

STATE OF TEXAS :

COUNTIES OF POTTER :

AND RANDALL :

On this the 9th day of October 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	No	53	34	0	0
Mr. Cameron Monroe	Yes	43	33	0	0
Mr. Clint Norton	Yes	34	28	0	0
Ms. Joyce Cunningham	Yes	53	51	0	0
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	53	42	0	0
Mr. Mike Rivera	Yes	12	10	0	0
Ms. Renee McCown	Yes	12	10	0	0

and the following staff members:

- Mr. Rod Tweet Interim Director of Parks & Recreation
- Mr. Clint Stoddard Park Superintendent
- Mr. Kim Killian Athletic 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 SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 MEETING

Ms. Joyce Cunningham made a MOTION to approve the September 11, 2012 minutes as amended. Ms. Renee McCown seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 6-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Rod Tweet stated that the recommended zoo admission fees have been approved by the City Commission for the upcoming year which became effective October 2, 2012. These fees have been increased by \$1 for each age category which will be as follows: adults \$4.00, seniors \$3.00 and children \$2.00. Admission for children age two and under will remain free of charge as well as admission on Monday's will still remain free for all ages.

Rod also stated that the Amarillo Zoological Society cordially extends an open invitation to the reception at the new Amarillo Zoo Education to be held on October 13, 2012. This special event has been extended to past charter members, Park Commissioners, City Commissioners and will also help to expand new memberships for the Amarillo Zoological Society. This event will allow the invitees a sneak peak at the Zoo Education Center before it opens in the spring of 2013.

The 2012 Boo at the Zoo event will be held over a three day period which will be held Friday evening, October 26th and Saturday evening, October 27th from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM and Sunday, October 28th from at 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Rod stated that the 2012 Park Master Plan that was approved by the Parks Commission a couple of months ago has been reviewed by the City Manager, Jarrett Atkinson and will be given to the City Commission for review. The approval of the 2012 Park Master Plan will be on the agenda for adoption at the City Commission meeting in the next couple of weeks. Cameron Monroe asked that an email be sent out to inform the Park Commissioners when the adoption of the master plan will be on the City agenda. He suggested that the Park Commissioners attend that meeting if they can. Rod also stated that the Old Course has not been officially named as of this date. Barbed wire, Steel Dust, Lone Start, Branding Iron were some of the names suggested for this golf course.

ITEM 3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were opened for Park Commission Chairman and Jackie Payne made a MOTION to nominate Cameron Monroe to remain as Chairman. Mike Rivera seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed with a vote of 6-0. Nominations were opened for Park Commission Vice Chairman and Jackie Payne made a MOTION to nominate Clint Norton to remain as Vice Chairman. Mike Rivera seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed with a vote of 6-0.

ITEM 4. APPROVED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2012-2013

Rod stated that the following Capital Improvement Projects were approved for the 2012 budget year totaling \$1,020,000:

- Splash Pad at Westover Village - \$190,000
- Playground Improvements at Willow Vista - \$155,000
- Ellwood Park Improvements for a shaded, lighted playground, and convert 4 volleyball courts into sand volleyball courts for league play - \$150,000
- Amarillo Athletic Complex Phase II to add restroom, small concession and plaza - \$135,000
- Wood Chip Processor would be used to grind up trees that have been removed from the parks and golf courses to create engineered wood fibers to be used in the playground system. This allows these chips to be recycled back into the parks system to replace the pea gravel from the playground areas and help improve child safety.
- Restroom replacement at Greenways, City View and the Skate Park at JSM - \$100,000
- Park Amenities to replace benches, drinking fountains, grills and trash cans - \$60,000
- Irrigation Renovations at Hamlet and Sunrise Parks - \$60,000
- Park Security Lighting at City View and light the Greenways shelters - \$50,000

ITEM 5. DEPARTMENT YEAR END REVIEW

Rod asked each department to inform the Park Commissioners of how their department runs and what to expect for the coming year.

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Park Maintenance and Zoo Maintenance. Clint stated that Park Maintenance has over 1400 developed acres and 761 undeveloped acres for a total of 2203 total acres. There are 6 Regional Parks, 7 Community Parks, 22 Neighborhood Parks, 28 School Parks, 1 Linear Park, 21 Public Building sites, 24 Traffic Islands, 28 Baseball and Softball Fields, 24 Sports Fields, 3 pools, 9 Splash Pads, 2 Tree Nursery's 14,800 trees, 135 flowerbeds, 1 rose garden and 3 PIDS that park crews oversee maintenance. Total Park Maintenance budget for the FY 2011-12 was \$5,857,000. This total includes salaries and wages, utilities (water, electric and gas), equipment rental and fuel, fertilizer and grass seed, irrigation repair parts and operating, park improvements, trees and flowers, playground repairs, janitorial supplies, building and electrical repairs, minor tools, sand, gravel and concrete and other miscellaneous items. Each year an average of \$2,644 is spent per acre to maintain the parks. There are 80 full-time employees and 29 part-time employees. Each full-time employee maintains an average of 27.6 acres. 644 trees were removed from the parks system this year and 541 trees were planted.

