

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

June 2, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gary Grubbs, Leroy King, Jeff Goodin, Julie Napier and Gail Russey. Members not present were Leigh Black, and 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 Kelly Messer, Legal Department, and Kaitlin Richardson, Secretary.

Gary Grubbs called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Invocation was given by Leroy King

Gail Russey moved that the minutes be approved for the May 5, 2015 meeting. Leroy King seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Presentation of Service Award: Jeff White introduced Neva Grey, who celebrated her 5 year anniversary with the City Of Abilene. Neva Grey works at the Adaptive Recreation Department.

Presentation of Outstanding Corporate Award for Senior Circle and Abilene Regional Medical Center: Jeff White introduced members with the Abilene Regional Medical Center. Jeff White presented the 2015 Texas Recreation and Parks Society Corporate Award to the Abilene Regional Medical Center. Abilene Regional has sponsored numerous events and volunteers their time for many activities.

Community Foundation of Abilene Check Presentation: Buddy Napier presented a check to the Recreation Department for the scholarship program, which will go towards the Summer Playground Program.

Abilene Cultural Affairs requesting permission to temporarily install "Echo" by Ben Woitena: Richard Rodgers introduced Lynn Barnett with the Abilene Cultural Affairs. On behalf of Grace Museum Lynn Barnett is requesting to place the sculpture by Ben Woitena across from Andrews Warehouse. The sculpture will stand about 18ft, and anticipate leaving the sculpture in this space for about a year. Julie Napier moves that this request to be approved. Gail Russey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Bond Project Status: James Childers informed the board that on May 9th all of the bond items on the ballot passed. Now we are at that initial starting point in getting these items up and going. We are anticipating an Aquatics facility coming in 2017. The Zoo has many projects in the works. James voiced that we would not want to open more than 2 projects at a time.

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

Recreation: The Rose Park Pool is now open as well as the Splash Pad. This Saturday is the Neighborhood Fishing. The State Park and Wildlife will be restocking Nelson. We are now accepting men's and women's basketball leagues. The Summer Playground Program is starting next week.

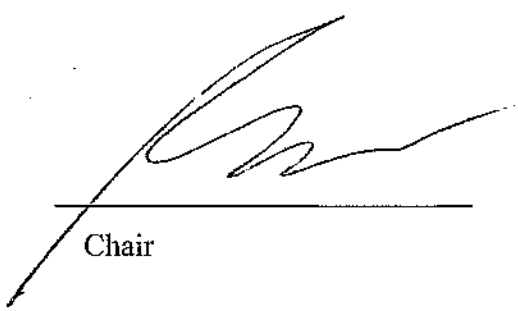
Seniors: In May was the Senior Wellness Jamboree. The annual Talent Show will be held in August, this is for seniors age 55 and older.

Parks: Mowing season is keeping the Parks staff extremely busy, as well as installing new sculptures.

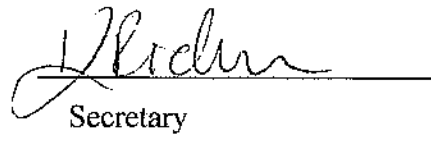
Zoo: The Giraffe exhibit is moving along great. Another project going on is updating the old educational building, which will be called Karibu- which is Swahili for Welcome. The Zoo has invested about \$3,000 in the startup of the new lemonade cart, which has already brought in about \$500 in revenue the first week.

Gail Russey award presentation: James Childers presented Gail Russey a plaque for her many years of service and dedication to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



Chair



Secretary