

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

February 1, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, and Dave Merrill. Board members absent were Randal Crosswhite, Susan Arrington, Toney Gutierrez and John Goode. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director; Carl Scott, Senior Citizens/Recreation Administrator, Susan Gerred, Recreation Supervisor; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Mike Elrod, Parks Supervisor, Jeff Bullock, Zoo Superintendent; and Sondra Cox, Executive Secretary.

Chair, Amber Cree called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Dave Merrill.

With out a quorum present, the minutes of the November 2, 2004, meeting was tabled.

**Service Awards:** Mike Hall presented Sondra Cox and Terry Prado with fifteen-year service awards. Ms. Cox is an executive secretary in the Community Services Administration and Ms. Prado is a center coordinator in the Recreation Division.

**Participation Report:** Carl Scott reported on the participation in the Recreation and Senior Citizens Divisions for the months of September, October, and November. Mr. Scott reported that participation in the special events and unstructured user hours were down slightly, while recreation classes and class hours are both up. The participation at the Tennis Center continues to increase. Athletics have declined slightly with the decrease in the population. Mr. Scott reported that the participation in the Senior Citizens programs continue to rise. Dave Hand reported on the participation at the municipal golf course has been good on good weather days. The rain has hampered participation, however, the greens are in excellent shape. Some of the spring projects include t-box renovations, work on cart paths, and irrigation. They are also working on establishing a city tournament.

**Capital Improvements Program:** Mike Hall reviewed with the Board the 2005-2009 CIP projects

Project	Project #	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Parks - Rose Park Trail	7010-01-05	\$ 20,000				
Parks - Nelson Park Tree Planting	7010-02-04	\$ 25,640				
Parks - Bridge Club Parking	7010-04-05	\$ 35,000				
Parks - Trail Paving - Redbud	7010-03-03	\$ 40,000				
Parks - Nelson Trail Lighting	7010-06-05	\$ 40,000				
Zoo - Pedestrian Walks	7040-01-05	\$ 55,000				
Parks - Stevenson Park Restroom	7010-04-04	\$ 55,000				
Parks - Johnson Park Fishing Pier	7010-05-05	\$ 65,000				
Parks - Lake Kirby, Phase 3	7010-11-88	\$ 95,000	\$ 50,000			
Parks - Vaughn-Camp Park Wetlands	7010-05-03	\$ 100,000				
Parks - Rose Park Road Paving	7010-03-05	\$ 110,000				
Parks - Rose Park Shop	7010-02-05	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000			
Zoo - Wonders of Life Exploration	7040-04-90	\$ 3,789,018				
Zoo - Elm Creek Backyard	7040-03-03		\$ 20,000	\$ 480,000		
Parks - Playground Modernization	7010-04-98		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	
Rec. - Chavez So. Park Parking Lot	7110-01-03		\$ 40,000			
Zoo - Creepy Crawler Center	7040-04-03		\$ 60,000	\$ 1,130,000		
Parks - Festival Gardens Development	7010-13-93		\$ 60,000			
Parks - Lake Kirby Baseball Complex	7010-01-04		\$ 80,000			
Zoo - Parking Lot Expansion	7040-06-03		\$ 200,000			
Parks - So. Park Acquisition	7010-06-86			\$ 200,000	\$ 600,000	
Rec. - Adaptive Rec. Improvements	7110-02-01			\$ 261,250		
Rec. - Rose Activity Bldg. Expansion	7110-03-87			\$ 321,920		
Parks - N. 10th & Wall Park Devlp.	7010-03-98			\$ 600,000	\$ 200,000	
Parks - So. Abilene Park Development	7010-05-86			\$ 1,000,000		
Zoo - African Plains Exhibit	7040-05-03					\$ 5,000,000
Zoo - Master Plan Phase 3a	7040-01-04					\$ 3,000,000
		\$ 4,579,658	\$ 625,000	\$ 4,033,170	\$ 840,000	\$ 8,000,000
Funds To Be Provided						
Funded by Other						
Funded by Federal/State						

**Request to Charge Admission:** Due to the lack of a quorum this item was tabled.

**Operational Report:** (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Carl Scott reported that on February 8, the Senior Citizens Division will be taking a group of seniors to Austin for Senior Day at the Capital. February 10<sup>th</sup> the Recreation Division will be hosting the annual Daddy/Daughter Date Night. On February 11<sup>th</sup> the Adaptive Recreation Services will be having a dance and the recreation centers will be having Valentine Bingo. AARP will be providing tax service for seniors and low income every Wednesday and Friday at the Rose Senior Activity Center.

**Operational Report:** (Parks) Bob Cheatham reported that, with funds from the Parks Bucks Program and the Bowie PTA, the Parks Division completed the playground at Bowie Elementary. Work will be starting soon on the restroom at the Nelson softball fields. The footbridge at Nelson was redone to bring it into compliance with ADA. Trees are being planted at Nelson Park. Traffic islands have been installed in the parking lots at Nelson Park. The exercise equipment has been replaced along the walking trail at Redbud.

**Operational Report:** (Zoo) Jeff Bullock reported that Comforting Critter was a successful campaign. There were over 1,000 stuffed animals donated to the Abilene Fire Department. The wall will be reconstructed in the Spider Monkey exhibit. Some of the pedestrian walks will be replaced along the lion and hyena exhibits. Dr. Hilton has been hired as a consulting veterinarian for the Zoo and a Supervisor III has also been hired. The Zoo lost a male black bear because to it choked on a piece of meat. It will be replaced with two females. They have had two colobus monkey births. With the decline in the elephant population, the AZA is looking at breeding program and the Zoo has a 25-year old elephant that may be placed in that program. Tanzy continues to refuse to come out of the barn. An expert elephant veterinarian was called in to examine her and found no medical reason for her stubbornness. Staff will continue to try to get her to move. The longer she is with out exercise the weaker she will get. Some of the snakes that were confiscated have been returned, the Zoo still in possession of 40 snakes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.