

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On March 11th, 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	25	24
Mr. Ronnie Walker	NO	25	20
Mr. Robert Altman	YES	71	66
Mr. Tim Reid	YES	4	3
Mr. Rodney Hill	YES	25	22
Mr. Thomas Riney (Left early)	YES	25	23
Mr. Ronny Head	YES	25	24
Mr. Shelby Massey (Left early)	YES	42	39
Mrs. Skylar Gallop (Left early)	YES	31	20
Mr. Alan Cox	YES	14	12
Mr. Jeremy Pekar	NO	13	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
CINDY PEREZ	BEAUTIFICATION/ARTS
SARA BARTEL	MARKETING COORDINATOR
ASHLEY GUERRERO	RECORDING SECRETARY
DUSTIN JOHNSON	DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY
DONNY HOOPER	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

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

Kimberly Benson brought up the idea of relocating the Parks and Recreation Department into the City Hall building. She noted that moving the department could allow the current Parks and Recreation building to be put up for sale, which might provide a financial benefit to the city.

This item was not on the agenda, and no action was taken by the Board.

Andi Wardlaw read an email she had sent to the city regarding concerns about prairie dogs at John Stiff Memorial Park. She stated that the prairie dogs have become a significant issue in the park and noted that the rodents are now located about 100 yards away from their property rather than moving away from the area. She explained that areas of the park that once contained native grasses and wildflowers have been devastated, with the previous colors replaced by dead, lifeless browns. She reported that Mr. Kashuba indicated the city was continuing efforts to develop a solution. However, she expressed concern that the city failed to address the issue when it first began. She also noted that prairie dogs have moved into the main park area on the east side of the park and are spreading toward the nearby fire station and library. She added that prairie dogs have also been seen near Lowe's Home Improvement and have reportedly even been found inside a nearby residence. She encouraged the board to continue looking for a solution to the issue.

ITEM 3

Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Ronny Head said motion was seconded by Mrs. Skylar Gallop, voting aye were 9 members, voting no were none, carried to approved meeting minutes from February 11th, 2026.

ITEM 4**Present, Discuss, and Consider Action on the Lease of Rick Klein Park.**

Mr. Michael Kashuba summarized the city's February 2023 lease with the Texas Panhandle Youth Sports Foundation for Rick Klein Sports Complex and John Stiff Memorial Park, noting the agreement was amended in October 2023 to remove John Stiff due to safety concerns and increased incidents. Operations have since shifted, with groups like West Texas Fast Pitch and West Texas Youth Baseball League joining Kids Inc., which is taking over day-to-day management.

Mr. Jimmy Lackey presented a proposal to transfer the Rick Klein Sports Complex lease to Kids Inc. to improve operations. Kids Inc. would assume management with updated terms, remove city equipment liability, and invest in maintenance equipment while providing full staffing. Discussion also included possible turf fields to reduce maintenance and attract tournaments. A five- to ten-year lease term was suggested to support long-term improvements. The board recommended continuing lease discussions with Kids Inc. for city council consideration. A motion by Alan Cox, seconded by Rodney Hill, passed 9-0.

ITEM 5**Present Discuss and Consider the Prairie Dog Population at John Stiff Memorial Park.**

Mr. Kashuba reported the ongoing issue with the prairie dogs at John Stiff Memorial Park and surrounding areas. It was noted that relocation efforts had been ineffective as the population grew over the last decade, now invading developed park areas and nearby residential zones. The prairie dogs have caused significant vegetation damage, impacted property values, and pose safety risks, including potential plague transmission to pets and people. Licensed exterminators following strict safety protocols, including signage and controlled access, were recommended to ensure public safety during treatment. The board authorized staff to investigate costs and timelines for addressing the over-population, up to \$50,000 without council approval and over \$50,000 with council involvement. Temporary park closures and fencing may be employed during treatment, and the need for public education on safety and necessity of the efforts was acknowledged. A recommendation was made for staff to continue forward in these efforts. Mr. Ronny Head made the motion, seconded by Mr. Rodney Hill, with nine voting yes and none opposed.

