

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

May 7, 2013

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Leroy King, Robyn Wertheim, Gary Grubbs and Julie Napier. Absent were Leigh Black and Jeff Goodin. Community Services staff present were, James W. Childers, Director, Lesli Andrews, Assistant Director, Bob Cheatham, Parks Superintendent, Jeff White, Recreation Supervisor, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Superintendent, Stan Smith, Legal Department; and Linda Hansen, Executive Secretary. Special Guest Scott McClean with Abilene Independent School District.

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

Invocation was given by Leroy King.

Robyn Wertheim moved that the minutes be approved for the April 9, 2013 meeting. Gary Grubbs seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Consider Abilene ISD request to exchange property at Fannin Elementary School for Park property at Bowie Park: James Childers stated that Abilene Independent School District has approached the City regarding the interest in exchanging land at Bowie Elementary for land at Fannin Elementary. James introduced Scott McClean with Abilene ISD. Scott stated they are looking at expanding Bowie Elementary to the South, the exchange of this land would allow them to make the expansion. There would be a fence put up around the parameter, but after school hours the public would still be able to utilize the playground equipment. James stated the City realizes that Fannin property is close to Sears, but could be used for practice fields. Leroy King stated that he would like to see the parameter changed to include the playground and the total track. Scott stated that the parameter of the land at Fannin could be changed to include the total track field and playground. Gary Grubbs made a motion to recommend the exchange of property with the change to encompass track and playground. Julie Napier seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Presentation on Strategic direction of Parks and Recreation Program: James Childers presented a powerpoint presentation with of the plans and goals for the Parks and Recreation Divisions.

Operational Report (Recreation/Senior Citizens): Jeff stated that the Adaptive Recreation had four teams participate in the Special Olympics Track and Field, with teams receiving 41 gold, 24 silver and 6 bronze medals. Individual awards for Male and Female Athletes of the Year given to 22 and older male and female. Barbara Liggett was given the outstanding volunteer for sports 2013. Registration is currently underway for Summer Program. Staff attended a day camp in New Braunfels. We are currently hiring staff for the summer playground. We are taking registration for volleyball and basketball leagues. April is volunteer month and the Senior volunteers will be recognized with a gathering at Rose Senior Center with a 50's theme.

Operational Report (Parks): Bob stated that they are replacing the coating on the fountain at Minter Park. The crews have been rearranged to have one crew that specializes in the maintenance of the ball fields.

Operational Report (Zoo): Bill stated that the fence around the monkeys and the shade structure has been completed. The work had begun on the Quarantine Facility and should be completed by fall. The Caribbean Cove should open in June. The Zoo Master Plan was approved.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: James stated that we needed to elect a chair and vice chair. Julie Napier nominated Gail Russey as Chair and Leroy King as Vice Chair. Gary Grubbs made a motion to extend the terms of Chair to Gail Russey and Vice Chair to Leroy King. Robyn Wertheim seconded the motion, with all in favor, the motion passed.

Personnel update: James stated that Bob Cheatham will be retiring effective May 31, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.