

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

June 21, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the South Branch Library Meeting Room, 4310 Buffalo Gap Road #1246. Board members present were David Pittman, Jeff Goodin, Gary Grubbs, Tony Pallarez, Tanell Blackmon 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 8:30 a.m.

Invocation: Gary Grubbs gave the invocation.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Acceptance of Minutes from May 17, 2022: Jeff Goodin moved the minutes to be approved, with the correction of David Pittman's name spelling. Gary Grubbs seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Executive Session: The Parks & Recreation Board read over the Memorandum of Agreement with Abilene Youth Sports Authority and didn't feel the need to go into executive session at this time. If during discussion of Agenda Item 4 there are any questions that need to be addressed, the Board will then go into Executive Session.

Introduction of New Board Members: New members Tanell Blackmon and Tony Pallarez introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their background.

Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Abilene and the Abilene Youth Sports Authority for the Lease of Real Property and the Development of a Youth Sports Facility: Lesli Andrews discussed that in 2016 the City entered into an agreement with the Abilene Youth Sports Authority, also known as AYSA, they built a facility that was hugely successful. AYSA has now come back to the City wanting to expand to include flat fields, which the City is in desperate need of. The agreement will include a 40 year lease of property at Grover Nelson Park for \$1 per year, to include the design and development of Sports Facility (flat fields) at Grover Nelson Park. Funding to include \$5 million from the City and \$10 million from AYSA. AYSA will have 12 months to raise the funds and present the design for the fields.

Public Comment:

Robert Lopez from Abilene Visitors Convention and Visitors Bureau, spoke about hosting events in his previous role in McAllen, TX and noted that having these facilities are a huge economic driver. Mr. Lopez stated they had a lot of various tournaments, including travelers from out of state and Mexico, who would come through simply for the use of these fields.

Jesse Pottebaum, Director for the Zoo, spoke about how the fields would be very beneficial to the community, the growth for AYSA, also for the zoo and will hopefully include the expansion of the parking lot.

Gary Grubbs made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Abilene and Abilene Youth Sports Authority. Jeff Goodin seconded. With all in favor, the motion carries.

Request to Charge Spectator Fee: Chris Gibson presented the dates for Wylie Fastpitch Softball Tournament dates and the request to charge a \$5 spectator fee. Chris informed the board that these tournaments are an annual event hosted by Wylie Fastpitch Softball, and the funds collected go back to the maintenance of the fields. Leigh Black made a motion to approve. Tony Pallarez seconded. With all in favor, the motion carries.

July Parks and Recreation Month Upcoming Events: Chris Gibson presented the Piece of My Parks for the Parks & Recreation Month in July headed up by Ann Hall, Jesus Coronado and Jennifer Pacheco. Chris discussed events included in this program including a 180 Skateboard Competition, Jam on the Court-Movie event, grand opening of the Rose Park Playground with all inclusive features, and the finale Aarghapalooza at Adventure Cove. Chris discussed the Parks & Recreation Master Plan open house this past week and the promotion of the survey online that will be open until July 31st. Chris encouraged everyone to go online, vote and give feedback for this plan.

Aquatics Report: Bobby Brown gave the update on aquatics. Bobby stated that in comparison to the past 2 years, Adventure Cove's numbers are higher this year. Bobby discussed the new water exercises for seniors starting on Wednesday mornings. This activity will be free for ages 55 and over. Bobby discussed the swim lessons that are being offered for preschool, level 1&2, and level 3 have started and been doing well.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the seniors report. Bobby discussed the Skip-Bo tournament coming up on June 27th and Patriotic Bingo on June 30th, where seniors are encouraged to wear red, white and blue. Bobby discussed having the health department come out and discuss immunizations with seniors.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the parks report. Jesus discussed teaming up with lake patrol to make repairs to the boat ramp at Lake Fort Phantom. Jesus discussed the placement of the Winnie the Pooh statue and plaque for the CALF festival this year. Jesus reviewed the new signage that is being placed at the parks, with new signs at Oscar Rose and Cal Young Parks being the first ones. Jesus stated the parks department is hoping to draw more attention to the parks with the updated signage.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the recreation report. Ann discussed the running series Couch to 5K, which is a free running class event offered at Sears Park. Ann also discussed the Coed Volleyball Summer League starting June 28th as well as the Men's Basketball League starting at the same time. There will be a showing of Space Jam 2 at Sears Park basketball courts on Friday July 15th.

Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the report for the zoo. Jesse discussed the addition of a new baby steenbok that is now nursing and doing well. Jamie the giraffe is expecting and the zoo is awaiting her birth any day now. Jesse informed the board about the Zoolute event being moved

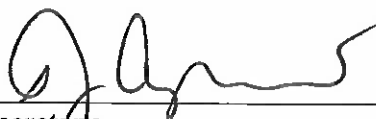
to November 12th, due to the wildfires. Firework Spectacular will be held on July 3rd. The PJ Mask Tour will be stopping by the Zoo and will have characters out. If you have a membership or any daily admission ticket allows you access to this event.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:39am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Secretary