

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

6-6-06

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, Susan Arrington. Board members absent were Toney Gutierrez and Moses Hall. 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 Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

Chair, Amber Cree called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Gail Russey.

Gail Russey moved that the minutes of the March 14, 2006, meeting be approved. Mike Schweikhard seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Service: Mike Hall presented Richard Church with a 10-year service award. Richard is a driver for the Senior Citizens Division.

Award Presentation: Mrs. Cree presented John Goode with an Award of Appreciation for outstanding service to the City of Abilene, Texas and its citizens while serving as a Parks and Recreation board member from June 2004 to May 2006.

Consider request form Police and Fire Department: Mr. Hall introduced Joe Tauer to make presentation for the consideration to expand Safety City. Mr. Tauer reviewed the importance of Safety City and the interest in expanding the boundaries of Safety City so that they can incorporate the Fire Department Safety House and eventually create a Safety Education Center that would include the Police Department, Safety City, and Fire Department Safety Education Program with long-term goals being a new Safety Education Center Building. Spending half a day with Police Department and half a day with the Fire Department receiving Safety Education and a School Bus safety course. Mr. Hall covered the diagram on current park area and the additional expansion. Currently the Senior Citizens buses are parked in a fenced area east of Safety City. They would like to move the parking area for the Senior Citizen buses south of their current location. The fence and electrical utilities would be moved. The cost of doing so would be absorbed by Safety City (Jaycee's Foundation). They would also like to expand Safety City's east boundary to the alley. Gail Russey motioned that the proposal be approved. Susan Arrington seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation on Cultural Affairs Council Temporary Art Display: Bob Cheatham informed the Board that it was time once again to review the placement of the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit. Lynn Barnett handed out photos to review art displays that are being submitted for replacement. Ms. Barnett reported on the 5 sculptures that are being reviewed– Sculpture by Kathy Hall and Steven L. Neves, "Carart" by Paul Kittelson, "People at Play and Wind 20" by Nic Noblique, "Super Happy Fun Chicken" by Carter Ernst.

Participation Report: (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Carl Scott reported that class enrollments were down, that they are competing against basketball and other events, they are continuing to look at other opportunities to increase enrollment and activities. The Daddy/Daughter Date night was a success again this year, since the beginning we have increase participation by 575%. User hours are down again this quarter, class user hours are about the same. Tennis participation is up due to mild winter. After school hours are running about the same. Senior Citizens reports that meals are continue to grow. Participant donated exercise equipment, which is full of equipment. Ms. Cree noticed that unstructured hours have had a large decrease. Mr. Scott reported that due to budget year we closed some centers and eliminated personnel and shortened hours and we are not using GV Daniels this year for youth basketball. Counts are made each hour to get user hours.

Participation Report: (Golf) Mike Hall reported that due to good weather conditions that golf participation numbers are up. The greens were switched two years ago to Champions 90 from Bent Grass. Due to warm weather early they eliminated the rye grass. Hoping to speed up process with Bermuda grass, due to cool weather the hybrid Bermuda does not due well. In one or two weeks the greens should recover. Next year they are looking at not over seeding due to unpredictable weather and later painting the greens if necessary.

Request to charge admission Abilene A's Select Baseball Team: Bob Cheatham reported that this was a request from the select baseball teams. There were 4 out of town teams and 2 local teams. The request to charge entry fee would pay for umpires. Due to no board meeting the request was pre-approved. Mike Schweikhard made a motion that the request be approved. Gail Russey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

2007 Budget Schedule: Mike Hall reviewed the budget calendar. Division managers have submitted requests and presentations have been made to City Manager. The City Manager's office proposed budget would be submitted to City Council on July 7. The proposed budget will be on the July agenda for review. At this time there will be no loss in personnel. One of the biggest increases in expenses will be in utilities.

