

## PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

March 7, 2017

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Services Board Room. Board members present were Gary Grubbs, Leigh Black, Marc Orner, Michael Homer, and Jeff Goodin. Board members not present were Terry Johnson, and Robyn Wertheim. Community Services staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant 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 8:37 a.m.

Invocation was given by Jeff Goodin.

Jeff Goodin moved that the minutes be approved for the February 7, 2017 meeting. Michael Homer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Special Olympics Texas requesting to charge admission for their fundraising event at Festival Gardens:** Richard Rodgers stated that this is the first year this organization will hold this event. They want to charge \$10-\$15 for their all-day event on October 1, 2017 for admissions. Michael Homer moved to approve the request. Marc Orner seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Abilene Community Theatre requesting to place a permanent sign at Oscar Rose Park:** Lesli Andrews gave the board the location of where the sign will be placed. The sign will most likely look like the other signs in the Park. The colors of the sign will be red and black. Jeff Goodin moved to approve the location of the sign. Leigh Black seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**AISD requesting approval to lease the Lee Maintenance Facility at Lee Park:** Lesli Andrews informed the board that after we consolidated everything into the Rose Armory, the Lee Maintenance facility has become vacant. AISD will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility. This location will be utilized for storing AISD mowing equipment and crew. Jeff Goodin moved to approve the lease agreement. Leigh Black seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**After School Workshop:** Lesli Andrews stated that the recreation staff has held meetings at each recreation facilities, and the meetings have not been highly attended by parents. In these meetings, other childcare providers have attended to discuss other options; if the after school care, we provide were to end. The feedback we did receive was that most parents are willing to pay some amount to keep the after school program. The City Council wanted to put this item back on the March 21 Council agenda. The Standards Act of Care is what our afterschool is governed by. The afterschool care is not accredited by the state. At this time, our daily average is 145 kids, and our maximum amount is 230. The yearly cost to keep the afterschool is about \$186,000. If we wanted to start charging a fee to cover the cost, it would be about \$88 a month, which is more than what most families can afford.

**Bond Status Update:** Lesli Andrews informed the board the new Aquatic Center is on time. The new slides will be delivered by the end of March. We are in the process of purchasing numerous items for the concession area. The Zoo Bond projects were approved by City Council.

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

**Recreation:** The Spring Break Camp is coming up and we are currently hiring for summer jobs. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 1. The new Aquatic Supervisor will be starting soon.

**Seniors:** Jeff White presented the Cool Idea Award, which was awarded to Senior Citizens.

**Zoo:** Bill Gersonde stated the Bond projects have started this week including the Flamingo Exhibit, and the event lawn. The Swan Boats will hopefully open this weekend, which was funded by the Zoo Society.

**Parks:** Richard Rodgers stated that it is mowing season, and that the new rental signs have been installed at each of the pavilions. The TRAPS conference is going to be in Waco, TX next year, and Richard Rodgers is encouraging all board members to go.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary