

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

February 12, 2008

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, Susan Arrington, Toney Gutierrez and LeRoy King. Board members absent were Amber Cree and Terry Johnson. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director; Susan Gerred, Recreation Supervisor; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary. Special guests were Jerry Kingston with the Disc Golf Club, Steve Glenn and Eric Johnson with the Abilene Rotary Club.

Chair, Gail Russey called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Mike Schweikhard.

Toney Gutierrez moved that the minutes of the, December 4, 2007, meeting be approved. Mike Schweikhard seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Proposal to expand Disc Golf in Cal Young Park: Bob Cheatham introduced Eric Johnston and Steve Glenn with the Abilene Rotary Club and Jerry Kingston with the local Disc Golf Club. Mr. Johnston reviewed proposal information that was included in packets. Mr. Johnston stated that there was a growing popularity with Disc Golf and the Rotary Club would like to help with this sport. They are looking at the land adjacent to Cal Young Park for expansion of the current Disc Golf Course. The Rotary Club proposes to sell sponsorships for a Disc Golf tournament series that would fund the purchase of equipment and professional installation and design of the new course. The City would not be responsible for funding. This improvement would also be part of the Parks Master Plan. The design and implement would be about \$20,000 for Phase I. Phase II would include walk/hike/bike trails, a playground and benches with anticipated cost of \$10,000. Phase III would be adding a pavilion, parking and restrooms with an anticipated cost of \$15,000. Mr. Schweikhard asked if the City would be funding any part of the total \$45,000. Mr. Johnston stated that the total amount would be from grants and private sources. Mike Hall stated that he felt this would be a great use for this area of the park. One section of proposed area is private property and the Rotary Club would contact owners to check the ability to have the landowners donate or sell the property. Designers stated that the changes are possible without the land acquisition. Susan Arrington asked if there would be any upgrades to the existing course. Mr. Johnston stated that there would be improvements to the current course if money were available. Jerry Kingston stated that with the current 18 hole course and the addition of another 18 hole course would open up the ability to have tournaments that would generate a large amount of participants that would be eating, sleeping and shopping in Abilene. Mr. Johnston also stated that the designers would be professional designers that have the knowledge to build a course that would be a desirable course. Mike Schweikhard moved that we accept the proposal to expand the Disc Golf Course at Cal Young Park. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Senior Facilities Master Plan: Mike Hall stated that the Master Plan was approved as presented by the Planning and Zoning Commission. In addition, the Master Plan was discussed at Council Workshop last week. A suggestion was submitted by Councilman Sam Chase to place the Dyess Park Facility on the west side of the lake instead of the east side. Mike Hall stated that after review of the property that the change will be made on the Master Plan. The next phase will be meeting with residents at Lake Fort Phantom and check where facilities will be located. Staff recommends the approval of the Parks Master Plan. If approved, the Plan will be taken back to City Council for final approval. Once Council approves, Jim Carrillo with Halff and Associates will be asked to make the changes and finalize the document. Susan Arrington asked if the City expected to have a bond election this year. Mr. Hall stated that they did not anticipate one this year, the Abilene Youth Sports Association will be making a proposal to use sales tax dollars for building the youth complex that will require a public vote. Toney Gutierrez made a motion that the board accepts the Parks Master Plan with the change noted. Susan Arrington seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Certificate of Obligation Projects: Mike Hall reviewed the below listed projects that were submitted for approval to be funded by Certificate of Obligations. 1.) Roof repairs, 2.) Maxwell Golf Irrigation, 3.) Sears park Development, 4.) Ball Field Concession Buildings, 5.) Playground Modernization, 6.) Lake Ft. Phantom Development, 7.) Athletic Field Lighting Project, 8.) Rose Park Trail. 9.) Lake Kirby Park, Baseball Complex. Certificate of Obligation information sheets included in each packet. Leroy King made a motion to approve the Certificate of Obligations as presented. Toney Gutierrez seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Service Awards: Mike Hall presented an award to Robert Love in the Parks Department for 5 years of service. Mr. Love works in section 6 that covers Redbud Park and Rose Park. Mike Hall presented an award to Barbara Liggett for 5 years of service. She is the Supervisor over the Adaptive Recreation Program. Mike Hall presented an award to Joe Rodriguez for 10 years of service; Joe is the Crew Chief in the Parks Department that covers Lee Park. Mike Hall presented an award to Julie Sartor for 15 years of service; she is currently a Supervisor I in the Senior Citizens Department.

Participation Report: (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Susan Gerred stated that some of the classes were down a small amount; special events are running about the same. Instructor user hours were down a small amount. Our class user hours were up with the addition of Daniels Family Volleyball night being added. After school user hours continue to grow. Tennis Centers numbers were up, the good weather and extra clinics and tournaments helped boost these numbers. Athletic numbers are about the same with no significant changes. Senior Citizens numbers are running about the same.

Mike Schweikhard asked if the new facility that the Abilene Youth Sports Authority was proposing to build would benefit the City, Mike Hall stated that he felt that it would be a benefit.

Participation Report: (Golf) Mike Hall stated that all of the rain was beneficial for the grass, but the participation numbers were down. Mike stated that due to the rounds being down, he felt that there may need to be a new contract for the management at the Golf Course.

Spring Leisure Guide: (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Susan Gerred stated that the brochure did not have pictures of the Daddy Daughter Date Night; they will be ready later this week. They will continue to have dances at Cobb due to the popularity of this event. Some new events will be racquetball tournaments at Sears Recreation and a Karate class. As usual, the K-9 class is popular. The pools will be opening on Memorial Day weekend. They will not be open the next week due to schools still being in session. There will not be swim lessons offered this year. Some of our senior events will be the Live Long and Love It conference on March 4. The Season of Caring conference will be April 1 for caregivers and the popular Senior Jamboree will be held on May 20 at the Abilene Civic Center. Adaptive Recreation held the Valentine Dance last week. The annual Steam N Wheel bike race will be held March 15th. The Children's Bike Rodeo and Tour will be added this year. The summer playground program will kick off again this year with registration on May 27th, from 5 – 9 p.m. at the Civic Center. Abilene Christian University track coaches will run the summer track club again this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.