

## PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2014

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Leroy King, Julie Napier, Leigh Black, Jeff Goodin, and Gary Grubbs. Members not present were Robyn Wertheim. Community Services staff present were James Childers, Director, Lesli Andrews, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Parks Division Manager, Jeff White, Recreation/Senior Administrator, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Division Manager, Stanley Smith, Legal Department, and Tammie Morton, Secretary.

Gail Russey called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Invocation was given by Jeff Goodin.

Julie Napier moved that the minutes be approved for the November 4, 2014 meeting. Jeff Goodin seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Parks Foundation:** James Childers gave a presentation on Parks Foundations, and the role that it would have in Abilene. This would be a non-profit organization. Gary Grubbs asked if it would be possible for Parks and Recreation Board members to serve on both the board and foundation, Stanley Smith said that he would look at more information and have a clear answer at the next meeting. James Childers stated that more information would be provided over the next couple of months.

**Parks Master Plan Update:** James Childers informed the board that on November 6, 2014, Jim Carillo made a presentation to City Council over the Parks Master Plan and it was adopted. There were some wording changes that needed to be made. Jim Carillo has taken the Parks Master Plan forward to Texas Parks and Wildlife to be approved so it can be used for grant applications.

**Bond Update:** James Childers stated that the Rec Center and Cedar Creek were the two controversial items on the list. Jeff White prepared a video on the state of the current recreation centers and what a new recreation center would offer to our community; this was presented to the committee at the meeting on November 19, 2014. In January, the City Council will formulate what will go onto the ballot. The board made a recommendation to approve the Parks and Recreation bond efforts being presented. Julie Napier made a motion and Jeff Goodin seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

### **Operational Report (Recreation/Seniors)(Parks)(Zoo):**

**Recreation:** The Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success. The winter Activity Guide is now available and registrations have started for the Winter Break Camp at Rose. The Standards of Care has been adopted for FY 2015.

**Seniors:** Over 100,000 meals have been served to the seniors over 2014 to date. In the month of November, each recreation center had an event and open house to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seniors Program. The Family Holiday this year will be on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at Rose Senior, and will include food, games, and a silent auction.

**Parks:** A majority of the dead trees have been cut down along North and South 1<sup>st</sup> street and 45 new trees will be planted. Outdoor workout equipment has arrived and will be placed at Red Bud Park. Nelson Wilson playground will be replaced in the coming year with a possible ropes playground. The next big projects will be to replace one backstop at both Redbud Park and Lake Kirby Park and a playground at Bonham.

**Zoo:** The giraffe bridge has been taken down and new construction will begin soon. The new bull giraffe has been settling in and the ocelot kitten has continued to do well. The USDA had their inspection of the zoo and only found one violation, which is being repaired. The zoo received a \$1.2 million grant upon the 1:1 stipulation that it is met through the bond funding. The Breakfast with Santa event tickets already sold out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.