

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

July 6, 2008

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, James Smith, Toney Gutierrez, Susan Arrington, Terry Johnson and LeRoy King. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Tony Neitzler, Asst. Director; Carl Scott, Senior Citizen/Recreation Administrator; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Dave Hand, Theresa James, Legal Department; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary. Special guests were Justin Whitely, Betty Lindsey, David Almanzar, and Jacob Pharris.

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

Amber Cree introduced welcomed James Smith as a new board member.

Invocation was given by Leroy King.

Gail Russey moved that the minutes of the, May 8, 2008, meeting be approved. LeRoy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Service Awards: Carl Scott presented a 5-year service award to Justin Whitely as a Specialist in our Recreation Department. Betty Lindsey was presented a 10-year service award as a Coordinator in our Recreation Department.

Presentation of Service Awards: Bob Cheatham presented David Almanzar a 5-year service award as a Crew Chief in our Parks Department. Jacob Pharris was presented a 5-year service award as a Crew Chief in our Parks Department.

Amber Cree presented Susan Arrington a plaque for appreciation of her service as a Parks and Recreation Board Member since June 1997 until June 2008.

Participation Report: Most numbers are still about the same, our after school hours are up and contribute that to our staff. The Tennis Center continues to do a good job. There are several tournaments scheduled. Athletics are running about the same. Senior Citizens are down some in meals. The exercise numbers continue to grow with the addition to the exercise room.

Participation Report: Dave Hand stated that June numbers are up by 700 rounds. The State School practices every Sunday for competition and has gone on to State competition, there are several charity organizations that practice at Maxwell.

Consider grant application to the State of Texas Park Improvement at Fort Phantom: Mike Hall reviewed the council memo that was submitted for Grants. These are for grants that will make a great impact on the projects at Fort Phantom. The funding totals to be \$1,221,000 and we propose and hope to receive \$1,000,000 from the State on two separate grants. Mr. Hall stated that the Fort

Phantom Association was supportive and helpful in the grant process. Halff and Associates was hired to help in the preparation and cost estimates. Toney Gutierrez moved that we accept the grant application. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Operation Report: (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott informed the Board that Senior Citizens have been slow during the summer with vacation and the heat. Some of Dyess personnel came to Rose Park for the Fourth of July celebration to have cookies and punch with the Seniors and play bingo. Abilene Regional has invited the seniors to have a dinner at Perini Ranch.

Operation Report: (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that this is National Therapeutic Week and the PUSH America bicyclists will be stopping by at Adaptive Recreation. The organization usually donates to the program. Summer Program is again showing to be a success with numbers being up from last year. The TAAF is sponsoring the Regional Track meet this month at the ACU track field. The Movie in the Park is scheduled for July 18, with the feature being the "Bee Movie". The pools numbers are good this year with the weather cooperating and the nearly everyday is booked for pool reservations.

Operation Report: (Parks) Bob Cheatham stated that there have been several irrigation problems this summer. One of the suggestions for moneys used from the grant will be to construct a wave attenuation structure at Fort Phantom, which will assist in lowering structure damage when there are windstorms. The wood fiber was replaced with grass in the Skate Park to eliminate the wood fibers getting into the skating area.

Operation Report: (Zoo) Bill Baker stated that they are working ahead on the production schedule with the recent opening of the creepy crawler exhibit. The current project is the wetlands and the boardwalk area. The rain delays the work due to the design of the area being wetlands. Bill stated that they are on schedule and should be completed in the next 30 to 60 days. The design is being worked on for the Ocelot exhibit and the Maned Wolf exhibit and expects completion in the next 60 days, which will correspond with the arrival of the Maned Wolves in October. We are currently replacing some of the shelters and in the exhibits and repairing fence to coincide with USDA issues. Roofing repairs are pending at this time. Media coverage has been very good.

Amber Cree asked James Smith to give a little information about his history in Abilene. James stated that he is an Abilene native, worked for Tippet and Gee 17 years and currently works for the Abilene ISD as the Maintenance Director and looks forward to his term on the Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.