

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

February 21, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX. Board members present were Jeff Goodin, Leigh Black, Tony Pallarez and Tanell Blackwood. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Assistant Director, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Bobby Brown, Seniors Division Manager, Jesse Pottebaum, Zoo Director, Stanley Smith, Legal and Janina Aguero, Secretary.

Leigh Black called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Invocation: Jeff Goodin gave the invocation.

Public Comment:

Lydia Long wanted to discuss the relocation of the dog park. Ms. Long spoke about previously working to raise funds for the dog park in its current location. Ms. Long is in favor of moving the dog park to Rose Park, due to its central location.

Cynthia Alvidrez made a public request to have renovations at Sears Park placed on the agenda. Ms. Alvidrez also made a recommendation for moving the dog park to Cobb Park.

Acceptance of Minutes from January 17, 2023: Jeff Goodin moved the minutes to be approved. Tony Pallarez seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Executive Session: The Parks and Recreation Board went into Executive session at 8:40am to discuss Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, Consultation with Attorney, and Section 551.072, Texas Government Code, Deliberations about Real Property.

1. YMCA RedBud Park

The Parks and Recreation Board came out of Executive Session at 9:05am with no votes or other action taken during the Executive Session.

YMCA Field Expansion Project: David Hendricks with the YMCA, presented the board with the project of adding multipurpose sports fields. David reviewed the fields with specifications and visuals. David mentioned these fields could be used for members and guests, would be secured after hours and have lighting for evening use. David informed the board the funds for this project were already in place.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Alvidrez asked about the process for getting items on the agenda. Ms. Alvidrez requested renovations at Sears Park be placed on the agenda.

Jeff Goodin made a motion to approve the YMCA field expansion project. Tony Pallarez seconded, with all in favor the motion carried.

Designating Cedar Creek Trail a Linear Park: Lesli Andrews reviewed the Cedar Creek Trail timeline, with the completion in 2023. Lesli suggested the idea of Cedar Creek as a linear park, as it falls within the definition of a park. Lesli reminded the board that once a park is deemed a park, it is difficult to retract.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Alvidrez asked if Cedar Creek is considered to be in flood way. Ms. Alvidrez asked how taxpayers get a master park plan going.

Tony Pallarez made a motion to approve the designation of Cedar Creek Trail a linear park. Jeff Goodin seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Long Term Funding Sources: Lesli Andrews discussed the possible long term funding sources for Parks and Recreation. Lesli mentioned using this opportunity to brainstorm with the Board about how to use funds to make improvements. Lesli listed property leases, parks foundation and restructuring Parks Bucks as a few ways to gather funds.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Alvidrez asked about the AYSA lease and asked for this contract to be reevaluated.

Relocation of Camp Barkeley: Lesli Andrews reviewed the details about the current location for Camp Barkeley, at Nelson Park. Lesli reviewed other locations including Cal Young/MLK Park, Fannin Park, Kirby Park, Oscar Rose Park and Scarborough Park, listing the available space and current amenities.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Alvidrez stated she recommended Will Hair Park or Cobb Park.

Jeff Goodin requested staff do further research for Fannin Park and Cal Young Park.

Sears Playground Update: Lesli Andrews updated the board on the status of Sears playground since the fire on January 13th. Lesli informed the board of the upcoming steps starting with getting conceptual drawings in early March, these will then be made public. Lesli stated that there is alot going on behind the scenes and will continue to update the board on progress.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus talked about the installation of the new playground equipment at Vaughn-Camp Park. Jesus discussed the repair work done on the prairie dog wall at Red Bud Park and the sidewalk repairs at Nelson Park Pavilion C.

Recreation Report: Lesli Andrews gave the Recreation Report. Lesli reviewed the upcoming Steam N Wheels event taking place on March 11th at 10am. Lesli also mentioned the Spring Break Camp happening from March 13th-17th for children ages 6-13. Lesli informed the board of the upcoming Country Western Dance classes starting on March 20th with a fee of \$45 per couple.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby talked about the St. Patrick's Day Bingo on March 16th and the Leprechaun Race on March 17th. Bobby said that the seniors will also be starting a March Madness Challenge with prizes for the most accurate three. Bobby wanted to review the other senior services at the other recreation centers, including art projects, movie days, bingo and St. Patrick's Day parties.

Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse talked about saying goodbye to Saba, Abagebe and Jabulani. Jesse mentioned the lions were on loan from the Ft Worth Zoo. Jesse discussed the new rhino, Uhuru from Granbury, Tx. Jesse invited everyone to visit the zoo for the upcoming Wild Days from March 11th-19th, with interactive shows and animals on stage.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:01am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Secretary