

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2017

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gary Grubbs, Terry Johnson, Leigh Black, Marc Orner, and Jeff Goodin. Board members not present were Michael Homer, and Robyn Wertheim. Community Services staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Richard Rodgers, Parks Division Manager, Bill Gersonde, Zoo Division Manager, Jeff White, Recreation Division Manager, Stanley Smith, Legal and Kaitlin Richardson, Secretary.

Gary Grubbs called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Invocation was given by Terry Johnson.

Jeff Goodin moved that the minutes be approved for the January 10, 2017 meeting. Terry Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Abilene ISD requesting to charge admission to the Cooper High School softball tournament: Richard Rodgers informed the board that Abilene ISD has requested to charge admission for the Cooper High School softball tournament. These funds will be used to pay the umpires for this tournament. Jeff Goodin moved to approve the request. Leigh Black seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Abilene Youth Sports Authority Partnership: Lesli Andrews informed the board that she, Richard Rodgers, and John Smith met at the Sports Expo with the league officers. At the meeting, they discussed forming a Sports Advisory Council, as a sounding board for ideas, training, and different issues. The officers liked the idea of having a Sports Advisory Council. The first meeting will take place at D1 on February 28. A question came up during the meeting on possibly charging a fee to use the fields. Lesli Andrews stated we would have to present this fee to City Council for approval, and we would need to come up with an economical fee to charge. We are looking into adding board training. Lesli Andrews stated there is several different items we need to discuss with the board members whom will be on this Sports Advisory Council. We want to give each league the tools they need to properly manage their league.

Discussion of changes to League requirements to use public facilities: Lesli Andrews discussed some possible changes to the contract. The city wrote an RFP for cleaning of grease traps, so that instead of having all the leagues find their own company, the company that has been selected will clean them for a reduced price from what they have been paying in the past. As of October 1 2016 City Council has approved to charge permit fees for Bounce Houses and Vendors, who are approved to be in any city park. The Bounce House permit fee is \$25 per event, and the Vendor Permit fee is \$30 per day or \$50 per event with the limit of 3 days.

City Council Workshop: Lesli Andrews informed the board that the After School program will be coming to an end at the end of this school year. Our staff is scheduling meetings at each recreation center for parents and representatives from other after school organizations to attend. At this point, we will still offer Summer Playground. Another item that has been discussed during this workshop was mowing in the right away. TxDot does not mow until June 1 for the monarch butterfly season.

Bond Status: Lesli Andrews informed the board that the Aquatic Center is on schedule and budget. The shade structures have been ordered. We are still anticipating on opening Memorial Day weekend. Now that we have a better idea on what the design and expenses will be for the Aquatic Center, we will need to bring the prospective fees to City Council.

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

Parks: Richard Rodgers stated that his staff is putting the final additions on the chiller breakroom at City Hall. The new Kirby backstop is completed. The dug out covers at Sears Park is completed. We have ordered new basketball goals at Carver Park, so his staff will be installing those once they arrive. The Scarborough concession stand and the bathroom extension at Kirby Park is near completion.

Recreation: The Daddy Daughter Dance is in 2 days, so staff is preparing for the event. The Trout Derby is scheduled for February 18. We are now accepting registrations for the Spring Break Camp.

Seniors: Jeff White stated that the seniors had a spotlight in the newspaper. The seniors received the Cool Idea Award for their "Day of Service" by First Financial Bank.

Zoo: The swan boats will be opening the week before Spring Break. The Zoo had received great feedback in regards to the swan boats. The Zoological Society has agreed to contribute \$76,000 to complete other bond projects for the Zoo. The Chocolate Safari is new this year, and tickets have sold out for this event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.



Chair



Secretary