

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX. Board members present were David Pittman, Gary Grubbs, Robyn Wertheim, Jeff Goodin, Leigh Black, Tony Pallarez and Tanell Blackwood. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, 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: Billy Enriquez, Abilene resident, stated that he was thinking about the Sears Park analyses of the neighborhood from 1998 and the wonderful job that has been done. Mr. Enriquez thanked the Parks & Recreation Board and the Parks & Recreation department for all the things they have done.

Acceptance of Minutes from October 18, 2022: Robyn Wertheim moved the minutes to be approved. Jeff Goodin 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 \$7 fee for entry to cover the cost of the event. Gary Grubbs moved this event to be approved. Tony Pallarez seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Special Recognition Policy Update: Chris Gibson reviewed the recent policy and noticed some changes that needed to be made. Chris stated that the Parks & Recreation staff worked with Keep Abilene Beautiful and wanted to not include the Bench and Tree Program as applicable to this policy due to being an established program prior to the adoption of the Special Recognition Policy. Jeff Goodin moved this policy update to be approved. Tanell Blackwood seconded, with all in favor the motion carried.

2023 Standards of Care: Chris Gibson gave the update for the Standards of Care. Chris explained the Standards of Care as well as the annual inspection conducted by an outside Parks and Recreation professional. Chris mentioned the inspection was completed on November 8th by Travis Pence, Athletics Coordinator for the City of Wichita Falls. Robyn Wertheim moved the 2023 Standards of Care to be approved. Gary Grubbs seconded, with all in favor the motion carried.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby discussed the Senior Cornhole Tournament happening on November 16th at 1pm. Bobby invited the Parks & Recreation Board to purchase tickets for the annual holiday fundraiser, Denim & Diamonds. Bobby stated this event will feature a dinner, dance, bingo and raffles happening on December 9th at 5pm.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the Recreation Report. Ann reviewed the Thanksgiving Dinner at Chavez Recreation Center on November 10th, serving around 380 people. Ann talked about the upcoming ASL Mixer on November 15th at 6pm, to encourage family and friends to practice signing. Ann discussed the upcoming Storytime with Santa coming up on December 3rd and the Winter Break Camp starting on December 26th.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus talked about the AISD Career on Wheels event that John Lewis and Chance Coonrod attended to discuss the equipment used in daily jobs. Jesus informed the board of the new installation of the Coach James Valentine Park sign.

Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse took a moment to talk about Macho the Rhino passing and stated more information will be given in the future. Jesse discussed the upgrades of shaded canopies and more botanical spaces. Jesse reviewed the Boo at the Zoo event attendance passing all previous years, with a total of 20,980 guests. Jesse mentioned Christmas Celebration is coming up on December 16-23rd with staff working on preparing for this event.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:11am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Secretary