

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 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, Jack Hurd, Tannell 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, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Jesse Pottebaum Zoo Director, Stanley Smith, Legal and Janina Aguero, Secretary.

David Pittman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Invocation: Leigh Black gave the invocation.

Public Comment: None

Service Award: Richard Rodgers presented Scott Wylie with his service award for 5 years of service.

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

Baseball/Softball Expansion Project: Lesli Andrews discussed the changes in baseball and softball and being approached for updates and new facilities. Lesli talked about a contract with La Terra Studio to develop a master plan for future needs. Lesli asked the Parks and Recreation Board to form a task force to help with recommendations for the City Council.

Public Comment: None

Tannell Blackmon made a motion to move forward with the task force. Gary Grubbs seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

New Dog Park Location: Lesli Andrews discussed the relocation of Camp Barkeley to a new location. Lesli stated this new location will be located in Cal Young Park off E. South 11th behind the new Animal Services Center. Lesli informed the board that the dog park will be closed for a period of time and the Parks department will relocate as many of the memorial items as possible.

Public Comment: None

Michael Homer made a motion to approve. Tannell Blackmon seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Capital Improvement Grant Application Projects: Chris Gibson reviewed the applications received from the leagues for capital improvements. Chris gave the detailed amounts per league that the staff recommends for additions and improvements.

Public Comment: None

Gary Grubbs made a motion to submit the recommendations to the City Council. Leigh Black seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Parks Report: Jesus Coronado gave the Parks Report. Jesus talked about the Parks department repairing the playground at Alameda Park and the installation of the new park signs at Sears, Will Hair, Cobb and Redbud Park. Jesus reported on the total hours worked, 37,485 with 4,139 work orders completed.

Recreation Report: Chris Gibson gave the Recreation Report. Chris discussed the upcoming activities of Guys & Games, Hook & Yarn and Dog training classes coming up.


Seniors Report: Bobby Brown gave the Seniors Report. Bobby spoke about the March Hoops bracket competition starting on March 18th. Bobby stated a Food & Nutrition program will be hosted by Texas A&M, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Bobby talked about the Saint Patrick's Day party on Friday March 15th at 10am, with refreshments and prizes for games.

Zoo: Jesse Pottebaum gave the Zoo Report. Jesse informed the board of the loss of Henry the maned wolf and Hunfredo the ocelot and also the birth of a prehensile tailed porcupette and a maned wolf pup. Jesse invited everyone to come out to Wild Days during spring break, March 9-17th and to the Zoobilation Gala on Saturday April 20th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 am



David Pittman, Parks Board Chairman



Kathy Tarango, Secretary