications, as it was an indoor mural.

4. **Athletics-** Mr. James Stow updated the Board on Athletics programs, noting that the Winter Volleyball season has two weeks of regular season play as well as playoffs remaining. Umpire training has begun for softball, and ASA Soccer is scheduled to start on February 28th at Rick Klein Park.
5. **Aquatics-** Mrs. Becki Dryer informed the Board that lifeguard certification training was recently conducted at Warford, and pool manager interviews for Thompson Pool have been completed, with a hiring decision still pending. She also reported that staff attended several job fairs during the month at Caprock, Tascosa, River Road, and Palo Duro high schools to recruit seasonal employees for the summer.

Splash pads are scheduled to open Mother's Day weekend and remain operational through Labor Day weekend. 0

6. **Capital Projects-** Mr. Stow reported that Facilities is currently repairing a sewer line at the Ross Rogers Deli and will next move to the Comanche Trails Deli to address additional sewer repairs. He further reported that Facilities are replacing a collapsed sewer line at Ross Rogers Golf Course, extending from Hole No. 7 Mustang restroom through Thompson Park to the dam area. All work is presently underway.

The lighting project at Thompson Park has begun, the roof at the Southwest Complex clubhouse has been replaced, and a long-awaited dehumidifier is scheduled for installation at the Warford pool later this month. Additional facility improvements include fencing repairs, miscellaneous concrete projects, ADA parking lot adjustments at Pleasant Valley, and near completion of the JSM Park Road project, with curb cuts and lane closures currently in progress.

7. **Golf Operations-** Mr. George Priolo reported that January experienced a significant increase in golf activity, with rounds up approximately 2,400 compared to last January and a year-to-date increase of 5,142 rounds, totaling approximately 23,000 rounds played—9,900 at Comanche and 13,000 at Ross. Revenue for the month increased by approximately \$98,000, with Ross up \$54,000 and Comanche up \$44,000. Year-to-date revenue is up \$289,103.95, with Comanche increasing by \$132,000 and Ross by \$156,000, bringing total combined revenue to approximately \$1.238 million. Mr. Priolo noted strong momentum heading into the spring season.

Mr. Stow informed the Board that staff have been actively working on improvements to the golf course, focusing on both the bunkers and greens, which are among the most intensive maintenance features. Several bunkers have been filled in and are awaiting sod installation, expected in March or April. Additionally, the building at Tomahawk is underway, and Professional Turf Products will be onsite in March to install a new pump station.

8. **Park Maintenance-** Mr. Kashuba provided updates on field maintenance, explaining that staff are laser grading and compacting fields, resetting home plates and base anchors, and addressing infield lips through a process called fraise mowing, which removes built-up material to return areas behind the infields to dirt. Staff have been working at Southeast and Southwest complexes resetting base anchors with additional work planned at Martin Road Park. New infield material and conditioner will be applied to improve drainage and reduce rainouts, addressing issues experienced in previous years.

Mr. Kashuba reported ongoing vandalism at Martin Road Park, noting that the pump house serving the new fishing amenity has been vandalized five to six times, with copper wiring repeatedly stolen. Vandalism has also occurred in the restroom, splash pad, and athletic complex. Staff are exploring the installation of security cameras and a broader park camera project due to increasing incidents.

9. **Recreation and Special Event-** Mrs. Dryer reported that Recreation hosted a Kids Day Out on January 19 and conducted a three-day mini sports camp for children ages three

to five, focusing on basic skills in baseball, basketball, and soccer. Homeschool Fit and Play continues on Tuesdays, and a new "Toddler Time" program has been introduced to provide space for parents with younger children during sessions. An Unravel Yoga class is also offered concurrently. While no special events were held in January, two February events have received strong participation, including a Princess Ball at the Civic Center with 250 registered participants and a Ratatouille Dinner for Valentine's Day that reached capacity with 24 couples and an additional 37 couples on the waitlist.

10. **Senior Services-** Mrs. Dryer reported that Senior Services has implemented weekly Wednesday activities following Lunch Bunch, including birthday celebrations, trivia and game gatherings, film forums, and La Lotería, all of which have been well received. A recent Culture Share event was held with 20 participants sharing personal and cultural experiences. She also noted that a representative from Public Health assists with the Warford community garden and participates in Lunch Bunch activities. Staff recently met with Asset Living, the property management company for the Commons of St. Anthony senior living apartments, to discuss partnership opportunities, including promotion of the free lunch program and potential transportation options for residents.
11. **Tennis Center-** Mr. Stow reported that Tennis programming has been very busy, particularly the Junior Program, which runs Monday through Thursday evenings from approximately 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. with 51 participants enrolled in January. A spring break camp is scheduled for next month, and summer programming is currently being planned. Due to high demand, the Tennis Center is considering extending Friday and Saturday hours from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to match weekday hours, as courts have been at full capacity prior to closing. A new pickleball instructor has been hired to develop leagues and tournaments, and pickleball courts are consistently full during evening hours, particularly from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., with equipment requiring replacement due to heavy use.
12. **Warford-** Mrs. Dryer reported that an Inflatable Fest event was held in January in both the gym and pool areas, drawing approximately 200 attendees. She noted continued strong facility usage, with 44 rentals, 200 memberships sold, and 1,800 membership scans recorded for the month. While the line dancing instructor has resigned, a new evening Zumba instructor has been hired to expand land-based fitness offerings. Mrs. Dryer also highlighted a recently released facility tour video of Warford shared on social media.

**ITEM 8**      Discuss Items for Future Agendas

**ITEM 9**      Adjournment

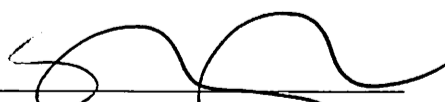
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:05p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:

  
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Ms. Ashley Guerrero, Board Secretary

  
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Mr. Bob Altman, Board Chair

  
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Ms. Ashley Guerrero, Board Secretary

  
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Mr. Shelby Massey, Board Vice Chair