

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

February 4, 2014

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Robyn Wertheim, Leroy King, and Jeff Goodin. Absent were Julie Napier, Gary Grubbs, and Leigh Black. Community Services staff present were, James W. Childers, Director, Lesli Andrews, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Parks Superintendent, Jeff White, Recreation/Senior Administrator, Bill Gersonde, Zoo, Stanley Smith, Legal Department, and Steffany Whitehead, Secretary.

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 January 7, 2014 meeting. Jeff Goodin seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Preview of Potential Amendments to Chapter 22: James Childers stated that there needs to be changes made to Chapter 22 so there will be a consistent policy in place to regulate for-profit organizations. Potential changes could include: a permitting process for camping at Fort Phantom (Seabee and Johnson Parks), rules for facility usage, and rules for vending in the parks. James stated he will have a list of changes available for the Board.

Request to charge admission for Town Square Media event at Festival Gardens: James Childers stated that Town Square Media wants to host an event at Festival Gardens that is open to the public but they will be charging admission: \$2.00 admission for spectators and vendors. Town Square Media has covered all bases with being in contact with the Zoo, Community Services, and also partnering with the Children's Miracle Network. Bill Gersonde stated that the event went smoothly last year and did not impede Zoo activities. Jeff Goodin made a motion to approve Town Square Media. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Request to charge admission for West Texas Youth Football tournament: James Childers stated that this tournament has already taken place. WTYP came to us in early January, which did not give us adequate time to bring it to the board for approval so James gave them the go ahead. This tournament has been set up in past years and brought about 20 to 30 teams to Abilene. WTYP has been notified that in the future, we will need earlier notice. Retroactive motion made by Robyn Wertheim. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Request to charge admission for Abilene Slow-pitch Softball Association: James Childers stated that we are currently working with the ASSA on their insurance because it does not adequately cover the City. He asked the board for conditional approval for the Feb 22-23 Big Dog Challenge, with the trust that they will rectify their insurance and the knowledge that they will be charging admission at their tournament. The ASSA is currently working with their insurance company to resolve this. The rest of the schedule will be brought to the board at the March meeting. Jeff Goodin made a motion to approve the Big Dog Challenge. Robyn Wertheim seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Parks Master Plan Update: James Childers stated that they will be back in town on March 4th at the next meeting to interface with the board. A public meeting is in the process of being put together on March 4th at 6pm in the Civic Center.

AZA Report: Bill Gersonde stated that the accreditation went smoothly and that the Zoo staff and the Parks staff did a great job preparing the Zoo for inspection. Only a few items were found that needed to be worked on: freezer items that needed to be moved from the wall, clearer documentation of training, drain in the bear den drains too slow. The inspectors were pleased with the upgrades. March 22 at 2:45pm is the Commission board meeting in Tennessee.

Operational Report (Recreation/Seniors): Jeff White stated that the Senior Citizens is preparing for the Appreciation Party which is Hawaiian themed. New chairs were brought in at the Rose Senior Center. The

Wellness Jamboree is coming up on May 14. Recreation is kicking off the year with special events. The Daddy Daughter Date Night will be on February 13th. The Krew of Barkus dog parade is on March 1st. The Spring Break Camp is open to registration now. The Carver Youth Council held a talent show at the Civic Center for black history month. Next meeting, Jeff will bring the Texas Parks Award to the board. Adaptive Recreation is gearing up for the Special Olympics, especially in basketball. There is about 40-50 people who will be representing our program.

Operational Report (Parks): Richard Rodgers stated that they are starting on cutting back the crape myrtles on Pine Street and taking care of the irrigation systems on the ball fields. The Parks are also finishing up the winter projects: playground at Sears, playground at Redbud-going to council for approval, Lake Kirby fencing. Richard also stated he has no information about the project on South 1st Street except that there will be an underground drip system. The Parks will also be replacing the bowl on the fountain at Everman Park.

Operational Report (Zoo): Bill Gersonde stated that the Zoological Society approved the contract for the Giraffe barn and exhibit. The Zoo will be breaking ground within 30 days. 3.3 million dollars was raised for this project. Two wolf pups were born and had great physical exams.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.