

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 19, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the South Branch Library Meeting Room, 4310 Buffalo Gap Road #1246. Board members present were David Pittman, Gary Grubbs, Jeff Goodin and Leigh Black. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Assistant Director, Bobby Brown, Seniors/Aquatics Division Manager, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Ann Hall, Recreation Division Manager, Jesse Pottebaum, Zoo Director, Stanley Smith, Legal and Janina Aguero, Secretary.

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

Invocation: Gary Grubbs gave the invocation.

Public Comment: Robert Lopez introduced himself as the new Vice President of Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, moving from McAllen Texas.

Acceptance of Minutes from March 15, 2022: Jeff Goodin moved the minutes to be approved. Leigh Black seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Executive Session: The Parks and Recreation Board went into Executive session at 8:37am to discuss Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, Consultation with Attorney, and Section 551.072, Texas Government Code, Deliberations about Real Property.

1. Zoo Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Board came out of Executive Session at 9:00am with no votes or other action taken during the Executive Session.

Request to Rename Lee Park: Lesli Andrews received a request to rename Lee Park to Stafford Park and also received a request to change the name of Lee Park to Valentine Park. Lesli Andrews introduced Willie Ford, part of the Subcommittee to review information on the renaming of the park. Mr. Ford stated that there was a unanimous vote to change the name of Lee Park to Valentine Park.

Public Comment:

Shawnte Fleming commented on supporting Dr. Jackson's request to rename Lee Park to Stafford Park, however she is grateful for any name change and to be working together.

Andril Penns spoke about the support of changing the name of Lee Park to Valentine Park. Mr. Penns spoke about being a product of Coach Valentine and how he touched the lives of many students and this would be a great way to honor him.

Michael T Roy spoke about his support to rename Lee Park to Valentine Park. Mr. Roy spoke about the respect Coach Valentine taught them and he was a hero to them.

Roberta Thompson spoke about her support to rename Lee Park to Valentine Park. Ms. Thompson spoke about Coach Valentine being her teacher and felt honored to be able to call him her educator and how he taught many great life lessons.

Edward Sheppard spoke about his support to rename Lee Park to Valentine Park. Mr. Sheppard spoke about Coach Valentine and when he said no, everyone listened. Mr. Sheppard spoke about having lots of respect for Coach Valentine teaching them to respect elders as well as respecting themselves.

Tanya Valentine Johnson spoke about the request to rename Lee Park to Valentine Park in honor of her father. Mrs. Johnson spoke about being thankful for the consideration of renaming the park and how much it means to her family.

Presentation of the 10 Year Zoo Master Plan: Jesse Pottebaum, Zoo Director, discussed the master plan and using the back 22 acres in expansion. Zoobilation gala uses all funds towards the Zoo Master Plan. Jesse stated this plan is to add more guest experiences, make the facility efficient for after hours rentals and increase species collection to educate people. Gary Grubbs made a motion to approve the Zoo Master Plan as presented. Leigh Black seconded, with all in favor the motion passes.

Stevenson Park Update: Richard Rodgers gave an update on the work being done at Stevenson Park including new restrooms, tennis courts, and pavilion. The pavilion's date of completion has been moved to September due to waiting on parts from suppliers. All other items should be completed in time for the Juneteenth celebration.

Aquatics Report: Bobby Brown gave the update on the aquatics. Bobby stated the splash pads will be opened on Friday April 22. Bobby discussed Adventure Cove looking for lifeguards and concession workers positions to be filled by mid May.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the seniors report. Bobby stated that he has a new staff that are working on new ideas for Senior classes and events. Bobby discussed the National Therapy Day, Mother's Day Bingo, and Cinco De Mayo events.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the parks report and discussed the total hours of work completed by the parks workers during the winter project season. The parks workers mowing season took care of over 200 acres of land. Jesus discussed the new landscaping and liter crews out.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the recreation report. Ann discussed the upcoming Volleyball league that has signups taking place now. Ann discussed the Spring Hike at Cedar Creek Trails happening on May 7th as well as the Mother Son Dance coming up on May 13th.

Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the report for the zoo. Jesse discussed moving in birds due to the influenza going around. This helps prevent the birds getting ill but unfortunately will be off display for a while. Jesse discussed the new baby anteater twins born. Jesse discussed the sale

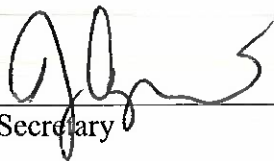
of the Zoobilation tickets to raise money for the Zoo Master Plan with 100% of the proceeds going towards this goal.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:53am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Secretary