

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

10-10-2007

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services board room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, Toney Gutierrez, Susan Arrington and Leroy King. Board member absent was Moses Hall. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director; Bob Cheatham, Parks Administrator; Susan Gerred, Anita Vigil and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

Amber Cree called the meeting to order – 8:30 a.m...

Invocation was given by Gail Russey.

Toney Gutierrez moved that the minutes of the August 14, 2007, meeting be approved. Susan Arrington seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Amber Cree and the board congratulated Susan Gerred on her election as president of the TAAF.

Presentation of Male Local TAAF Athlete of the Year: Susan Gerred presented the Male Athlete of the Year Award to Trevor McCoy. Ms. Gerred stated that Trevor was a team player and showed outstanding effort in the track club. Trevor competed in the 50 meters, long jump and the high jump. The coaches nominate the individuals by looking at attendance, attitude, leadership and team support. He is a second grader at Thomas Elementary, and is active in school sports, as well as soccer, football, baseball, swimming and karate. Trevor was presented with a plaque.

Presentation of Female Local TAAF Athlete of the Year: Susan Gerred presented the Female Athlete of the Year Award to Menyon Coleman. Menyon is a sixth grader at Craig Middle School; she has a good attitude and is a hard worker. She competed in the 100, 200 and 400 meter relays. The relay team qualified for state finals in all three events. She is involved in soccer, volleyball and cross country. Menyon was presented with a plaque.

Parks Master Plan Draft: This item will be delayed until the next Board meeting.

Request to charge admission for Big Country Youth Football: Bob Cheatham stated that the Big Country Youth Football Association would like to charge one dollar admission for the playoff games. These funds help with purchasing uniforms and pads.

Gail Russey made a motion to approve the charge. Mike Schweikhard seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Participation Report: (Golf) Mike Hall stated that the numbers are down a small amount. The rain has contributed to these numbers being down. The rain did help with the expense of watering. Even with the total rounds being down, the financial situation looks good with water expense being down. The course is in good condition. They are in the process of over seeding for the winter months.

Participation Report: (Recreation) Susan Gerred stated that the recreation classes were about the same. Special event numbers were up due to the participation numbers being up in our summer playground program. Class user hours were up due to the late night basketball program at Daniels Recreation Center. There were fifty to sixty young men participating in this program. User hours and field trip numbers were all up due to the increase in the summer program. Playground participation numbers were up about 300 compared to last year. Six out of our eight locations were full for the first and second session. Three out of five locations were full for the third session. Susan stated that the group numbers are down due to an exercise group disbanding. The tennis center numbers were up with several tournaments being sponsored. The athletic numbers were about the same. Summer track numbers increased.

Participation Report: (Senior Citizens) Anita stated that they will be starting new classes so, the arts and crafts class numbers should be going up. The new exercise and strengthening equipment is very popular and we are getting a lot of Doctors telling patients to go to the Rose Senior Center to use the equipment for therapy. Anita did pass the exam for the personal fitness trainer. There will be more classes offered for senior health and exercise.

Ms. Cree asked if the Doggie Swim Day was a success. Anita stated that we had 73 dogs participate. The event becomes more popular each year.

Participation Report: (Parks) Bob Cheatham stated that the slow down in rain has been nice. Now the crews could catch up on maintenance. The sports lighting project for Nelson and T-bone ball fields will begin this winter with the same company that did the previous lighting project. They extended the same pricing for this project.

Participation Report: (Zoo) Mike Hall stated that the new director is doing a good job, and has been very busy with all of the projects. The Creepy Crawler Center and the Boardwalk should be complete by the end of November. The Elm Creek Backyard project is still in the design phase; hopefully we will start in the near future. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The parking lot expansion should begin this month and be completed by the end of November. The Giraffe renovation should be completed by spring of 2008. The "Boo at the Zoo" will be October 20th this year, and we are expecting more participants this year. Ms. Cree stated that the new store would be a great place to do gift shopping; there are a lot of educational toys and games.

Operation: (Senior Citizens) Anita Vigil stated that they will be participating in the winter wellness program. There are many booths for the seniors to get information on health and programs offered by businesses in the Abilene area. Tomorrow we will be leaving for the State Fair. Anita attended a class on fall prevention for seniors. Ms. Vigil will be offering classes for seniors to help inform seniors on being active and things to do to prevent falling. This is a grant program and we will be offering classes throughout the year. The Halloween dance will be October 30. Muddy Creek will be performing this year at the event.

Operation: (Recreation) Susan Gerred stated we will be hosting our local and sectionals of the Punt, Pass and Kick. We will be having several Halloween events; the adaptive recreation will be having its annual event. The Monster Mash will be held at Rose Recreation Center. G.V. Daniels will be having a Fall Festival on October 31, 2007, for the neighborhood children to enjoy a safe Halloween.

Meeting Adjourned 9:25 a.m.