

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX. Board members present were David Pittman, Gary Grubbs, Jeff Goodin, 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, 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: None

Acceptance of Minutes from February 21, 2023: Jeff Goodin moved the minutes to be approved. Gary Grubbs seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Request to Charge Spectator Fee for Wylie Fastpitch Softball Tournament: Chris Gibson reviewed the request to charge a \$5 spectator fee for a tournament on March 24th-26th at Kirby Lake Softball Complex. Gary Grubbs made a motion to approve the fee. Tony Pallarez seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Spectator Fee Policy: Chris Gibson discussed the policy for the Spectator Fee Policy. Chris mentioned this policy would give discretion to the Parks & Recreation Director for any fees of \$20 or less and any amount greater than \$20 would require board approval.

Public Comment: None

Gary Grubbs made a motion to approve the Spectator Fee Policy. Jeff Goodin seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Lesli Andrews presented the plan that the Parks & Recreation department has been working on for the past year. Lesli reviewed the Evaluate, Engage, Envision and Plan phase that Brandstetter Carroll helped create. Lesli talked about the recommendations that were made based on the study and feedback from the community. Lesli wanted to use this data to maintain our parks and set a standard for Abilene.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Alvidrez said she has concerns about the follow up process for these plans. Ms. Alvidrez stated she doesn't know who to blame and she recommends action be inclusive to all.

Tanell Blackmon moved this Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be approved. Jeff Goodin seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Sears Park Playground Update: Lesli Andrews talked about the community meeting that took place on March 9th at Cesar Chavez Recreation Center. Lesli stated that everyone was given a way to vote for the playground of their choice. Lesli informed the board that the choice was taken into consideration and wanted the board to be aware of the time it could take to get a playground in place due to material delays.

Aquatics Report: Bobby Brown gave the aquatics report. Bobby reported about the repairs being completed for the opening of the Splash Pad on April 22nd and Adventure Cove on May 27th. Bobby mentioned all the applications coming through and reviewing them.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus talked about the memorial benches installed at Nelson and Redbud park. Jesus said the turf renovation at City Hall was completed. Jesus invited everyone to participate in the Photography contest by submitting pictures taken at any Abilene Parks for a chance to have your photo canvas placed in the Parks & Recreation Admin office.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the Recreation Report. Ann informed the board of the upcoming Egg-Stravaganza on April 1st for four different age groups including an adaptive hunt. Ann talked about the Mother/Son Dance at the Rose Senior Center on Saturday May 6th from 7-9pm. Ann also mentioned the hiring for playground aides, with 30 positions available.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby discussed the upcoming Egg-selent Easter on Wednesday April 5th at 10am. Bobby talked about the upcoming cornhole tournament on April 20th at 1pm as well as a karaoke event on April 18th.

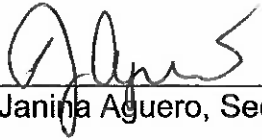
Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse informed the board of the zoo upgrades to the wetlands deck being smoothed down. Jesse wanted to welcome the new African lions, Keny and Dixie, as well as the new ocelots Lindy and Hunfredo. Jesse invited everyone to come out to Zoobilation, A Wild Encounter, on April 29th from 6pm-10:30pm. Jesse reviewed the visitors from 2022, with 64% from outside of Abilene.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:37am

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David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janina Aguero', written over a horizontal line.

Janina Aguero, Secretary