

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

12-5-06

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, and Leroy King. Board members absent were Moses Hall, Toney Gutierrez and Susan King. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Carl Scott, Senior Citizens/Recreation Administrator; Jeff Bullock, Zoo Superintendent; Theresa James Legal, Susan Gerrard Recreation Supervisor, and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

Chair, Amber Cree called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Gail Russey.

Mike Schweikhard moved that the minutes of the October 3, 2006, meeting be approved. Gail Russey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Service Award Presentation: Mike Hall presented a service award to Destri Atchley for his 10 year service with the Parks Department.

Leisure Guide: Mr. Scott stated that we have honored the athletes of the year in this issue of the leisure guide. We have a new exercise class at Rose that is called “Walking the weight away”. There will also be a new twirling class offered. The special events we will be having this session will be the Steaming Wheel Bike race. The 9th annual Daddy/Daughter Dance Night will be hosted on February 15th. This event has continued to be a success with over 575% since the beginning. The 3rd annual Mother/Son will be in March.

Consider Standard of Care: Carl Scott informed the Board of the requirement that annually the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council review and approve the Youth Program’s Standards of Care. Jane Ann Sellers, a certified recreation professional from the City of Coppell inspected our recreation centers. A copy of the findings were included in the Board packets, the findings were very complementary of the staff and centers. Gail Russey moved that the Standards of Care be approved. Mike Schweikhard seconded the motion. Ms Russey stated that she would like to make a note that the Board is very proud of the programs that are offered to the youth of Abilene.

Operation Report: (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott stated the Senior Citizens Division held the annual Holiday Family Fun Event on December 8; this is an annual building fundraiser for Rose Park. A new format of dinner and dancing as well as games and a silent auction will be part of the night’s events. Muddy Creek will provide entertainment for the dance.

Operation Report: (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that the annual Sears community dinner was held with another great success. Over 750 people from the community were feed. The South Park Christmas Dinner is scheduled for December 18th; Dyess AFB is a big sponsor of this event. The Ballroom Dancing is still a big success at Cobb Park. They have started a dance that will allow the community to enjoy a dance night. The first hour the instructor will be available for help. The Punt, Pass and Kick competition was held with 110 participants. Susan Gerred will be taking the finalist to the Dallas Cowboy game for the next level.

Operation Report: (Parks) Mike Hall stated that the council approved to secure an outside firm for the Parks Master Plan. Interviews were done with two companies. We are currently in negotiations with Halff Associates out of Austin. After the first of the year progress should start on the Parks Master Plan including Parks and Senior Citizens. It should take nine to twelve months to complete the process. The Parks Board will be involved in the process in completing the plan. The contractor is beginning Ballfield renovations on the lights, the old lights are being taken down. They should be completed in the next couple of months. The contractor for this bid was Liteco. Parks crews planted new pine plants at the new sign at the Zoo. Lee Parks's playground will be replaced and bid will be sent out for the covered pavilion for Carver Park. Ms. Russey asked what the progress on Fort Imagination since the vandalism. The company that had the material will be donating some of the material. The cost to repair the park will be around \$16 - \$17 thousand dollars. The Junior League still has interest in helping to rebuild the park.

Operation Report: (Zoo) Jeff Bullock stated that this year was a great year for Boo at the Zoo with attendance over 4500. Work continues on the Zoo Entry and Learning Center Project. The contractors have made up a lot of time and are currently on schedule, if not ahead. A committee made up of City Employees and Zoological Society Directors interviewed two (2) design firms for the Elm Creek Backyard project. Following the interviews a recommendation will be made to City Council. Demolition work in Pod A of the Discovery Center has begun in preparation of the new Creepy Crawler Center. Pod C (the aviary) has been dismantled due to a possible infectious disease to birds. The exhibit is being stripped of vegetation and soil as well as complete disinfection. We are currently in the process of putting it back together and will soon re-open the space to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15