

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX. Board members present were David Pittman, Leigh Black, Tony Pallarez and Robyn Wertheim. 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.

Leigh Black called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Invocation: Robyn Wertheim gave the invocation.

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Minutes from September 20, 2022: Robyn Wertheim moved the minutes to be approved. Leigh Black seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Request to Charge Spectator Fee for Movie in The Park: Chris Gibson reviewed the Request for the Movies in the Park Event. Chris stated Abilene Party Makers are wanting to charge a \$6 fee for entry to cover the cost of the event. Leigh Black moved this event to be approved. Robyn Wertheim seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Potential Dog Park Locations: Lesli Andrews discussed the moving of the Dog Park from the Nelson location to other potential spots including Kirby Park or Scarborough Park. Lesli mentioned that these are two potential locations and wanted direction from the board about other possible locations.

Public Comment: Cynthai Alvidrez, Abilene resident, requested the Parks & Recreation board put a hold on this

The Parks & Recreation Board have tabled this item to gather more information. No Action was taken.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby discussed the upcoming Hocus Pocus Bingo event on October 27th featuring a costume contest, prizes and refreshments. Bobby talked about the upcoming Medicare Mondays to help answer any questions about Medicare, as well as flu shots being available. Bobby invited the board and others to visit the Senior Center for a book signing by Sue Gill Harris, a Rose Senior Center participant, signing her published children's books.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the Recreation Report. Ann talked about the upcoming activity "Girls Night Out", Fall edition, which will be on October 22nd at the Rose Recreation Center at 6pm, showing Halloweentown. Ann informed the board about the Fall Festival at GV Daniels Recreation Center on October 29th from 6-9pm including a Trunk or Treat, Haunted House, food and games for the family. Ann mentioned the registrations for the Big Country Pumpkin Chase have begun with the event happening at Johnson Park on November 19th.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus reviewed the Parks projects completed; including installation of an irrigation system & flower bed at the Cultural District Pillar by Frontier Texas, replacing the broken slide at Nelson Wilson Park, and installing the park signs at Stevenson and Vaughn Camp Parks. Jesus invited everyone to the Park dedication for Coach James Valentine Park on October 21st at 10am.

Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse discussed all the new zoo babies born including Hingeback Tortoise, Alligator Newt, Cichlids, Leaf Froglet and a Blue Duiker. Jesse mentioned the exhibit Texas Elm Creek has added some new inhabitants. Jesse talked about the new green space that was created with new concrete and grass in the Red Oak Plaza. Jesse reviewed the Zoo Membership changes adding a price increase but adding more value and admissions for members. Jesse suggested everyone come out to enjoy Boo at the Zoo, which is seeing positive numbers with 4700 guests showing up on Saturday, October 18th.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:01am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Secretary