ITEM 6**Present, Discuss, and Consider Action Regarding Restroom Installation and Replacement.**

Mr. Kashuba reported on the costly challenge of replacing and maintaining restrooms across city parks and recommended prioritizing improvements based on park classification and usage. Immediate replacement was recommended for restrooms at John Stiff Memorial Park area 10 due to high use and safety concerns, with John Stiff restrooms serving event spaces, sports fields, and recreational users using modern, vandal-resistant prefabricated units costing approximately \$150,000-\$230,000. The neighborhood restroom at East Park requires demolition due to ADA non-compliance and collapsed sewer lines, with replacement deferred pending council guidance. The board reached consensus to focus funding on regional and community park restrooms while scaling back neighborhood park restroom replacements due to lower usage and ongoing issues including vandalism, graffiti, and safety concerns. A motion to proceed with improvements at John Stiff Park area 10 and continue evaluating East Park was made by Mrs. Skylar Gallop and seconded by Mr. Ronny Head, with nine voting yes and none opposed.

ITEM 7**Present, Discuss, and Consider a Recommendation Regarding Cameras in the Park.**

Mr. Kashuba proposed the installation of security cameras in high-crime parks to enhance public safety and assist law enforcement. The proposal includes installation at key parks with elevated criminal activity, including John Stiff Memorial Park, Thompson Park, and Martin Road Park, focusing on parking lots, entry points, and gathering areas. Cameras would be linked to the regional crime center for monitoring and rapid response by the Amarillo Police Department, with units equipped with tamper sensors and alarms to prevent vandalism and theft. Collaboration with APD was emphasized to ensure integration with existing crime monitoring and response protocols. A motion to proceed with the proposal was made by Tim Reid and seconded by Robert Altman, with eight voting yes and none opposed.

ITEM 8**Present, Discuss, and Consider Action on the Pool Rules and Warford Handbook.**

Mrs. Becki Dryer announced that the Member's Handbook has been updated and renamed the Warford Handbook. The updated handbook establishes that all policy standards will apply to everyone who enters the facility, not just registered members. A motion to adopt the new handbook was passed with six voting yes and none opposed.

Mrs. Dryer reported the revisions to the code of conduct based on issues identified over the past year. The updated policies allow for violations to result in suspensions of up to three or six months, providing flexibility depending on the severity of the offense. She also noted the addition of a payment plan option to assist individuals and groups who may have difficulty paying the full cost of rentals upfront, particularly for larger events such as tournaments or family reunions that may use the facility for an entire day. The motion to approve the updated Code of Conduct passed with six voting yes and none opposed.

ITEM 9 Present, Discuss, and Consider Action Regarding the Code of Conduct.

Mrs. Dryer reported that the pool rules remain largely unchanged from the previous year. She noted that language was added allowing refunds for tickets purchased online due to the implementation of a new registration software that makes processing refunds easier. She also explained that swimming ability wristbands previously used at Southeast and Southwest pools were removed, as operations are now limited to Thompson Park Pool and the shorter session times require quicker entry for patrons. Lifeguards will continue to monitor swimmer safety and assess ability as needed. A motion to approve the updated pool rules was made and passed with six voting yes and none opposed.

ITEM 10 Present, Discuss, and Consider Action Regarding the Parent Handbook for School Break Camps.

Mrs. Dryer stated that the Parent Handbook for summer camp and school break camps will be distributed to parents of all campers. She noted that approximately 650 children participate in the programs each year and that parents will be required to acknowledge that they have read the handbook. The handbook outlines policies and expectations for camp participants and their families. Mrs. Dryer stated that the medication administration section of the camp handbook will be revised based on recent city council approval of the Standards of Care. The amended section specifies that staff will administer basic first aid and emergency care, including the use of EpiPens and emergency inhalers. Staff will not administer over-the-counter or prescribed medications, and parents are asked to provide those medications to their children before or after camp or come during camp to administer them. An exception may be made for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, provided that a medical authorization form is completed. A second and final reading of the Standards of Care will be conducted at the next council meeting. A motion to approve the handbook was made and passed with six voting yes and none opposed.

ITEM 11 Regular Meeting Items

11.A.

1. **Administration:** Mrs. Dryer announced that the event previously known as "Coffee with a Park Board Member" has been renamed "Your Parks, Your Voice." The first meeting will be held on April 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Amarillo Downtown Library. Park board members who volunteered to attend include Robert Altman, Alan Cox, Tim Reid, and Ronny Head.
2. **Amarillo Zoo:** Mr. Kashuba stated that the zoo lease agreement was approved by the Amarillo City Council. He explained that the remaining steps to finalize the agreement include providing proof of the required reserve fund, proof of insurance, and obtaining the signed document. Once those items are completed, staff will work with the city manager to complete the agreement.

ITEM 12 Discuss Items for Future Agendas


ITEM 13 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:12p.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