

## PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

May 6, 2008

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Mike Schweikhard, Terry Johnson and LeRoy King. Board members absent were Susan Arrington and Toney Gutierrez. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Carl Scott, Senior Citizen/Recreation Administrator; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Dave Hand, Kelly Messer, Legal Department; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary. Special guests were Lynn Barnett with Cultural Affairs Council and David Wallace with Senior Citizens Division.

Chair, Amber Cree called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m..

Invocation was given by Mike Schweikhard.

LeRoy King moved that the minutes of the, February 12, 2008, meeting be approved. Gail Russey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Presentation on Cultural Affairs Council Temporary Art Display:** Bob Cheatham introduced Lynn Barnett with the Cultural Affairs Council to review the list of artists and sculptures that will be on display for the next two years. This year Texas Tech was selected to display art pieces. See attached the list and sketches of selected pieces.

**Presentation of Service Awards:** Mike Hall presented an award to David Wallace in the Senior Citizens Department for 10 years of service.

Amber Cree presented Mike Schweikhard a plaque for appreciation of his service as a Parks and Recreation Board Member.

**Participation Report:** (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Carl Scott reported that the recreation classes are down; this is a trend that we are reviewing. Most numbers are running about the same. After hour user hours are up, even with the school enrollment numbers being down. Tennis center numbers are up, tournaments are a big asset, and David has done a good job in promoting our Tennis Center. Senior Citizens exercise room continues to be a success with the addition to the exercise room.

Amber introduced Terry Johnson to the board. Terry stated that he moved to Abilene from Midland to attend ACU and meet his wife Cassandra and has lived in Abilene 10 years. He is currently employed with the Community Action Program.

**Certificate of Obligation Projects:** Mike Hall stated four programs were funded; Scarborough Park Playground, roof replacement on the education building at the Zoo, monies to purchase land adjacent to Sears Park and the replacement of irrigation controllers at Maxwell Golf Course.

**Update on Fort Phantom Projects:** Mike Hall stated that now that the Parks Master Plan is

complete, we will be scheduling meetings with the Fort Phantom Association and submitting grant applications to the Texas Parks and Wildlife. The maximum amount would be \$500,000 and we should know by the end of December.

**Operation Report:** (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott informed the board that Terry Johnson was very instrumental in the organization of the Late Night Basketball. Senior Citizens have taken several day trips, one to Odessa to see the Petroleum Museum then last week to Lubbock to tour the Buddy Holly Museum and today they went to the Hummingbird Farm. A new event this year was the Easter egg hunt.

**Operation Report:** (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that the bike race was a success again this year with 185 entries. The new kids' rodeo had 22 entries and showed to be very popular. The staff for the summer program has been hired; we are still short on lifeguards.

**Operation Report:** (Parks) Bob Cheatham handed out a list of projects that were completed this winter. Mr. Cheatham stated that he is still short summer staff; we are currently contracting out some of the mowing in the large areas. The staff is in the process of replacing plants and planting flowers.

Gail Russey stated that the Zoo is getting ready for the Armed Forces Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>, this is a day that all military active or retired families can attend the Zoo at no charge. Opening ceremonies will be at 9:00 am and will continue all day. The Cooper High School ROTC will present the flag and the Celebration Singers will sing the National Anthem. Last years attendance was 4200, we expect the same or more this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.