

## PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 13, 2010

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 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, Assistant Director; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent; Lesli Andrews, Recreation/Senior Citizens Administrator; Kelly Messer, Legal Department; Vonceil Harmon, Interim Zoo Administrator; Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent, Lenka Wright, and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

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

Invocation was given by Toney Gutierrez.

Gail Russey moved that the minutes of the January 5, 2010, meeting be approved. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Presentation of Service Awards:** Bob Cheatham presented Michael Soliz an award for 5 years of service with the Parks Department.

**Sale of Alcoholic Beverages at the Abilene Zoo:** Amber Cree made note to the Board the changes that were made from the original proposal being that sales would be during non-business hours, invitation only and that the Festival Gardens and Nelson Park Ball fields be removed. The guidelines will be part of the City Ordinance. Gail Russey made a motion to approve the amendment as presented, Leroy seconded the motion. Leroy King, Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Julie Napier and Toney Gutierrez voted Yea. James Smith voted Nay. Motion passed with a majority vote.

**Update on Certificate of Obligation projects:** Mike Hall stated that these projects have been approved and the bonds should be sold in June:

1. Zoo Roof Repairs - \$81,000
2. Giraffe Bridge Structure repairs – \$60,000
3. Roof Repairs Tennis - \$50,000
4. Athletic Field Lighting Park improvement - \$\$41,000
5. Playground modernization Cal Young and Carver Park - \$120,000
6. Maxwell Golf replaces Golf Irrigation - \$65,000

**Update on Fort Phantom projects:** Tony Neitzler stated that several items on the project have gone to bid and the bids will be opened on May 5.

**Participation Report:** Lesli Andrews reported that class numbers are down due to the Dog Obedience class not being held this quarter. There have been several new classes added. All other numbers are looking good. After school hours have increased over 3,000 hours. The Tennis Center numbers are down a little, they have had construction during the last quarter. The numbers of senior meals served are down.

**Presentation of Spring Leisure Guide:** Lesli Andrews stated that the Steam n Wheels Bike Race was canceled due to inclement weather. The 3 on 3 Basketball tournament co-sponsored by Buffalo Wings and First National Bank of Baird had 12 teams enter. This should become an annual event. Things are

beginning to be prepared for the Summer Program. We did receive a \$9,000 grant from Community Foundation for Summer Playground Program Scholarships. Sears has made several changes with the equipment room. A Basketball Camp, Youth Leadership Camp and Golf Camp have been added to the classes. There have been Art Classes as well as Science Classes are being offered at the centers.

**Operation Report:** (Parks) Bob Cheatham stated that they are currently working on weed control. Vandalism is up with damages in several parks. The fountains are being resurfaced at Everman and Minter Park. One of the fountains at Nelson is not working and when weather permits, these repairs will be made. Stevenson Park restrooms are closed due to the low water pressure. 12 new drinking fountains will be installed at parks around the City.

**Operation Report:** (Zoo) Vonceil Harman stated that on March 4<sup>th</sup> the Zoo received Accreditation on the Zoo from the AZA. The new Vet Clinic has been completed. The quarantine area is still being remodeled. The Elm Creek exhibits are still in progress and should be completed in four to six weeks. The Ocelot exhibit should be completed by spring break. During Spring break the Zoo had over 2600 participants on one day. There are several special events scheduled during the next few months. The Grover Nelson Foundation made a donation to build an Amphibian Conservation and should be opened by August.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.