

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

August 16, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, and John Goode. Board members absent were Dave Merrill, Mike Schwiekhard, Susan Arrington, and Toney Gutierrez. 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; Jeff Bullock, Zoo Superintendent; and Sondra Cox, Executive Secretary.

Chair, Amber Cree called the meeting to order.

Without a quorum present, the minutes of the July 12, 2005, meeting was tabled.

Service Award Presentation: Mike Hall presented William Gillis and Richard Remington with five-year service awards. Mr. Gillis is a bus driver in the Senior Citizens Division and Mr. Remington is a building maintenance specialist in the Parks Division.

Presentation of Fall Program: Carl Scott reviewed with the Board the 2005 fall brochure. Mr. Scott noted that the Punt, Pass & Kick would be held on October 8 at Rose Park. A new self-defense class being offered is a Brazilian Ju-Jitsu. Flag football will begin in fall. The Adaptive Recreation Program continues to grow.

2006 Budget Update: Mike Hall updated the Board on the proposed 2005-06 budget, noting that the City Manager has given a proposed to the City Council for review. There was a 5.5 increase property increase and an increase in sales tax. With the increase in the proposed revenue budget the City Manager is not proposing a tax increase for the budget year 2005-06. The budget does include a pay-for-performance to the city employees of 0-5% with an average being 3% and a 3% increase to civil service positions. Also proposed in the Budget is changing the employee vesting from 10 year to 5 year. The City Council has approved this budge in the first reading. The second and final reading is scheduled in September. Staff is recommending that funds from the Parks Bucks program be used to replace the playground equipment at Lee Park.

Bond Committee Update: Mike Hall informed the Board that a 14-member committee would be reviewing the proposed projects to be submitted for funding through a bond election. The Community Services Department is currently scheduled to make presentations on August 31 and September 8. The projects that Community Services will be presenting are Parks Division's sports lighting upgrade, Maxwell Golf Course' irrigation system replacement, Zoo's enhancement, and the Library's south branch. The Parks Division has 26 fields that have lighting that are below standard. Our proposal is to replace or upgrade the lights and poles of these fields. The golf course irrigation system is 26 years old and is in need of replacement. The Zoo's enhancement will include changing the discovery center to a hepatorium/insect exhibit, removing the mote in the giraffe exhibit, constructing an additional parking lot, remodeling the javalina and pronghorn exhibit, construction

of a boardwalk in the wetlands, and construction of the Elm Creek backyard/native Abilene exhibit. The Bond committee will be making the decision as to which projects are proposed for the bond election and how they are packaged.

Operational Report: (Recreation/Senior Citizens): Carl Scott reported that the Senior Citizens Division held a luau on August 5. September 14 will be Senior Day at the West Texas Fair and Rodeo. A trip to Granbury is being planned on December 10. The Recreation Division ended the Summer Playground Program on Friday, August 12 and started the After-school Program on Monday, August 15.

Operational Report: (Zoo): Jeff Bullock reported that the Thursday evening Sunset Safari has been successful this year. Cruise n at the Zoo will be held on September 13. September 22 a new event will be held called Dream Night. This is a new nationwide event that Zoos are doing for children that are critically ill. September 24 the Zoo Serenade will be held. The Zoo received a grant for \$1,000,000 towards the Zoo Master Plan and the following day they received an additional \$100,000 grant. We will be moving forward with the education complex and will be meeting with the architect with the hope of having the construction documents ready to go out for bid in the fall. The estimate from the engineer on the cost of resurfsing the walks are lower that what was originally estimated. The resurfacing should be completed this fall.

Operational Report: (Parks) Bob Cheatham reported that a new grass called Turffalo was used in the landscaping around the new health facility and the Community Services office. The grass was developed by Texas Tech and has a lawn quality that requires less water and less mowing. Wenches are being installed on the fishing piers. The tree on Sayles that was suspected to have oak wilt tested negative.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.