In the Zoo Maintenance, there are 14 acres of land at the zoo, 75 animal species, and 6 full-time and 7 part-time employees. There are over 200,000 visitors each year and there is a full service concession stand. Budget is \$361,877 which includes salaries and wages, animal feed and medicine purchases, employee services, special events and education, improvements and buildings, and misc. Total revenue for the 2011-12 year was \$246,830. Major events for the year were 10 special events that include Boo at the Zoo, Easter EGG-Citement and 8 other events. There were 36 onsite education programs that affected 1,553 students, 33 outreach programs that affected 1,241 students. The Zoo Mobile went to 15 Texas Panhandle communities. The zoo conducted 8 weeks of Junior Keeper Camps with 92 participants, 6 family public programs, hosted 34 birthday parties, accumulated 5,725 total volunteer hours (Zoo Crew) run by Mike Boley, Visitor Service Coordinator at the Amarillo Zoo.

James Stow, Golf Course Superintendent at Ross Rogers, updated the Park Commissioners on the new renovation of the Old Course at Ross Rogers Golf Complex. He presented photos taken back in May of 2012 when the project was in the beginning stages of seeding and compared it to current photos of the same area of the new Old Course to show the progress of the project. He addressed the importance of core aeration in order to keep water & air draining properly. He also showed photos of the progress of the tree removal process in taking out all of the dead trees on the golf course that could be a hazard to golfers if not removed. These dead trees must all be removed before the golf course opens in the spring. It is estimated that as of this date, Park Crews are about a quarter of the way through in removing these trees.

Sherwin Cox, Golf Pro at Ross Rogers, stated that Ross Rogers is down 2,000 rounds compared to last year's rounds at this time due to the Old Course being renovated. He also stated that 37% of the play at Ross Rogers this year is permit play and 11.6% is tournament rounds. Green fees are up \$18,700, permit holders, (city wide), are down about \$5,000 and players cards are down about 30%. Both courses were able, with the help of the Assistant City Manager, Dean Frigo, to reduce the green fees on Monday – Thursday by \$3. A total of \$407,648 was raised for various charities throughout the year. There are several detailed items such as: tree removal, tee markers, scorecards, granite stones, etc that need to be ready when the golf course opens. Estimated date for grand opening is scheduled for late April or early May.

George Priolo, Golf Pro at Comanche Trail, stated that at the end of the 2011-12 year, golf rounds were up 4,356 due to the renovation of the Old Course at Ross Rogers and the Amarillo Country Club renovations. He stated that the goal is to build up more play in the off peak times. A total of 53 outside events were played at Comanche the 2011-12 year compared to a total of 56 in the last fiscal year. A total of approximately \$257,000 in revenue was brought in for charity fund raising tournaments held at Comanche Trail Golf Complex. George stated that the Dallas Morning News has voted Comanche Arrowhead the Top 10 # One Most Economic Golf Courses in the State of Texas in the past several years along with Ross Rogers. He stated that both Comanche and Ross Rogers have budgeted to do more advertising and marketing strategies in order to better advertise what the city golf courses have to offer.

Kim Killian, Athletic Supervisor, stated that the overall participation for the 2011-12 spring/summer/fall Softball leagues were 649 with total revenue of \$229,650. The total overall participation for the 2011-12 spring/summer/fall/winter Volleyball leagues was 937 with total revenue of \$154,065. The total overall participation for the 2011-12 Basketball leagues was 31 with total revenue of \$13,805. Softball tournament revenues from ball field rentals were 47,650. Participations from various organizations that used city fields were: West Texas Youth Baseball with a total of 125, High Plains Fast Pitch with a total of 88 and Amarillo Soccer Association with a total of 185. Kids Inc., Amarillo Hispanic Soccer Club and the YMCA are among other organizations that also require city field usage. The Annual Mayor's Half Marathon had 204 participants this year with total revenue after expenses of \$1,028. Kim stated that his goal is to always have the best quality programs and customer service possible.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC FORUM

Ona Lee Johnson, 334 Cactus Drive, Amarillo Area Tennis Association, thanked the Parks Department for the cleaning job at the Amarillo Tennis Center. She also was very appreciative that a city league has been formed. She also complimented the Park Staff on their help in reserving the tennis courts at Memorial Park for Tennis on Campus which is a new program started at Amarillo College with a total of 40 students participating.

ITEM 7. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION COMMENTS

Cameron Monroe suggested a new meeting date and time for the Park Commission meeting due to the regular one being the same time as the City Commission meeting. This will be part of an agenda item to be voted on at the next meeting.

Cameron also complimented Kim Killian as being a wonderful addition to the Parks Department for his positive attitude and wanting to advocate good customer service.

Jackie Payne complimented the zoo on increasing the admission fee.

ITEM 8. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date will be held on November 13, 2012, at 1:30 PM at City Hall in room 306.

ITEM 9. ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM by Chairman, Cameron Monroe.

Rod Tweet,
Interim Director of Parks and Recreation