

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

July 12, 2011

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 12, at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Amber Cree, Gail Russey, Julie Napier, Tony Gutierrez and Leroy King. Absent were James Smith, and Terry Johnson. Community Services staff present were Mike Hall, Director, Tony Neitzler, Assistant Director, Anita Vigil, Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Administrator, Theresa James, Legal Department; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary, special guest Ronda Hillis.

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

Invocation was given by Leroy King.

Gail Russey moved that the minutes be approved for the April 12, 2011, meeting. Julie Napier seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Service Award: Bob Cheatham presented Juan Martinez a 5 year service award; Juan works in Section 6 for the Parks Department.

Request for permit to sell beer and wine at fund raiser event: Tony stated that we had everything for the request except the certificate of insurance. If approved the motion will need to state that the City of Abilene will need a certificate of insurance. Ronda Hillis stated that invitations will be sent for August 10, 2011 and the event will be honoring Amber Cree for all of her hard work. Gail made a motion to approve the permit with the condition that the certificate of insurance is given. Leroy seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

2011 Budget Update: Mike stated that a copy of the memo to City Council is in each packet. The budget included a 3% raise to all employees, no service programs are scheduled to be cut, no furloughs, and no fee increases are scheduled. The department budget is about the same. Food cost was our departments main cost increase.

Participation Report: Anita Vigil stated that the numbers should be leveling off after changing the way we are counting events. Staff participated in the Mayor's 5k run; user hours have increased some, most numbers have remained about the same.

Presentation of Winter Leisure Guide: Anita stated that there are several classes for the summer. Summer Playground is in the second session, Basketball Camp at Daniels, Movie in the Park co-sponsored by Coronado Nursing Alzheimer.

Operational Report (Recreation/Senior Citizens) Anita stated that the Senior Citizens will be hosting the first annual Spelling Bee. Adaptive Recreation will be having its annual silent auction. Senior Citizens will be trying out for the first annual talent show in August; show will be at the Civic Center on September 3, 2011. Party on the Patio is scheduled on October 1, 2011 at Rose Park Senior Citizens building. Exercise room continues to be popular. Recreation begins using new software. A group of kids were taken to the Mayors Hike at Lake Abilene.

Operational Report (Parks): Bob stated that the heat and dry weather is taking a toll on the trees and shrubs. New drinking fountains are being installed at Nelson, Cal Young, Red Bud, and Rose Park. West Texas Football wants new field at Rose Park. Crews are installing new playground at Cal Young Park, an Eagle Scout helped in installing the small playground. Lights are being installed at Redbud Park – farm field.

Operational Report (Zoo): Bill stated that the prairie dog exhibit is opened and was made possible with a generous donation by the Napier's. Three lions are being moved off site and will be sent to other Zoos. The train is working well and is being well received by the public. Twelve new flamingos arrived. The winter barn is being renovated. The annual Zoolute is being planned. There are several promotion days planned for entrance into the Zoo; Teddy Bear Day - free admittance with each child that brings a teddy bear; Mother and Father's Day – adult free with each paid child admittance. The Youth Advisory Council and Carver Youth Council are working on the Diversity Garden. Fundraiser honoring Amber Cree is being planned for September.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15