

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 1, 2014

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Robyn Wertheim, Leroy King, Leigh Black, Julie Napier, Jeff Goodin, and Gary Grubbs. Community Services staff present were 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 Jeff Goodin.

Robyn Wertheim moved that the minutes be approved for the March 11, 2014 meeting. Julie Napier seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Request to charge admission for Abilene Slow-pitch Softball Association: Richard stated that currently, we will still be bringing requests monthly to the Board for approval. We are in the process of working on insurance with the ASSA. The admission prices are the same as they have been in the past few months. There is only one tournament this month. Gary Grubbs moved to accept the request to charge admission. Julie Napier seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Presentation of Parks Bucks funded projects: James shared a presentation detailing strategic items that correspond with use of the Parks Bucks funds. These items include, but are not exclusive to: Big Belly trashcans, playground equipment, and outdoor fitness equipment. Ideas to help grow the Parks Bucks project are fundraisers, working with the Water Department, and accepting donations.

Parks Master Plan Update: James stated that a draft is being pulled together and is expected to be ready in early summer.

Operational Report (Recreation/Seniors): Jeff stated that the Seniors department served around 11,000 meals in March. They have also implemented a new exercise program called Texercise in addition to a new tennis program that uses a modified ball and racquet. April is the month where they honor the volunteers at the Senior Center. The Wellness Jamboree is on May 14. In the Recreation department, the Spring Break Camp was in March and was maxed out with 77 participants. The Steam N Wheels bike race saw an increase in out-side visitors and participants as well. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 5th and is free and open to the public. The Youth Girls Volleyball was successful and has 8 teams participating. Looking into the future, Rose Park's 100th birthday is on July 12, 2014.

Operational Report (Parks): Richard stated that the contracts for the Leagues have been sent out and that the expected finishing date for the Redbud Playground will hopefully be in the middle of May. The Sears Playground is now completed and is open to the public for use. Also, at Sears Park, the Sears Concession is in the final stages and will soon be finished. Mowing season is just starting and will be picking up speed as the season progresses.

Operational Report (Zoo): Lesli stated on behalf of Bill, that on March 22, the Zoo was granted its accreditation! All employees worked hard to achieve this. The Zoo is also starting the process of hiring seasonal employees for the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.