

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 7, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gail Russey, Leroy King, Leigh Black, Jeff Goodin, Julie Napier 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 Kaitlin Richardson, Secretary.

Gail Russey called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Invocation was given by Leroy King

Leroy King moved that the minutes be approved for the March 3, 2015 meeting. Leigh Black seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Parks Foundation: James reminded the board that at the last meeting we had Steve Patton come down to present his Park Buck program. He also stated that we are seeking out the process of how to finalize establishing this program for our city. Gary Grubbs suggested going forward with this and to formalize this project. James informed the board that we could present a few modules on how this program would work.

Bond Update: James has been approached by citizens, and asked if there are specific groups supporting the overall bond projects. According to James, there are none formed to his knowledge. The City has produced a bond brochure with facts about the upcoming bond proposals for the election. Stevenson Park, Sears Park, Scarborough Park, and Redbud Park will be the locations of the potential new splash pads. Water consumption is a main question.

Abilene convention and Visitors Bureau-Sports Alliance, Texas District 5 Little League are requesting to charge a daily parking fee for the Texas West State Little League Baseball and Softball Tournament: The District 5 Administrator joined the meeting to explain that they will be hosting the state tournament this year. The league needs to be able to house and feed their umpires that work the tournaments; they are not paid for their time, and are asking to charge for parking to help differ those costs. Cost would be \$6 per car, no other fees. There are an expected 40-50 teams. Gary motioned to approve the parking fee. Jeff second and the motion carried.

A resolution of support for the City of Abilene's application for TxDOT's Transportation Alternative Program Project: The project is focusing on the US 277. It would tie into Clack and Danville and follow through Dub Wright, eventually ending at Scarborough Park. If the grant is approved, the City would have to match 20% of the funds. Julie motioned to approve a resolution of support. Leroy second and the motion carried.

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

Recreation Seniors: The Wellness Jamboree is coming up on May 6th and the theme is "Cowboy". Recreation: Summer Camp registration opens on April 15th. We are now taking applications for summer positions. The Splash Pad opens April 18th and the Rose Park Pool opens on May 30th. The Summer Scholarship fund currently has \$4,000.

Parks: Mowing is in full swing since February and the Bonham playground has been finished. The playground at Nelson Wilson is still in progress. The Redbud workout equipment is here and will be installed soon. The water fountain at the dog park will also be replaced soon.

Zoo: Spring Break brought in good revenue. The female giraffes have now been moved to the new barn and are doing well. May 25th will be the Music Festival at the Zoo. We are expecting a good turnout. The public loves the new camels and a new male zebra has been introduced to the Zoo. On May 4th, the new Carousel will be delivered.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.