

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

May 5, 2009

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services conference room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, James Smith, Toney Gutierrez, Terry Johnson, Julie Napier 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; Kelly Messer, Legal Department; Bill Baker, Zoo Administrator; Justin Whiteley, Susan Gerred and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

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

Invocation was given by James Smith.

Gail Russey moved that the minutes of the, March 10, 2009, meeting be approved. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Recognition of Recreation Employee: Susan Gerred presented Justin Whiteley with the ICAN Hero award for his dedication to the children at G.V. Daniels and the Carver Teens.

Participation Report: (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that Recreation classes and after school classes are running at about the same levels. There has been no significant change in the numbers for this quarter. Tennis numbers are running about the same.

Participation Report: (Senior Citizens) Carl Scott stated that there were two bad weather days that contributed to the down numbers in meals served.

Participation Report: (Golf) Dave Hand stated that annual membership numbers are up, and that 18 hole numbers are down due to the increase in annual membership rounds.

Certificate of Obligation Projects: Mike Hall reviewed funded projects for the Certificate of Obligation. See attached information.

Update on Fort Phantom Project: Tony stated that surveys are being done for the wetlands area. The next survey will be the Archeologists and there will be someone on site checking to make sure there is not any Brazos River snake habitat. We will be working with the Corps of Engineers to get the 404 permit, which allows us to do work on the edge of the watershed and adjacent to the flood plains. The staff is working on an ordinance that will prohibit mineral extraction and mining in both of those areas. Mike stated that we are working with Halff and Associates and that construction should begin in December and be completed by the end of 2010.

Operation Report: (Recreation) Carl Scott stated that most of the summer staff has been hired. Registration for the summer program will be on June 2, 2009 at the Civic Center. The Bike Race was a success again this year with 217 participants including 19 children.

Operation Report: (Senior Citizen) Carl Scott stated that today they will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. The Mother's Day celebration will be Friday, May 8. Jack North will be the speaker at the Senior Jamboree scheduled for May 19; he will be speaking on the history of Abilene. There will be over 50 booths available for seniors to visit.

Operation Report: (Parks) Bob Cheatham stated that the crews have been focusing on mowing and planting. The next project will be the two fountains at Nelson Park; these fountains will help in aerating the lake and beautification. Sears Little League is in the process of building a concession stand for the new field. The City is furnishing the supplies and the Little League is supplying the labor.

Operation Report: (Zoo) Bill Baker stated Wetland Boardwalk exhibit has been completed. The next Black Rhino should arrive in the next couple of weeks. The Tiger exhibit is about 75% complete and about 5 week from receiving the White Tiger from Busch Gardens. Preliminary prints for the roofing of the Veterinary Clinic are pending. Plans are being made for the Zoolute Day supporting the military and their families with free admission and activities. The recycling center is almost complete. The Ocelot kittens were approved for the cat ambassador program. The Autism walk was a great success. The Rhino was the profile animal for the conservation and membership drive.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.