

STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTIES OF POTTER :
AND RANDALL :

On this the 14th day of August 2012, 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. Hal Leedy	Yes	51	34	0	0
Mr. Cameron Monroe	Yes	41	31	0	0
Mr. Clint Norton	Yes	32	26	0	0
Ms. Joyce Cunningham	Yes	51	49	0	0
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	51	40	0	0
Mr. Mike Rivera	No	10	8	0	0
Ms. Renee McCown	Yes	10	8	0	0

and the following staff members:

Mr. Rod Tweet	Interim Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Kevin Wilde	Assistant Park Superintendent
Mr. Kim Killian	Athletic Supervisor
Ms. Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Ms. Sherylene Morris	Recording Secretary

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

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 12, 2012 MEETING

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the June 10, 2012 minutes as amended. Ms. Joyce Cunningham seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 6-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Rod Tweet stated that Parks senior staff met with City Management on July 12, 2012 to review the proposed 2012-2013 operational budgets. He stated that several supplemental items are receiving consideration included additional golf carts, irrigation control system upgrades, full-time zoo educator position, Graffiti removal materials and additional part-time hours at the Tennis Center.

The Parks & Recreation Department is following the voluntary Drought Contingency Plan recommendation in all the parks except for those that have been newly seeded. Athletic fields and golf courses are being evaluated daily and based on the condition, they may exceed the recommended voluntary three days a week watering in order to maintain safe play conditions and protect investment.

The annual Zoo-la-Palooza fundraising event by the Amarillo Zoological Society which has traditionally been scheduled in the fall will be postponed this year until next spring. A membership drive is tentatively scheduled for October 13, 2012 at the new Zoo Education Center. This drive is to thank the original charter members but also to solicit long standing zoo supporters to become members and to promote future zoo events, programs and facilities. Invitations will be mailed to the Park Commissioners.

Golf revenues for the month of July at Comanche Trail are down slightly at \$85,854.09 as compared to last year in July at \$93,314.58. Golf revenues at Ross Rogers for the month of July were up at \$166,724.80 as compared to last year in July at \$113,504.30.

Kevin Wilde stated that various seeding projects have been completed at areas three (3) through seven (7) at Thompson, Benton and Mesa Verde Parks. Park crews removed old playground equipment, border and gravel and installed a new modular playground at South Georgia School Park.

Park crews continue to remove graffiti on public owned properties, painted over the major graffiti at the Rails to Trails overpass and removed extensive graffiti at Benton Park.

Zoo staff participated in a "Chill Out" event held on July 14, 2012 at the zoo. It was a huge success and generated a total of \$1,098 in revenue. "Roars and Snores", held on July 7, 2012, was an overnight event that generated \$850 in revenue. "Rock and Roar", held on July 21, 2012, generated \$360 in revenue. Zoo crew volunteers continue to raise money for the Black Footed Ferret Recovery Program and as of this date have raised approximately \$300.33.

Total revenue in the month of July for the zoo was \$32,345.68. The year to date total is \$212,888.37 versus the same time last year at \$182,352.11.

Rod stated that there will be an increase in the zoo admissions for next year's proposed budget. The proposed admission for children would be from \$1 to \$2, Senior's \$2 to \$3 and Adults \$3 to \$4. Based on participation in the past couple of years, this would conservatively generate approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 additional revenue for the zoo. This revenue would then be put back into the zoo improvement fund to help fund more zoo projects. Monday's will continue to be a free day at the zoo.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, stated that in the month of July the Amarillo Tennis Center revenue is up only slightly from last year by a total of \$79.91. Park Maintenance crews have been cleaning out the indoor court building and preparing it for the color coating project which should start within the next week.

Recreation Program was successful again this year with more partnership's helping with donations for the kids programs such as drinks, snacks, t-shirts, etc. The 2012 summer program experienced an estimated 30,000 in total attendance. Jammin' Jym's also did extremely well with Southlawn School being the largest in attendance. Splashpad's are being highly utilized with the closing of the pools for the summer. There will be two more concerts held in Sam Houston Park with next week being the last week for the summer. Insufficient Funds will be the band playing on the last night of the summer event with Famous Dave's catering. All the city pools have closed for the summer due to limited funding and lifeguard staffing.

