

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

September 08, 2009

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 08, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, James Smith, Julie Napier, Toney Gutierrez and Leroy King. Absent was Terry Johnson. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director; Tony Neitzler, Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Kelly Messer, Legal Department; Bill Baker, Zoo Administrator; Susan Gerred, Janet Whisenhunt and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

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

Invocation was given by James Smith.

Julie Napier moved that the minutes of the, July 14, 2009, meeting be approved. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of the TAAF Athletes of the Year: Susan Gerred presented the Male Athlete of the Year to Samai Massaqui and Female Athlete of the Year to Lauren Fairchild. Susan stated that Samai is 14 years old and has had many accomplishments in track and other sports. He has a great attitude and sets examples for the younger participants. Susan stated that Lauren is very competitive in many sports and very committed to her sports and school. She also has had great accomplishments in the sporting events she competes in.

Review conceptual plans for Johnson Park and Sea Bee Park Development: Tony introduced Jim Carrillo to review the Fort Phantom Lake development. Jim presented the board with a proposed layout for Johnson and Sea Bee Park and the boat dock area. Jim stated the State removed the cost from the grant for a restroom at the dock area. The proposed plan showed where and what type of amenities would be included. Plans are to have bidding completed by the end of the year and construction to begin the first part of 2010.

Presentation of Service Award: Susan presented Tracey Bailey with a 5-year service award; she is a recreation specialist at Chavez South Park Recreation Center. Al Flores was presented with a 10-year service award; Al is the Center Coordinator at Rose Recreation Center. Janet Whisenhunt presented Tom Thomas with a 5-year award; he is a bus driver for the Senior Citizens Division. Janet informed the Board of the award to be presented to Roy Barbian for a 10-year award; he is a driver for the Senior Citizens Division. Bob Cheatham presented Willis Bivins with a 5-year service award; he is a Park Crew Chief at the City Cemetery. Bill Baker presented Carin Dobbs with a 10-year service award; she is a curator at the Abilene Zoo.

Presentation of the Fall Leisure Guide: Susan Gerred reviewed the Fall Leisure Guide stating that the Punt Pass and Kick competition will be October 10 and sectionals will be October 31. The annual Monster Mash Fall Festival will be held at the Rose Recreation Center and the Fall Festival will be held at G.V. Daniels on October 31. The Digital Photography class still continues to grow. The Zumba class was reinstated again this season. Flag Football will be kicking off again in September. Monday Madness is a new recreational event for kids ages 6-18.

Request to charge admission for the Big Country Youth Football post-season tournament: Bob Cheatham stated that the Youth Football requests each year to charge admittance to the playoffs to help pay expenses for the tournament. Gail Russey made a motion to allow the admittance charge. Toney seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Operation Report: (Recreation) Susan Gerred reported that there were 725 kids registered for session 1 and 2. Four hundred registered for session 3. Fifty-one families were given financial assistance with scholarships for the summer program. There were 64 kids registered in the Summer Track Program with 21 qualifying for State Competition. The Movie in the Park was a success again with over 150 people in attendance. The Doggie Splash Day had 64 dogs and 150 people attend the annual event.

Operation Report: (Senior Citizen) Janet stated that the seniors are enjoying the new Wii System. They hosted a bowling tournament using the new system. The senior centers sponsored a day trip to attend the West Texas Fair. The dance featuring Muddie Creek band continues to be a popular event. The Freedom to Go roundup will be held on October 8, to give seniors information on obtaining scooters to help in mobility.

Operation Report: (Parks) Bob Cheatham stated that the crews have been busy preparing for the sporting events at the schools and parks. There has been a lot of vandalism and several break-ins of buildings. We have received bids to repair the seven light poles that have damage on the poles. Amber Cree stated that the blooming flowers look great.

Operation Report: (Zoo) Bill Baker stated that staff has been working on security renovation on the Tiger and Bear areas. The blue prints for the new veterinary clinic arrived this week. There are 19 projects that staff is currently working on. The Zoo was awarded a grant in the amount of \$195,210 from the Texas Park and Wildlife to be used towards the Elm Creek Backyard project. The new Rhino Van will be revealed on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 11:00.

Amber Cree suggested that a tour of the Fort Phantom area be scheduled for the next board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.