

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

December 18, 2018

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. Board members present were Gary Grubbs, Marc Orner, Michael Homer, David Pittman, Jeff Goodin and Robyn Wertheim. Board members not present were Leigh Black. Community Services staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Stanley Smith, Legal, and Kaitlin Richardson, Secretary.

Gary Grubbs called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Invocation was given by Robyn Wertheim.

Jeff Goodin moved the minutes be approved for the Regular Meeting on October 16, 2018. Michael Homer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Service Awards: Jeff White presented Donnie Harts 25 year service award.

Presentation of Abilene Zoo Roots and Shoots Project at Nelson Park: Jesse Pregmore Zoo Educator presented a slide show for the Zoo Roots and Shoots. The group this year chose to focus on birds in recognition of the anniversary of the migratory Bird Act. Mr. Pregmore stated this project would be a multiple step process such as clean up the trail at Grover Nelson between the small bridge and the rear gate of the Zoo. The next step would be the fundraising process, building placement of houses, benches and trailhead signage. The last step will be to plan for the future upkeep. Michael Homer moved to approve this project. Robyn Wertheim seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Executive Session: Gary Grubbs recessed the Parks and Recreation Board into Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. pursuant to Sections 551.071 and 551.072 of the Open Meetings Act, to seek the advice of the City Attorney with respect consultation and discussion regarding purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property of a new park with Hardin Simmons University.

Reconvene: The Parks and Recreation Board reconvened from Executive Session at 9:01 a.m. and reported no action to be taken at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Negotiation of a New Park with Hardin Simmons University: No action was taken.

Update on Kirby Lake Nature Trail: Lesli Andrews stated there has been interest to develop the nature trail at Kirby Lake. These parties will go out and suggest where a trail should be located and then the interested parties would then be responsible for blazing the trail. There will be no additional cost to the City other than the signage for the trail and directions for traffic.

Operational Reports:

Parks: Richard Rodgers informed the board that the parks crews are shifting towards winter projects and splitting different crews with the areas they are stronger in. Arbor Day was a great event with approximately 75 trees given out. These groups were taught how to plant and care for these trees. The TRAPS Rodeo was scheduled for October 25 and it was a great turnout. Our employees finished first out of nine teams.

Recreation: Jeff White informed the board that youth volleyball sign-ups are underway; Winter Break Camp will start next week at Cobb Recreation Center. The next upcoming events are Daddy Daughter Dance and the Half Marathon. The Nelson Splash Pad is being renovated and is projected to open in Spring 2019.

Senior: Jeff White informed the board that DRUMBA is a new class being offered at the Senior Center. The one-day getaway will be to Waco Texas. Jeff White stated they still need a part time bus driver position.

Zoo: Chris Gibson stated the Zoo has had several events such as Breakfast with Santa, which was a hit. The Zoo is in the process of preparing for the Zoo accreditation process. Chris Gibson stated the 13-year-old female zebra passed away, which is the mother of the new baby Zebra born on November 5.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Chair



Secretary