

## PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2021

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Abilene Public Library, South Branch, Mall of Abilene. Board members present were David Pittman, Gary Grubbs, Robyn Wertheim, Michael Homer, Marc Orner and Leigh Black. Community Services staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Assistant Director, Ann Hall, Recreation Division Manager, Bobby Brown, Senior Services Division Manager, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Stanley Smith, Legal and Janina Aguero, Secretary.

David Pittman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Invocation** Michael Homer gave the invocation.

**Open forum for public comment:** Samuel Garcia stated that he attended the last Parks and Recreation board meeting and voiced his concerns over proper procedures for recusal.

**Acceptance of Minutes from August 17, 2021:** Robyn Wertheim moved the minutes be approved. Marc Orner seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Service Award:** Jesus Coronado introduced John Warner and congratulated him on 15 years of service in the Parks department.

**Request to Charge Spectator Fee for 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hearts of Gold Softball Tournament at Kirby Lake Softball Complex:** Richard Rodgers spoke about the annual tournament and the request of charging a \$5 fee for entrance. Gary Grubbs moved this be approved. Robyn Wertheim seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Request to Charge Spectator Fee for 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hope For a Cure Softball Tournament at Kirby Lake Softball Complex:** Richard Rodgers spoke about the annual softball tournament and the request to charge a \$5 spectator fee for entrance. Leigh Black moved this be approved. Robyn Wertheim seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Request to Charge Spectator Fee for Abilene Bucks Football Season:** Richard Rodgers spoke about the Abilene Bucks using the Curly Hays field and requesting to charge a \$5 spectator fee for games during the month of October. This would only be applicable at Curly Hays field. Gary Grubbs moved this be approved. Leigh Black seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Request to Charge Spectator Fee for Abilene Cowboys Football Season:** Richard Rodgers spoke about the Abilene Cowboys using the Curly Hays field and requesting to charge a \$5 spectator fee for games during the month of October. This would only be applicable at Curly Hays field. Leigh Black moved this be approved. Michael Homer seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Approval of Pedestrian Signage in Everman Park:** Richard Rodgers presented a picture of park signage that was requested to use to keep signs consistent with other park signage. Leigh Black moved this be approved. Robyn Wertheim seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Approval to Enter Into A Memorandum of Understanding with Abilene Sports and Entertainment, LLC:** Lesli Andrews discussed the rebuild of Rose Big League field and asked the Parks board to approve a memorandum to allow the 90 days for City Council discussion. Stanley Smith informed the board that this was a standard time frame and no monetary discussion will be discussed. Gary Grubbs moved this be approved. Marc Orner seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Approval of Contract with Parkhill to Develop Zoo Master Plan:** Chris Gibson discussed the zoo master plan and the business overviews of the contract with Parkhill. Chris discussed the timeline and working with Parkhill prior in completing the Madagascar development. Robyn Wertheim moved this be approved. Michael Homer seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Request to Rename Arthur Sears Park to Cesar Chavez Park and/or to name the Recreational Center located at Arthur Sears Park:** Lesli Andrews discussed the previous request to change the name of Arthur Sears Park to Cesar Chavez Park since the demolition of the Cesar Chavez building. Lesli reviewed the history of Sears Park and went over letters received from both sides of those opposing and for the name change. At this moment there is no policy for name changes. Joey Devora spoke on the significance for the City of Abilene to change this name and the importance of Cesar Chavez to the community. Lindsay Minter, speaking for the Sears family, spoke on upholding history for her grandmother and keeping the name the way it is. Bill Enriquez spoke about being aware of the contributions from the Sears family and understanding the need to compromise. Mike Denny spoke about agreeing with Bill Enriquez and hoping to come to an agreement. Samuel Garcia asked about the process about changing the names for parks and recreation. Robyn Wertheim discussed developing a process for the name changing of any parks and/or recreation centers. Gary Grubbs made a motion to not change the name of the park but to rename the recreation center to Cesar Chavez Recreation and Senior Citizens Center. Marc Orner seconded. With all in favor the motion carried.

**Aquatics Report:** Bobby Brown discussed Adventure Cove celebrated the end of the season with Doggie Splash Day on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Bobby discussed the turnout having 76 dogs and no fighting or any issues. Bobby discussed the splash pads will remain open until mid-October, with weather permitting.

**Seniors Report:** Bobby Brown discussed the senior talent show being very popular and having a great turnout with 232 people and 23 acts. Bobby discussed the upcoming movie night and anticipating a great turnout.


**Parks Report:** Jesus Coronado discussed the completion of the accessible for all project at Sears Park. Jesus discussed the parks team helping with the Cultural Affairs to assemble, by hand, a sculpture. Jesus discussed the replacement of the swings at Fort Imagination.

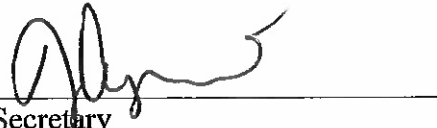
**Recreation Report:** Ann Hall discussed the open gym hours at the recreation centers being successful featuring pickle ball, volleyball and basketball. Ann discussed the upcoming Haunted Half Marathon set for October 9<sup>th</sup>. Ann discussed the Mayor's Hike set for October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Zoo:** Chris Gibson discussed the popularity of the Philharmonic Concert Series. Chris discussed the baby zebra is now 3 weeks old and in good health. Chris discussed the upcoming event Boo at the Zoo and the increase of demand for this event.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:36am.

  
David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman

  
Secretary