

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

March 8, 2016

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

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

Invocation was given by Jeff Goodin.

Jeff Goodin moved that the minutes be approved for the February 2, 2016 meeting. Robyn Wertheim seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Recommendation to City Council for Abilene Youth Sports Authority Improvements to Nelson Park: James Childers introduced John Smith with Abilene Youth Sports Authority. Mr. Smith stated his entity has been heavily involved with the process of getting a new Sports Complex here in Abilene, TX for the past 12 years. This will be a multipurpose indoor sports venue for pre-kindergarten through high school ages. The generated tournament revenue will help pay for the maintenance at this facility. This facility will hold different tournaments such as volleyball, basketball, and other combined tournaments. This facility will be approximately 55,500 square feet, which will include areas for concessions, meeting rooms, parties, and tournaments. John Smith is asking for approval for the 12 acres located at the southeast corner of Nelson Park to be the designated area for this complex. Mr. Smith went on to explain the highlights for this location which is easily accessible, will handle the traffic flow, great curb appeal and gives the option for additional expansion of the facility in the future. The MOU states to agree on allocating this acreage and includes a timeline up to 30 months to conduct a fundraiser in order to raise the funds to build this facility. Terry Johnson made the motion to recommend this acreage to be the location for the new sports complex. Jeff Goodin seconds the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Texas Recreation and Parks Society Conference Update: Jeff White stated the Recreation/Senior Divisions won 4 different awards. The three awards that they received were: The 2015 Outstanding Programming Award for the annual Talent Show, The 2015 Outstanding Corporate Partnership with Angels Care Home Health, and The 2015 Outstanding Commercial Business which was also awarded to La Voz radio station here in Abilene. Also, Grover Nelson Park was awarded the Lone Star Legacy award. There are a total of 33 Lone Star Legacy awards in the state and Abilene has 2. Richard Rodgers stated that the Parks Department has always looked forward to the equipment rodeo. A total of 14 employees were able to attend this conference.

Operational Report (Zoo) (Parks) (Recreation/Senior Citizens) (Bond Status):

Zoo: Lesli Andrews informed the board that the ribbon cutting for the new Giraffe Exhibit will be on April 23rd at 10:00am. The Lesser Flamingo project will begin the summer of 2016.

Parks: Richard Rodgers stated that all Parks employees have moved into the Armory at Rose Park. They are a month ahead of their mowing schedule. The Parks Division is completing the back stops at Redbud.

Recreation: Jeff White listed a few activities that will be happening in the next few weeks which include: Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Break Camp, Summer Camp, Steam-N-Wheels Bike Race, and our Youth Volleyball League.

Seniors: Wellness Jamboree is on May 4th which will be Star Wars themed.

Bond Status: Splash pads went to City Council in February and 2 of the Splash Pads have been approved. The restrooms for the Splash Pads will be going to City Council for approval soon. The Cedar Creek project is working on survey at this point. The Aquatic design phase was awarded to Eikon Consulting Group.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Chair



Secretary