

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

October 17, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 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, Leigh Black, Robyn Wertheim and Tanell Blackmon. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Assistant Director, Bobby Brown, Seniors Division Manager, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Ann Hall, Recreation Division Manager, Jesse Pottebaum, Zoo Director, Stanley Smith, Legal and Janina Agüero, Secretary.

David Pittman called the meeting to order at 8:30 am

Invocation: Gary Grubbs gave the invocation.

Public Comment-

The Following Spoke:

- Eddie Pugh
- Paul Thomas
- Donna Albus

Acceptance of Minutes from September 19, 2023: Robyn Wertheim moved the minutes to be approved. Leigh Black seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Service Award: Lesli Andrews presented the service award to Richard Rodgers for 15 years of service.

Capital Improvements Grant: Lesli Andrews reviewed the grant application made for existing COA partner entities for capital improvements to City owned facilities. Lesli stated that grants can be awarded in the range of \$1K to \$300K, with a grant matching of 20%. Lesli mentioned this grant is for capital improvements to City owned facilities.

Public Comment:

The Following Spoke:

- Eddie Pugh

Gary Grubbs made a motion to approve this Capital Improvement Grant. Robyn Wertheim seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Rotary Peace Pole: Lesli Andrews reviewed the previous agenda item of placing a peace pole in either Vera Minter Park or Storybook Garden. Lesli talked about the

Rotary Club wanting to place this peace pole in remembrance of Kayla Christensen with no agreements with the Rotary Club yet, this is only a request for approval to place a memorial item in one of these locations.

Public Comment:

The Following Spoke in favor of this item:

- Donna Albus
- Paul Thomas

Gary Grubbs made a motion to allow a monument to be determined at a later date, be placed in Storybook Garden. Tanell Blackmon seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Parks Foundation: Lesli Andrews discussed whether or not Abilene needs a foundation for funding opportunities to take away from funds being taken from the General Fund. Lesli brought up the past discussion of viewing how Odessa operated their Parks Fund through the water bill.

Public Comment: None.

Robyn Wertheim made a motion for staff to explore a Parks Foundation. Leigh Black seconded, with all in favor the motion carried.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks report. Jesus talked about the preparations being made for the Train Sculpture at City Hall by the Parks workers. Jesus stated there was some work completed of ground grading for drainage at Rose Recreation Center. Jesus discussed the upcoming TRAPS Conference happening on October 25th & 26th, with a Maintenance Rodeo that will send the winner to a State competition.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the Recreation Report. Ann invited everyone to visit the GV Daniels Recreation Center on Saturday, October 28th for the annual Fall Festival featuring a Haunted House. Ann discussed the upcoming Big Country Pumpkin Chase run featuring a 1K, 5K, 10K or Half Marathon at Johnson Park on November 4th.

Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby mentioned that Barnes & Williams will be giving free flu shots to seniors on Tuesday, October 24th from 10am-2pm. Bobby talked about the HalGloween party that will be held on October 31st, with a costume contest, dancing, refreshments and a cake walk.

Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene: Lesli Andrews introduced Brad Kerr, the Division Manager of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery of Abilene, that the City of Abilene just acquired through a contract with the State.

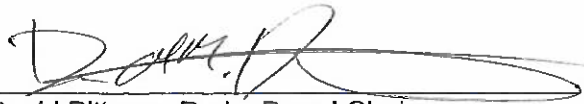
Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse invited everyone to sign up for the new Sloth Tour. Jesse informed the board of the rescue of 48 Zebra Finches. Jesse recommended everyone come out for Boo at the Zoo, happening on October 14th, 21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:24am

David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman

Janina Agüero, Secretary

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:24am

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

David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman

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

Janina Aguero, Secretary