

STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTIES OF POTTER :
AND RANDALL :

On this the 10th day of August 2010, the Parks and Recreation Commission of Amarillo, Texas convened at 1:30 PM in regular session in Room 306, City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

ATTENDANCE

	PRESENT TODAY	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT	SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD	SPECIAL MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr. Daniel Martinez	No	51	48	0	0
Mr. Hal Leedy	Yes	31	20	0	0
Mr. Cameron Monroe	Yes	21	16	0	0
Mr. Clint Norton	Yes	12	11	0	0
Ms. Joyce Cunningham	Yes	31	29	0	0
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	31	26	0	0
Mr. Brian Scott	No	49	40	0	0

and the following staff members:

Mr. Larry Offerdahl	Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Rod Tweet	Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Ms. Sherylene Morris	Recording Secretary

There being a quorum established, the meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman, Mr. Clint Norton, and the following business was conducted.

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 8, 2010 MEETING

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the June 8th minutes as amended. Ms. Joyce Cunningham seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Larry Offerdahl stated that the date for the 3rd annual Zoo-la-Palooza will be held on September 24, 2010. He encouraged Park Commissioners to attend this event.

The completion date for both City View and West Hillside Parks have been extended due to some re-hydro-mulching in areas that the grass did not germinate. The estimated completion date is now set for September 30, 2010.

The Traffic Commission approved the Hike & Bike Master Plan update. The City Commission will review this update in the next few weeks.

Golf revenues still continue to be down for this year due to the weather.

The Softball Program continues to grow each year. With the new lighting at the Rick Klein Sports Complex, the West Texas Youth Baseball Association hosted a successful State Tournament with a total of 103 teams that played a total of 193 games.

Park Maintenance crews have planted a total of 274 new or replacement trees throughout the city. This number included the trees planted on National Green Select Day. Park crews are continuing to post the park rules signs in all the city parks so that the police can act upon any violations that may occur in the city parks.

Lighting has been installed at the JSM dog park so that people can use the area after dark until midnight when the park closes.

Red White & Zoo was held on July 3, 2010 at the Amarillo Zoo with approximately 470 visitors attending. Approximately \$1,800 was made between admissions and concessions. Activities were shut down around 1:30 PM due to rain.

ITEM 3. REVIEW RECOMMENDED FY 10-11 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Larry stated that the following FY 10-11 Capital Improvement Projects were recommended to the City Commission:

- Memorial Park Splash Pad - \$120,000
- Automatic irrigation systems at Sleepy Hollow, Windsor, and Oakdale School Parks - \$115,000
- New Playground at Hamlet Park - \$125,000 (Community Development Funds)
- Funded from zoo admission revenues
 1. Zoo Education Center \$135,000
 2. Tiger Exhibit Expansion \$ 50,000
 3. Leopard Exhibit Improvements \$ 10,000
- Golf Course Improvements – Old Course at Ross Rogers Golf Complex
 1. The City Commission will consider either the replacement of the irrigation system and/or a partial or full renovation of the Old Course

ITEM 4. REPORT ON THE PARKS & PUBLIC GROUNDS URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

Clint Stoddard presented a brief history on the establishment of the Parks Tree Inventory System. Up until 2008, the old system was kept on a Data-Ease program that only allowed crews to count the trees in the park system. After careful and thorough consideration of different companies, Arbor Pro Tree Inventory System was chosen to be installed as a tree management system. This program allows us to GIS map the trees, track the lifespan, and all the maintenance performed on each tree as well as rate each tree for hazards related to the size, age, and location.

Currently we have approximately 15,405 trees in our parks, open spaces, at public buildings, etc, and 10,672 trees are mapped and currently on our tree management program. The remaining trees need to be mapped and put into our management system.

In the next few years, more staffing will need to be added in order to maintain our park trees as well as our tree nursery. Also a second nursery will need to be added within the next 5 years to be located at the old Brussard Complex.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION FROM THE HIGH PLAINS TREE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Leigh Cravin, President of the High Plains Tree Keepers Association, voiced her concerns about the amount of dead trees throughout the city of Amarillo on public and private properties, and the need to dispose of them in a correct manner.

Her desire is to create more awareness and proactive programs so that homeowners and public property owners can take better care of their trees.

Dusty McGuire, Keep Amarillo Beautiful, suggested working with other city departments such as Building Safety and not just with the Parks Department. She stated that Siberian Elms were planted in Amarillo many years ago and they are simply getting too old and needed to be removed and not pruned.

Cameron Monroe suggested that we need to find a way to educate the citizens of Amarillo on taking better care of the trees because people don't like being told what to do.

ITEM 6. CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT DESIGNATING CERTAIN ATHLETIC FIELDS AS GAME FIELDS

Larry stated that the Parks & Recreation Department adopted an Athletic Field Policy in order to be able to maintain and manage our athletic game fields so that we can offer good quality fields. He stated that the policy is often ignored by citizens and then it becomes difficult for our parks staff to enforce. Therefore a review of our current Athletic Field Policy is being considered in order allow our staff and the Amarillo Police Department to maintain better control on unauthorized practices on these designated game fields.

This ordinance would allow for better signage to be placed at all game fields. Jackie Payne and Hal Leedy both agreed that an ordinance for better signage would be a good idea.

ITEM 7. DISCUSS DATE & TIMES FOR THE ANNUAL PARK TOUR

The Annual Park Tour for 2010 will be held on Tuesday, September 14th with a brief Parks Commission meeting at 8:30 AM and the tour starting at 9:00 AM. After a tour of the current and recently completed projects, the tour will end with lunch served at Comanche Trail Golf Complex Clubhouse. The tour will arrive back at City Hall approximately 1:00 PM.

ITEM 8. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION COMMENTS

Ken Graham, former Park Commissioner, complimented Dusty McGuire from Keep Amarillo Beautiful on the completion of the Ellwood Senior Park. He also thanked the Parks Department for implementing the update of the Hike & Bike Master Plan. He will speak at the City Commission meeting and encourage the adoption of the update on the Hike & Bike Master Plan and the "Share the Road" safety program.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Clint Norton adjourned the meeting at 2:59PM.

Larry Offerdahl,
Director of Parks and Recreation