

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

July 10, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Leigh Black, Robyn Wertheim, Gary Grubbs and Leroy King. Absent were Julie Napier and Jeff Goodin. Community Services staff present were, Larry Johnson, Interim Director, Lesli Andrews, Assistant Director, Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Administrator, Stan Smith, Legal Department; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary. Special guest Linda Carlson.

Gail Russey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Invocation was given by Leroy King.

Leigh Black moved that the minutes be approved for the June 19, 2012, meeting. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Consider construction of Giraffe Facility on the grounds of the Abilene Zoo: Bill Gersonde stated that the Zoo would like to construct a holding facility for the Giraffes. The request is to use land behind the current giraffe exhibit. The estimated cost would be \$350,000. The timeline would be to construct by December 1, 2012. Robyn Wertheim made a motion to accept land use as stated. Gary Grubbs seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion passed.

Consider acceptance of Neighborhood Park: Linda Carlson with Friendship House proposed that the City of Abilene Parks Department to accept the North Park area for maintenance after development. Robyn Wertheim made a motion to accept the Park. Leigh Black seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Update on Splash Pad: Lesli stated that the project is in full progress and that they are expecting to be completed by July 28th or August 4th at the latest.

Presentation of Participation Report: Lesli stated that classes were down, special event numbers are up; instructor users are up; after school hours are up with the bus dropping off at Rose. Rentals are up; group meeting numbers are down; Tennis numbers are down. Lesli stated that David Davis from Rose Park Tennis will be resigning effective 8-31-12.

Operational Report (Recreation/Senior Citizens): Lesli stated that the summer program had over 500 kids registered and new registrations have gone up. Senior citizens will be hosting the National Dominoes Tournament in August. The second annual Talent show will be in September.

Operational Report (Parks): Bob stated that the turfs are suffering from the extreme heat and drought. Fort Phantom project is complete. The ADA inspection still needed.

Operational Report (Zoo): Bill stated that June attendance has been good attendance up by 1,000 for the year. Special promotions have highlighted Smokey the Bear and Dr. Seuss. The new Flamingo chick is doing well. The concession renovations are complete which included 12 new tables and umbrellas. Sales were \$25,000 and they are up to \$95,000.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13.