

## PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

November 21, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 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, Michael Homer, Tony Pallarez, and Tanell Blackmon. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Ann Hall, Recreation Division Manager, Jesse Pottebaum, Zoo Director, Stanley Smith, Legal and Vera Sparks, Secretary/Parks & Recreation Office Administrator II.

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

Invocation: Michael Homer gave the invocation.

### Public Comment:

#### The Following Spoke:

- N/A

**Acceptance of Minutes from October 17, 2023:** Gary Grubbs moved the minutes to be approved. Tony Pallarez seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**TRAPS Award Discussion :** Jesus Coronado presented the 2023 West Region Parks Professional of the Year Award to Mike Flores for his participation in the Maintenance Rodeo and continued service with the Parks Department. Mike is continuously present and engaging with his team, setting an example of the Gold Standard.

**Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 551.0072 & 551.0071:** Consideration and Approval of Commercial Lease at 4300 South West Drive, Located in Southwest Park.

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### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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**Consideration and Approval of Commercial Lease at 4300 South West Drive, Located in Southwest Park.** *No decisions were made during the Executive Session.*

**The Following Spoke in favor of this item:**

- Robert Hanna, City Manager

Lease Agreement opportunity for the Parks Department with Chick-Fil-A. The Chick-Fil-A location on Southwest Drive is a traffic concern for the City, probably a concern for Chick-Fil-A too. Hanna has worked with Chick-Fil-A Real Estate to identify a City owned parcel that Chick-Fil-A would relocate to. This would be a Lease Agreement with Chick-Fil-A for an initial term of 15 years, 5 null terms of 5 years a piece, 40 year total term, with the opportunity to renew again for another 40 year term. Revenue from this lease must be spent within the Parks & Recreation System per the charter. All the totals added up is about \$7 Million in revenue for the Parks Department over the term of the agreement of 40 years.. This funding is not Tax revenue generated, it is generated through an alternative revenue source, such as a commercial lease.

**Discussion:**

Gary Grubbs: It's a win-win proposition.

**Public Comment**

**The Following Spoke:**

- N/A

**Potential Action:**

**Motion #1:** Move to find there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use or taking of such land, and the program or project includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land as a park, resulting from the taking.

**Tony Pallarez - Motioned**

**Gary Grubbs - Seconded**

**Motion Passes**

**Motion #2:** Move to approve the commercial lease located in Southwest Park for a restaurant within the City limits of Abilene, TX.

**Tony Pallarez - Motioned**

**Gary Grubbs - Seconded**

**Motion Passes**

## 2024 Standards of Care - Review

### **The Following Spoke in favor of this item:**

- Chris Gibson, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

Annual renewal for the Standards of Care operating features and guidelines we follow such as safety, fire, and communication for the following age groups; 6 through 13. The Recreation Centers have completed the internal annual inspections per our standards. Environmental Health and the Fire Department conduct annual inspections. On November 8th, 2023, an outside parks and Recreation professional conducted a professional review of all our Recreation Centers.

### Currently Reads:

The Administrator will make visual inspections of the facilities, based on the following schedule. A Parks and Recreation Professional that is not associated with the City of Abilene will assist on one of the following inspections.

- (1) A pre-summer Check in April of each year; and
- (2) A fall check in October of each year.”

### Proposed Change

The Administrator will make visual inspections of the facilities, based on the following schedule. An Administrator that is not associated with the City of Abilene Parks and Recreation Department will assist on one of the following inspections.

- (1) A pre-summer Check in April of each year; and
- (2)A fall check in October of each year.”

### **Discussion:**

- N/A

### Public Comment

### **The Following Spoke:**

- N/A

**Potential Action:** Remove/correct the noticed typo “and” within the proposed changes for the standards of care. Typo is listed below in red.

### Proposed Change

The Administrator will make visual inspections of the facilities, based on the following schedule. A Administrator that is not associated with the City of Abilene Parks and Recreation Department will assist on one of the following inspections.

- (1) A pre-summer Check in April of each year;
- (2)A fall check in October of each year.”

## **Motion:**

### **Michael Homer: Motioned**

*Approve of the change*, including motion to remove/correct the noticed typo "and" within the proposed changes for the standards of care. Typo is listed below in red.

#### Proposed Change

The Administrator will make visual inspections of the facilities, based on the following schedule. An Administrator that is not associated with the City of Abilene Parks and Recreation Department will assist on one of the following inspections.

- (1) A pre-summer Check in April of each year;

**Tanell Blackmon - Seconded**

## **Parks Report - Discussion**

### **The Following Spoke in favor of this item:**

- Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager

Everman Park fountain was soaked a couple times, causing the Parks workers to drain, scrub, and repaint the fountain.

City Hall Train Sculpture is set and the Parks workers have set a Flagstone sidewalk and greenery within the area.

T.R.A.P.S - West Region Maintenance Rodeo Champion - Abilene Red won, Abilene Blue second, San Angelo came in third. Good start to the State Championships.

## **Recreation Report - Discussion**

### **The Following Spoke in favor of this item:**

- Ann Hall, Recreation Division Manager

Winter Break Camp 2023 will be located at G.V. Daniels, Frosty, Flannels & Fun!

Lunch and snacks are provided, including a field trip to the Skating Place.

Coed Volleyball is an 8 week Season starting from 01/09 through 02/27 at Rose Park Recreation every Tuesday from 6 PM till 9 PM with practice available at G.V. Daniels Recreation Center.

The Big Country Pumpkin Chase was a beautiful experience and we noticed participation growing.

## **Senior Report - Discussion**

### **The Following Spoke in favor of this item:**

- Chris Gibson, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

Seniors will be having Thanksgiving Breakfast instead of lunch Wednesday, November 22nd at 9:30 AM.

The Holiday Fundraiser event will be on December 8th, 2023. The Holiday Fundraiser will include raffle prizes, bingo, dinner, bands and dancing.

Merry Mondays will be at Rose Park, every Monday there will be a different Christmas activity such as, Christmas sweaters, cookie decoration, sing-a-longs, hot cocoa, and a holiday movie.

### **Zoo Report - Discussion**

#### **The Following Spoke in favor of this item:**

- Jesse Pottebaum, Zoo Director

Recently received a male sloth, he will be paired with Sadie, our female sloth, to mate in the future and hopefully we will have baby sloths at the Abilene Zoo.

Albert is now in hibernation/brumation, he has a new home for all to see him year around.

Christmas Celebration is coming up, 6pm tree lighting, reindeer food, pictures with Santa, a new light tunnel, ice skating, hot cocoa, costumes, roasting marshmallows.

#### **Additional discussion:**

Gary Grubbs and Lesli Andrews had a conversation regarding the Bond process for the Recreation Centers.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 AM

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David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman

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Vera Sparks, Secretary