

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

January 5, 2016

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gary Grubbs, Jeff Goodin, Leigh Black, Robyn Wertheim, Marc Orner and Leroy King. Board members not present were Terry Johnson. Community Services staff present were Lesli Andrews, Interim Director, Mirinda Walden, Interim Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Parks Division Manager, Jeff White, Recreation/Senior Administrator, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Division Manager, Stanley Smith, Legal and Dustie Turner, Secretary.

Gary Grubbs called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Invocation was given by Jeff Goodin.

Robyn Wertheim moved that the minutes be approved for the Regular Meeting on November 3, 2015 and the Special Meeting on November 17, 2015. Jeff Goodin seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Update Chapter 22-2: Lesli Andrews explained the changes that City Council approved for the Chapter 22-2 ordinance. The three major changes include the allowance of alcoholic beverages at Festival Gardens and the Zoo but excluded from the softball fields, written notice must be given within 30 days instead of 60, and that the City Manager or his designee, which he has stated will be the Director of Community Services, will approve or deny all applications. Gary Grubbs and several other board members expressed opinions about the softball fields being excluded and decided that in the future the Board can re-address the issue concerning alcoholic beverages at the softball fields. Lesli Andrews advised that a policy is being drawn up to outline the approval process for this ordinance and should be presented for approval by the Board at the February meeting. Gary Grubbs expressed that having the Community Services staff able to approve applications is a good idea and then the Board would only handle reviews and appeals for denied applications.

Discussion of City of Abilene Charter Provisions for Parks & Recreation Board: Stanley Smith provided the Board with an outline of the Charter that highlighted points about the general purposes of the Board. Some of these points included that the Parks & Recreation Board handles any discussion or decision regarding any of the City parks, also that the Board decides if any new property is going to be acquired for a new park, this decision passes by majority vote. Stanley Smith also advised that the City Council does have final approval over any policies or ordinances that the Board would like to update.

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

Bond Status: Jeff White explained that they are still interviewing contractors for the new Splash Pads that will be at Stevenson Park and Scarborough Park. Also the contract is finalized for the Aquatics Center with Eikon and will be presented for City Council approval in January. The opening is still scheduled for 2017.

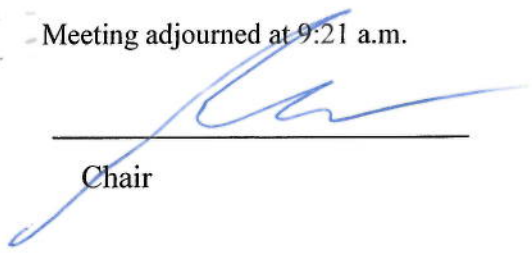
Zoo: The Giraffe Exhibit is still on track to open in April. Also the Zoo is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and have several events planned including a party that will be open to the public. This should take place in July along with the opening of the new entrance exhibit, which will include a photo booth and new concession stands. The Zoo has also purchased Howler Monkeys, and is in the process of making a home for them.

Parks: Richard Rodgers explained that the weather has delayed the progress of several projects including the foundation being poured for the new workout facility at Redbud Park. Also the Parks Division has purchased several covered picnic tables for the softball fields, these table were purchased with money made from tournament fees. The new playground equipment for Gill Park has been purchased and should arrive soon.

Recreation: Winter Break just concluded on December 31st. The Daddy-Daughter Date Night registration is under way and the dance will be held on February 11th. Over the holidays the GV Daniels gym was painted. Also the Rose Park tennis courts have been painted blue so that the lines would show up better.

Seniors: The Senior's Christmas Party was on December 11th and was a big success. Also, the Senior Center is getting a new slip resistant laminate floor installed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.



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Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'Dustin Turner'.

Secretary