

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 12, 2011

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board room. Board members present were Gail Russey, James Smith, Julie Napier, and Leroy King. Absent were Toney Gutierrez, Terry Johnson and Amber Cree. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director, Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director, Lesli Andrews Recreation/Senior Citizens Administrator, Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Administrator, Theresa James, Legal Department; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary.

Gail Russey called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m..

Invocation was given by James Smith

Leroy King made a correction to the minutes as presented that Amber Cree was listed as present and should have been listed as absent.

Leroy King moved that the minutes be approved with the stated correction of the February 15, 2011, meeting. James Smith seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Service Award: Bob Cheatham presented Steve O'Shaughnessy a 5 year service award; Steve is a mechanic for the Parks Department.

Update on Fort Phantom Project: Tony Neitzler stated that the project is 95% complete and that we are waiting on the extension project until the lake is at its lowest level.

Participation Report: Lesli Andrews stated that the Steam N Wheels Bike Race was a success and that a tree was dedicated in the memory of Susan Gerred. The 3 on 3 Basketball tournaments was cancelled. All other classes are running about the same.

Presentation of Winter Leisure Guide: Lesli Andrews stated that Rose Park added a women's volleyball night on Thursday. Summer leisure guide will be coming out soon. A marketing class at ACU is looking at our leisure guide and will be making a presentation with new ways to market our programs. Daniels will be having an Eggstravaganza event at the center.

Consider operation agreement with the Zoological Society and the City of Abilene: Mike Hall stated that the Zoological Society and the City of Abilene have been in contract since the early 60's. The last several contracts have been 10 year contracts. The existing contract is scheduled to be over next year. Due to the fact that we have run into a situation in the old contract that prevented us from moving forward with the operation of the train during spring break we have decided to go ahead and renew the contract. The old agreement stated that they could have 3rd party agreements in Nelson Park, excluding the softball fields, but did not state that the Zoological Society could make agreements with 3rd parties. We feel that it was an oversight in the old contract and that we should move ahead with the revision of the new contract. A few wording changes with the additional salary reimbursement and additional wording that would be of benefit for AZA purposes since we are about 3 years until the next inspection are the only other changes.

James Smith made a motion to accept the contract as presented. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion passed.

Operational Report (Recreation/Senior Citizens): Lesli stated that special presentations for our Recreation and Senior programs were made to several of our seniors. This is Volunteer Awareness Month and special recognition is being made to everyone that has volunteered. These hours worked saves the City a tremendous amount of money with over 1000 hours worked. G.V. Daniels was chosen by the Together 2011 group to help with the makeover, they will be painting the outside, replacing tiles on the inside. Hillcrest Church of Christ has partnered with the Abilene Reporter News and will be holding a Church service and serve lunch for volunteers that will be assisting in the remodeling.

Operational Report (Parks): Bob stated that they are currently replacing the playground at Cal Young Park and an Eagle Scout is helping with the small playground installation. Crews have been working on the lights at Redbud Park farm field. The KABOOM committee is working to receive a grant to replace the playground at Carver Park.

Operational Report (Zoo): Bill Gersonde stated that the renovation of the Prairie Dog exhibit has opened with the help of a gracious donation from the Napier family. Three of the lions are being moved off site and will be sent to other zoos. The train was used during spring break and was a great success. A Horticulturist has been hired and is helping with the landscaping.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20