

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

10-3-06

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, Leroy King and Susan Arrington. Board members absent were Moses Hall and Toney Gutierrez. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Carl Scott, Senior Citizens/Recreation Administrator, Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Jeff Bullock, Zoo Superintendent; Theresa James Legal, Susan Gerrad Recreation Supervisor, 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 August 3, 2006, meeting be approved. Susan Arrington seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Awards: Susan Gerrad presented awards to Taeyah Brown for female Athlete of the Year, Ms. Gerrad stated that Taeyah is a third grader at Bassetti, according to the track coaches she is very upbeat and willing to be a team player. Taeyah competed in the 100 (placed 5th), 200 (placed 7th) and the 400 (placed 6th). Taeyah was presented with a plaque from Texas Amateur Athlete Federation. Ms. Gerrad presented the male Athlete of the Year to Ray Ranjel who is a 4th grade at Jane Long Elementary. This is his second year in the track club. Ray received an outstanding sportsmanship and team work from school in 2005. Ray's teachers and coaches stated that he is very positive, focused and a team player and is encouraging to his team mates and competitors. He has received several certificates for excellence in citizenship. Ray was presented a plaque from the Texas Amateur Athlete Federation.

Budget Update: Mike Hall discussed the budget approval; City Council approved the presented budget. One item that was funded is updating the Master Park Plan. This will help bring our Parks Plan in position to submit for grants in the Park fund from the State of Texas. Parks board will be involved in developing the Plan to define the needs as well as the citizens. Request for Proposals were submitted last week, they will be due at the end of this month. It will take approximately a year to develop. The next phase of trail lighting will be taking place next year, with lighting also being placed near Ft. Imagination. The Ft. Imagination had been vandalized the previous night by fire. Ms. Arrington asked what the steps were to develop the Master Plan. Mr. Hall stated that the first step would be to secure a company that would be most capable to handle this project. These companies will include in there proposals a master plan that will be looked at as part of the selection process. A survey to solicit information from the public will also be included. All of the information will be compiled to look at the big picture looking at the

growth areas of Abilene. Once a firm is selected, they will be putting it for review for the Parks Board.

Participation Report: (Recreation) Mr. Scott stated that user hours are down at G.V. Daniels, family night has been moved to class hours. Trends over the last several years show that different Recreation Centers show swings in attendance. G.V. Daniels is currently showing a low in attendance. Summer playground had two sites close this year; we still gained in attendance with the total program. The Tennis Center continues to have increases in participants. The Swimming Pool had a large growth in attendance, due to the good weather. The doggy splash day was a success again this year, with new sponsors being added.

Participation Report: (Senior Citizens) Senior evening activities have increase with dances being increased on Tuesday evenings, with a new band and other music being played. They are currently encouraging younger seniors to get involved in the activities.

Participation Report: (Golf) The Golf program had an increase in the junior program, with several High School Coaches involved in the teaching. There were several activities planned with the youth. The nine hole participation is still increasing with the late evening hours due to the heat. Mike Elrod is working very hard to get the greens in shape this year; it took till mid-August to get the greens in shape. There was not a loss in greenery; we are losing trees due to the drought. An extensive trimming program will be done this fall. Membership rounds are on the increase. They are promoting memberships to other categories, like youth and families.

Presentation of Fall Leisure Guide: The Punt, Pass, and Kick program is scheduled for this month. The Monster Bash is also scheduled for this month, which gives children a safe place; they will bring a bag of candy and participate in the activities. Cobb Recreation Center will be hosting their second ballroom dance. The ballroom dance class still shows to be a big success. The Dog obedience class is still a popular class. The tennis center is continuing to do things that increase the enrollment. Pictures show several of the activities that were done at several of the centers.

Consider Resolution Supporting State Funding for Park Purposes: Amber Cree stated that she moves that the Board send a letter to the State stating the support of the State Funding for Parks. Gail Russey made a motion, Mike Schweikhard second the motion. All in favor the motion passed.

Operations: (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that the recreation center staff and volunteers will be helping to host the teaching of history events at Frontier Texas to the 7th grade classes from the Abilene Independent School District. Saturday will be the local Punt, Pass, and Kick from there the winners will go to sectionals on October 21, and the winners from the sectionals will advance to finals at the Dallas on December 10th. Adult flag football is underway, with four teams competing. This month we will host our Monster Bash at Rose Recreation Center, were kids can bring a bag of candy and play

games and activities with a safe setting. Adaptive Recreation will host their Halloween dance; a local church has adopted the center, providing snacks and other items for the center. On the 31st GV Daniels will host a fall festival.

Operations: (Senior Citizens) October 19th we will be sponsoring a bus to the State Fair of Texas, there will be a \$15.00 charge which includes breakfast. The bus capacity is 56 as of October 2, 46 have signed up for the event. Muddy Creek is the special guest for the Halloween Dance this year. The Senior Citizens division is looking for ways to attract younger citizens to this division. The dance is encouraged for 20 years or above. The Rose Park Senior Citizens is currently remodeling the exercise room to allow more equipment and more cardiovascular machines.

Operations: (Parks) Bob Cheatham informed the board that the recent rains helped some of the greener grasses. Shade structures are currently being put up at Wilhair Park softball fields. Bids were received yesterday for the new Sears Concession building. The pre-bidding meeting will be held today for the lighting project. Also, Bob is currently working on the specs for the South 14th median project. The installation plans for the placement of the floating fishing pier at Fort Phantom is underway.

Operations: (Zoo) Jeff Bullock stated that this year's attendance was good with a total of 120,000 for the year end. For the 40 year anniversary Jack Hanna was here on September 21st, speaking to over 1800 5th graders that morning and at the banquet that evening. The event was very positive. The work continues on the new entry and learning center complex, they are putting up drywall and the project is running about six weeks behind. The RFP's for the Bond proposal program was sent out and the committee will be reviewing proposals. The second annual Dream night is a closed event for the chronically ill patients to attend; there were over 250 in attendance. The Boo at the Zoo will be a little different this year with the construction. Disney is giving out prizes and monies for the movie "The Wild". Tanzy the African Elephant is still progressing well on the medication Prozac. The Jack Hanna's presentation will be aired on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.; the Zoo presented Mr. Hanna with a Cowboy hat.

Meeting was adjourned.