

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

July 12, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, and John Goode. Board members absent were Dave Merrill, Susan Arrington, and Toney Gutierrez. Community Services staff present were Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director; Carl Scott, Senior Citizens/Recreation Administrator, Susan Gerred, Recreation Supervisor; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Jeff Bullock, Zoo Superintendent; and Sondra Cox, Executive Secretary.

Chair, Amber Cree called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Gail Russey.

Gail Russey moved that the minutes of the May 3, 2005, meeting be approved. John Goode seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Service Award Presentation:** Tony Neitzler presented a five-year service award to Jere Drake, a five-year service award to Rufigio Patino, and a fifteen-year service award to Debra Arnold-Higgins. Ms. Drake is an administrative secretary at the Zoo, Mr. Patino is a park worker, and Ms. Higgins is an administrative clerk in the Community Services office and the Health Division.

**Participation Report:** Carl Scott reviewed with the Board the Recreation Division's participation report for the months of March, April, and May. Mr. Scott noted that participation in classes were up, user hours have remained constant, and after-school user hours continue to decline as the enrollment in the school system also declines. Participation at the Tennis Center for the month of April was up due to tournaments and clinics. Participation in athletics has also shown a decline. Mr. Scott also reported on the participation from the Senior Citizens Division. The number of meals served increased 2,000 for March, April and May from last year's numbers.

**Participation Report:** Dave Hand reviewed Maxwell Municipal Golf Course's participation with the Board. Mr. Hand noted that participation at the golf course is beginning to increase. There is an increase in the membership rounds due to changes in the membership structure. Youth classes have been very successful this year.

**2006 Budget Review:** Tony Neitzler reported to the Board that the City Manager had not released the proposed budget to the City Council. It is expected to be release by Friday July 15 with workshops being held on August 2, 3, and 16. The first reading of the budget is expected to be on August 28. A list was provided to the Board of projects that have been approved to be funded through the Certificate of Obligation Program.

**Bond Committee Update:** Tony Neitzler reported that the City Council has appointed a study committee to work on a bond proposal. They have held their first organizational meeting and plan to

meet every other week. It is our understanding that the committee will take public input at each meeting. The meetings will be scheduled by department review. It is hoped that the committee will complete their work before the end of the year. The Board will be notified of the schedule once that has been established.

**Operational Report:** (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Carl Scott reported that the Senior Citizens Division will be holding a stroke prevention and Medicare prescription programs with Area Agency on Aging. A Luau will be scheduled on August 5. The children in the Summer Program will come over and participate in activities with the seniors. Participation is down slightly in the Summer Playground Program. Abilene hosted the regional TAAF track meet. There were over 400 who participated in that event. The state meeting will be held in Waco and 55 of the 105 in the Abilene Track Club qualified to attend the state meet. All the swim lesson classes are full.

**Operational Report:** (Parks) Bob Cheatham reported that parks employees will be preparing the flowerbeds and landscaping for the new Health Department. He also reported that there is a tree on South 14<sup>th</sup> and Sayles that has oak wilt. The tree will need to be removed. When the Railroad is finished with their repairs, there will be lots of clean up to do. Staff is in the process of converting a boat dock into two fishing docks (one for Lake Kirby and one at Lake Fort Phantom). The Water Department had originally purchased it for use at Lake Ivey and has donated it to the Parks Department.

**Operational Report:** (Zoo) Jeff Bullock noted that the Zoo celebrated Zoolute to Dyess in May, in June there was a beach party, and in July there was the Festival on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Zoo Day had an attendance of over 2,300 and the Festival on the 4<sup>th</sup> there was an attendance of over 1,700. Sunset Safari will be held every Thursday evening. Over all, attendance is up over last year. The Zoological Society Board has agreed that as soon as the funds have been committed to cover the project, a contract will be signed to proceed with the construction documents for the education/entry complex. The Zoo Board is also looking at zoo enhancement projects to be included in the bond proposal. Tanzy's (the elephant) dosage of zanex was slowly reduced. The day that her dosage reached zero, she refused to leave the barn. Her zanex has been increased along with ibuprofen to help manage her pain. The bid packages are being prepared for the repaving of the walkways and a ramp to the pier. All the zoo camps are full and there have been 45 zoo teens working this summer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.