

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

**May 23, 2023**

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 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, Leigh Black 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.

Gary Grubbs called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Invocation:** Leigh Black gave the invocation.

**Public Comment:** None

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

**Sears Park Playground Update:** Lesli Andrews discussed the approval of the playground from City Council and this playground has now been ordered. Lesli informed the board that this will not be completed this summer, but will hopefully be open next spring. Lesli mentioned that the playground will be a parallel playground with turf and will be the second to be installed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Cedar Creek Trail Update:** Lesli Andrews reviewed the board's decision to make Cedar Creek a linear park and after discussion with legal counsel it was found that there are some areas that are not City owned. Lesli recommended at this time that we hold off on this decision until further research can be done. Lesli showed the board before and after pictures of the progress of the trail, stating that the tentative ribbon cutting will be in July.

**Public Comment:** None

**Request to Charge Parking Fee:** Chris Gibson reviewed the request to charge a \$5 parking fee at Kirby Lake Complex on July 11th-July 17th.

**Public Comment:** Tiffany Nichols, from Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, mentioned being available to answer any questions on the parking fee.

Gary Grubbs made a motion to approve the parking fee. Leigh Black seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

**Aquatics Report:** Bobby Brown gave the aquatics report. Bobby reported the Splash Pads opened on April 22nd and Adventure Cove opens on May 27th. Bobby talked about how the managing partners have gotten everything cleaned up and ready to go for the summer opening. Bobby mentioned summer passes still being looked into for next year.

**Parks Report:** Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus discussed the repairs made to the Kirby Softball complex fence in preparation for the upcoming Little League tournaments. Jesus talked about the clean out and filter screen replacement at Minter Park. Jesus mentioned the demolition and removal of the playground at Sears Park. Jesus invited everyone to submit their pictures for the Photography contest with submissions due on May 26th at 5pm.

**Recreation Report:** Chris Gibson gave the Recreation Report. Chris talked about the upcoming Co-Ed volleyball and kickball leagues for the summer. Chris mentioned the dog training classes beginning June 6th-July 18th at Cobb Recreation center. Chris discussed the Summer Camp sessions starting on June 5th at each of the recreation centers.

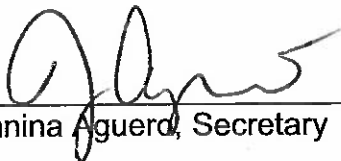
**Seniors Report:** Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby talked about Father's Day Bingo on June 15th with special prizes for the men only. Bobby encouraged all the seniors to get involved in the walking challenge, Walk Don't Rock, taking place from June 1st-June 30th to motivate seniors to be more active. Bobby invited everyone to the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19th from 10am-2pm at Rose Senior Center, which is a change from the usual location at GV Daniels Recreation Center.

**Zoo:** Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse discussed the addition of a new zebra and a baby blue duiker. Jesse showed the board the updated Wetlands deck photos showing the expansion. Jesse reviewed the success of Zoobilation, with a record breaking attendance of over 400 guests. Jesse invited all active, veterans, retired military and their families out on May 27th for Zoolute celebration.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:59am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Janina Aguerd, Secretary