Operational Report: (Recreation) Carl Scott updated the board on events, the Bike Race was cancelled do to lightning, and over 200 were registered. Coupons were issued for next year's event. Recreation Department participated in the Emergency exercise this past April. Each month a "Youth of the Month" party is given. This month 58 individuals were recognized for their good behavior with a party at Mr. Gattis. The first day for Summer Program was yesterday. We had registration total was 573 children were registered with 58 children receiving scholarships from the Community Foundation that were given. The Track program had 35 youth registered for this program.

Operational Report: (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott reported that on May 16th the Senior Jamboree was held with over 700 people attending, with a meal being prepared by our Senior Citizens kitchen. Ms. Rottenberry a Professor of Exercise Science with Abilene Christian University was the guest speaker. Our theme "Live Smart Live Well" to promote healthy living, over 65 booths were available for Seniors to see items and facilities offered by Businesses. A dance was held at the end of the event.

Presentation of Summer Leisure Guide: Carl Scott reviewed some of the programs that will be offered

this summer. This summer there will be swim lessons, pool rentals, and information on the summer program. The swimming pool had Splash Day on 5-27 with over 350 in attendance.

Mr. Schweikhard asked how we obtained the scholarship money. Mr. Scott informed the Board that we apply for the scholarship grant and that we compete with other organizations for those monies.

Operation Report: (Parks) Bob Cheatham covered different areas that have been repaved with Certificate of Obligation, trail at Rose Park and road off of 7th to Mockingbird. Installed parking for the boats at Lake Kirby due to the number of fisherman using the Lake in addition the City was the recipient of a boat dock that we split in half and installed at Lake Kirby for a boat dock and Ft. Phantom Lake for a Fishing Dock. The South loop at Red Bud Park has been paved. Some of the Crape Mertils were damaged from the winter weather this year. Mr. Cheatham stated that the crew did a great job finishing the Wilhair Park Concession. The stone sign at Nelson Park was moved to get ready to install the new entrance sign at the Zoo. The Bond project was approved for the ball field lighting, a request for proposal was sent to engineers for a bid. They expect to have the project finished by next spring.

Operation Report: (Zoo) Jeff Bullock stated they are still in the middle of the 40-year anniversary celebrations. The first event was the Enrichment Day on April 22, which included free admittance to the Zoo with over 6,600 in attendance. On May 6th we had the annual Zoolute to Dyess event. The event showed to be a great success again, showing recognition and appreciation to the Dyess active and retired personnel. Work will begin on starting projects that were passed at the last bond election. This Thursday will be the second week of the evening concerts that will continue this summer. Last Saturday was the annual Zoo Day event sponsored by Safari. The 40th Birthday celebration will be July 2, 2006, which includes the ceremony for unveiling the new Zoo sign. July 4th the Zoo will be hosting the Festival on the 4th with other radio stations. The Fireworks will be hosted at the Expo Center that will bring extra traffic to the Zoo. The day will conclude in the Zoo for Zoo Serenade that 500 tickets will be sold for this event to view the fireworks over the Nelson Lake. The second annual beach party on September 21 is still in planning working in coordination with American Zoo Associations Wonders of Water is scheduled for July 22, 2006. Jack Hanner will be the speaker for the Birthday Dinner on September 21. The new education coordination is Joy Harsh, she was with the Zoo previously and has returned and we are please to have her back and look forward to her fresh changes. The new mammal supervisor will be starting on June 27; this should bring us up to full staff. The new baby monkey female is still a joy to see the changes over the summer. The Zoo has received the new male Zebra to bring new blood into the current stock. The Atworst Prairie Chicken Program has hatched 53 eggs with three deaths. The new construction has been on its way since March 20, with most plumbing is installed. The concrete should be complete by the next board meeting. Attendance totals: April 19,101, May 18,176 Ytd 80,299 which is up about 8,000 from the previous two years.

Mr. Hall stated that the Habitat for Humanity is working on a project that they propose to host at the Festival Garden. The proposed Ice Skating rink will be during the off-season. They are asking the Recreation Department to co-sponsor the event by waiving the fee to use the facility. Previous records show during that time frame that only one rental accord. Recreation employees feel that this would be a good project to enhance activities in Abilene.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.