

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

2-7-2007

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, Toney Gutierrez and Leroy King. Board members absent were Moses Hall, Amber Cree and Susan Arrington. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director, Carl Scott, Senior Citizens/Recreation Administrator; Bob Cheatham, Parks Administrator, Jeff Bullock, Zoo Superintendent, Theresa James Legal, Susan Gerrad Recreation Supervisor, and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

Gail Russey called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Toney Gutierrez.

Mike Schweikhard moved that the minutes of the December 5, 2006, meeting be approved. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Service Award Presentation:** Mike Hall presented service awards to Rose Brewster for her 10 year service with the Senior Citizens Department; Jerry Kennedy for his 10 year service with the Parks Department; Kenny Galle for his 15 year service with the Parks Department and Susan Gerrad for her 15 year service with the Recreation Department.

**Participation Report:** (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that the numbers for Recreation are down a little but not dramatic, numbers are down in school enrollment, our numbers are running about the same. The tennis center numbers are about the same with mild weather in November the numbers are up a little. The athletics show that softball numbers are down with football numbers up a little.

**Participation Report:** (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott stated that numbers are down a little. We are currently during the tax season, we offer free tax service to seniors. The dance programs still show to be a success.

**Participation Report:** (Golf) Dave Hand stated that due to the weather that numbers are down. With the discounts given twilight hour numbers show to still be a success. Membership numbers are up with several discounts given to different organizations such as Military, City Employees, or other large company or group discounts.

**Parks Master Plan Update:** Mr. Hall stated that we have hired the Halff Company out of Austin to review the Parks Master Plan. The first meeting with the coordinator was for several hours' brain storming and reviewing the process. We will be giving them the information on population and demographics. They will be contacting various individuals within the community and getting their prospective on the needs for the City

in the future. One of the groups that they would like to interview is the Parks Board for your input. They will be contacting each of you to set up an interview time. They will provide us with typical questions for your review, so that you can be prepared for the interview. They will be interviewing the Seniors, Youth Associations, Planning and Zoning Board as well as some of the focus groups. Once they get a schedule on the various steps on this project, this information will be passed on to the Board. This will take up to nine months to complete. This company has a very good reputation for this type of work.

**Certificate of Obligation Projects:** Mr. Hall stated that we are in the process of approving the items that will be approved to receive COP monies. The total amount available this year is \$4 million. The two items that we are recommending to be funded with these monies are the athletic field lighting project, this project is an ongoing project, due to the high cost of the bids, and the original bonds did not cover the total light project. This will replace the poles at Nelson, Cobb and Rose Park additional lighting. This will replace the old lights that are currently a safety issue. The second project for 2007 is the replacement of the roof at the Zoo in the Elephant, Lion and commissary area. The considerable leaking in these areas makes it important to make this a priority due to safety and loss of inventory. Below is a list of other projects on the list for funding:

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Total</u>
7010-08-05	Athletic Field Lighting Upgrade	643,000		150,000	100,000		893,000
7010-04-98	Playground Modernization		50,000	45,000	45,000	50,000	190,000
7040-06-01	Building Roof repair - Zoo	75,000	79,000				154,000
7010-03-06	Sears Park Development		62,000	20,000	75,000		157,000
7110-01-06	Rose Swimming Pool			200,000	150,000		350,000
7010-01-05	Rose Park Trail - repave		80,000				80,000
7010-01-07	Lake Ft. Phantom Park Development				315,000		315,000
7010-02-05	Rose Park Shop		275,000				275,000
7010-01-06	Ball Field Concession Buildings			200,000	200,000	250,000	650,000
7010-01-04	Lake Kirby Park, Baseball Complex					120,000	120,000
7110-02-01	Adaptive Recreation Improvements			285,000			285,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$718,000</b>	<b>\$546,000</b>	<b>\$900,000</b>	<b>\$885,000</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>	<b>\$3,469,000</b>

Mike Schweikhard moved that the projects be approved. Toney Gutierrez second the motion. With all in favor the motion passed.

**Operation Report:** (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that the Christmas dinner at South Park was a success again this year with Dyess AFB catering the meal to the local community with over 300 in attendance. Cobb Recreation had a dance to raise money for the summer program, they will also be hosting a valentine dinner and dance on February the 9th. The Texas Association Athletic Foundation held its "Hall of Fame" awards banquet in Abilene. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Daddy/Daughter Date night has been a success again this year with 300 girls registered to attend. This is a 575% increase since the beginning of this event.

**Operation Report:** (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott stated that the Senior Citizens will be having their valentine dinner on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Seniors will be hosting a bus going to Austin for a “Day at the Capital”. Bob Lilly will be the key note speaker for this event. After the event the seniors will be able to walk the halls talking to Representatives of Government on issues that impact seniors.

**Operation Report:** (Parks) Bob Cheatham stated that the Park crews are in the midst of numerous ‘Winter Maintenance Projects’ which include painting restroom interiors, repairing ball field fencing, tree trimming and other such work. A sidewalk has been poured from the gate to Fort Imagination. The lighting project is a little behind due to the weather. The contractor is in the process of constructing the foundation and plumbing at Sears Park Little League Concession. There was only one bid received and it was over the budgeted funding for the Nelson Park Trail Lighting project. We will wait until January 2007, to re-bid. Staff is preparing plans and specifications for the addition of a picnic shelter at Carver Park. The Parks crew will be working on the landscape behind the Zoo Education building and lake side of the Zoo to help with erosion.

**Operation Report:** (Zoo) Jeff Bullock stated the zoo is expecting the arrival of male and female black bears on Feb. 7 from the Houston SPCA. The bears were confiscated from a private owner and the confiscation was filmed for the Animal Planet show, Animal Cops. The two will be slowly introduced to our lone male bear over the next month. The Abilene Zoo has been approved to breed the lions. The Secretary Birds have laid two eggs that should hatch; the birds are on a loan breeding program. This is one of the ways that Zoos stock their animals. The animal rights organization, In Defense of Animals included Abilene in their 2006 list as part of their campaign to remove all elephants from zoological institutions. Also, they have recently made another request for all of our elephant records dating back to December 2004. The zoo has turned over these records to the City Attorneys office. The Zoological Society has proposed to have an increase in admission for adults and seniors by \$1.00 this spring, child admission will remain the same. The target date for completion of the new entry area looks to be on schedule. The design team was chosen and a design Charette for Elm Creek Backyard will be scheduled for later this month. The estimated time line for the project has a possible opening date as late spring/early summer 2008.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m.