

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

December 19, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 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, Tanell Blackmon and Michael Homer. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director, Richard Rodgers, Assistant Director, Bobby Brown, Seniors Division Manager, Ann Hall, Recreation Division Manager, Jesus Coronado Parks Division Manager, Jesse Pottebaum Zoo Director, Stanley Smith, Legal and Kathy Tarango, Secretary.

David Pittman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Invocation: Robyn Wertheim gave the invocation.

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Minutes from November 21, 2023: Robyn Wertheim moved the minutes to be approved. Michael Homer seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Rose Tennis/Pickleball Development (Discussion, Public Hearing and Possible Action): Lesli Andrews discussed the interest in pickleball/tennis in Abilene for the past 6 months. Lesli informed the board that City Council approved funding for pickleball courts in Abilene and the 700 responses received for the pickleball online survey. Michael Black designed a plan that would enhance both pickleball and tennis without conflicting either. Lesli discussed possible closing of Portland Street. Design would add parking to the north and south of the proposed new plaza area. In addition, there was a discussion of renovating or designing a new Pro Shop. This design features a new Pro Shop with a fenced in center. The design also allows tweaking when funding is available to add 16 courts with sidewalks and seating in a landscaped area. This design would also allow 4 covered courts and an increased amount of parking. Lesli asked the board to approve the Rose Tennis/Pickleball development. .

Public Comment: None

The Following spoke in favor of this item:

- Leigh Black
- Robyn Wertheim

Leigh Black made a motion to approve the development. Robyn Wertheim seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

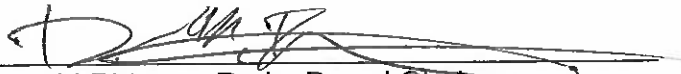
Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus discussed the splash pad shade renovations. Jesus talked about the playground repairs and tree trimming.

Recreation Report: Ann Hall gave the Recreation Report. Ann discussed the Winter Break Camp and Coed Volleyball. Ann discussed the dog training classes and the upcoming Trout Fest 2024.

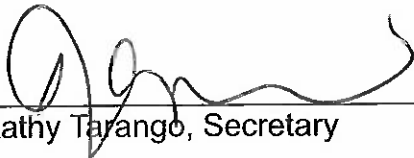
Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby spoke about the holiday fundraiser and the prizes given. Bobby talked about the new Senior Services driver. Bobby spoke about the two movies they will be featuring and the positive reception by the seniors.

Zoo: Chris Gibson gave the Zoo Report. Chris gave updates about the new Steenbok and Boat Billed Herons. Chris also spoke about the updated Flamingo winter holding area. Chris spoke about the yearly Christmas Celebration at the Zoo and the addition of more lights every year. Jesse Pottbaum spoke about the lights and invited everyone to see the new toy building workshop.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Kathy Tarango, Secretary