Kim Killian stated that the City of Amarillo hosted "The Fun in the Sun Coors Light Classic" Softball Tournament that was held on July 7 & 8, 2012. The city also hosted the State Tournament for the Adult Men's Class E and Adult Women's Class D on August 3 & 4, 2012. Fall Volleyball season started on Monday, August 13, 2012 with a total of 220 teams registered.

The Adult Amarillo Soccer Association summer session began on July 31, 2012 and will continue through August 16, 2012.

Happy State Bank and Amarillo National Banks are sponsoring scoreboards at the Rick Klein Baseball Complex. Athletics is looking to secure more sponsorship's for these scoreboards at Rick Klein.

The 35th Annual Mayor's Half Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2012. Xcel Energy has agreed to sponsor this year's event for \$1,500. Kim asked for volunteers to help with this event.

ITEM 3. REFORESTATION UPDATE

Kevin Wilde, Assistant Park Superintendent, stated that 541 replacement trees have been planted in the City of Amarillo and a total of 296 trees have been removed as of October 11, 2011.

ITEM 4. REPORT ON THE ZOO EDUCATION CENTER PROJECT

Kevin Wilde, Project Inspector for the Zoo Education Center Project, stated construction crews are completing the installation of lights, light switches, wall plugs, ceiling grids, staining the floor and etc. The General Contractor has stated that by the end of August we will be looking at punch list items. The project will not be officially open until next early spring due to adding on the outdoor education center and the landscaping. October 13, 2012 will be the date for the AZS membership drive.

ITEM 5. REPORT ON THE RENOVATION STATUS ON THE OLD COURSE AT ROSS ROGERS COMPLEX

James Stow, Golf Superintendent at Ross Rogers, stated that the grassing/seeding has been completed at the newly renovated Old Course. The putting green should be ready by September of 2012.

Bryan Shelhamer, Project Inspector, stated that approximately 300 trees will need to be removed before the new golf course opens in the spring of 2013. It has been established that in order to save money, Park crews will be in charge of removing these trees and a tree stump grinder will be purchased. There are drainage issues that will need to be repaired. A few irrigation heads will also need to be added.

ITEM 6. SEEK INPUT ON THE NAMING OF THE OLD COURSE AT ROSS ROGERS GOLF COMPLEX

A list of eight (8) suggested names for the Old Course Golf Course at Ross Rogers was submitted that included: Outlaw, Lone Star, Branding Iron, SouthWind, Steeple Chase, WildFire, Black Stallion and Olde Course. Another suggestion to name the course was Quarter Horse as well as Phoenix, which translates as "the bird that rises out of the ashes" or "Firebird". Branding Iron was one of the suggestions that could use "RR" (Ross Rogers) as the part of the branding iron.

ITEM 7. PUBLIC FORUM

Mike Lister, 3820 Line Ave, owner of the Martial Arts Athletic Center on Line Ave & Belleview, (322-1080) stated that his business is the first and only licensed martial arts child care in the State of Texas. His programs has anywhere from 100 to 120 children who attend the martial arts school and after school program. The State has come in and said that they could not go to the playground at Sam Houston Park because the playground was not on their minimum standards. He stated that the martial arts school has been playing on that playground for at least eight (8) years but now the State says they cannot play on the playground anymore. He presented the State's minimum standards requirements for the playground and was seeking Parks Administration's help in fixing this problem.

ITEM 8. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION COMMENTS

Jackie Payne commented that she appreciated each department giving their monthly reports directly.

Cameron Monroe stated that he had talked to the City Manager about attending one of our meetings to get acquainted with the Park Commissioners.

Rod suggested what would be on the Park Tour. Projects that are currently under construction or have been completed as well as the new Splashpad at Hamlet Park will be on the tour.

ITEM 9. ANNOUNCEMENT

Next meeting date will be September 11, 2012 at 8:30 AM, room 306 in City Hall before the Park Tour.

ITEM 10. ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, MOTION was made by MS. Joyce Cunningham to adjourn the meeting. MOTION was seconded by Ms. Jackie Payne. Meeting adjourned at 2:51PM.

Rod Tweet,
Interim Director of Parks and Recreation