

STATE OF TEXAS :

COUNTIES OF POTTER :

AND RANDALL :

On this the 11th day of June 2013, 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:

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**ATTENDANCE**

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	PRESENT TODAY	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT	TERM STARTED	TERM EXPIRES
Mr. Cameron Monroe	Yes	49	38	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Joyce Cunningham	Yes	59	57	07/24/07	07/01/13
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	59	47	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	No	18	12	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	No	18	13	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	Yes	5	5	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	Yes	5	3	01/02/13	07/01/15

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and the following staff members:

Mr. Rod Tweet	Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Mr. Kim Killian	Athletic Supervisor
Ms. Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Mr. Bryan Shelhamer	Project Development Manager
Mr. James Stow	Ross Rogers Golf Superintendent
Mike Boley	Visitor Service Coordinator
Ms. Sherylene Morris	Recording Secretary

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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 MAY 14, 2013 MEETING**

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the May 14, 2013 minutes as amended. Ms. Joyce Cunningham seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0.

**ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS**

Rod Tweet stated that damage sustained from the severe weather on May 28, 2013 was only minor damage as compared to the recent storms in Oklahoma. On the park side the majority of the damage was small branches, leaf and flooding debris mainly at Thompson, West Hills and Southeast Parks. A shade canopy at Belmar Park play structure was torn due to hail damage. Several park vehicles had light hail damage with only one cracked windshield. Ross Rogers Golf Complex received extensive hail damage to the green's and tee boxes on both WildHorse and Mustang courses. The Emergency Management office statistics stated that 1.23" of rainfall, 2.75" diameter size hail, (baseball size), maximum 71 per mile an hour winds, (4) EFO tornadoes were produced by the storm but however no tornadoes confirmed in Potter or Randall Counties. The community impact was 38,417 single family residents impacted as well as several thousands of businesses, a 50% increase of waste collections from Solid Waste the next day, insurance claims were \$400,000,000 in city-wide damage, 35,000 auto claims, thousands of home claims with 75% of housing reporting some type of damage.

The annual Amarillo Globe-News July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Festival event will be held in John Stiff Memorial Park with activities beginning at 4:00 PM and the fireworks display around 9:30 PM weather permitting. Food vendors, live music and children's activities including a bike parade will be on the agenda.

The annual Fish Derby will be held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at McDonald Lake from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Prizes will be awarded to a number of categories such as smallest to biggest and ugliest fish.

With the opening of the Mustang Course at Ross Rogers, total rounds at Comanche Trails were only down slightly with Ross Rogers up 48%.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, stated that all three city pools are officially open until August. The Tennis Center had one of their largest tournament's that was held on Memorial Day with 228 entries. Recreation started training their recreation leaders this week. All 17 recreation sites will open on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> as well as the Summer Lunch Program. Jammin' Jym will be open on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Starlight Theater started last Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Sam Houston Park with Windy City being the first concert of the season. The next concert is scheduled for tonight, June 11<sup>th</sup>, with the Buster Bledsoe Band. Roxy's Birthday party, (Recreation mascot), will be held on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Park. Sammy's Birthday parties, (Aquatic mascot), will be held at each pool on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. All marketing items have been delivered to various locations throughout the city. Revenue for swim lessons during the month of May was \$13,570 and private pool party revenues at \$11,183. Live remotes with local radio stations can be seen at the pools and recreation sites to promote and increase the attendance.

Jackie Payne asked Pam if online registrations have been set up for tennis camps. Pam stated that they have not yet been set up due to a time element and funding.

Kim Killian, Athletic Supervisor, stated that the Spring/Summer Softball leagues are completed and playoffs will be completed the week of 06/10/13 weather permitting. Summer Volleyball is midway through its season. West Texas Youth Baseball will wrap up their season this week. High Plains Fast Pitch ended their season with an end of the season tournament held on May 28-30<sup>th</sup>. ASA Soccer finished their season and will host the annual Skip Ferrell 3v3 soccer tournament on June 22, 2013 at JSM Park. Kids Inc. finished their season this weekend also. The YMCA will hold their end of the season tournament at Rick Klein Complex from June 10 – 23<sup>rd</sup>. WAKA (kick ball) plays on Thursday nights at El Alamo Park. The Amarillo Flag Football and Panhandle Flag Football Leagues will begin their summer seasons on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Martin Road Park. The Hispanic Soccer Association continues to play at Southeast Park and Martin Road Park. The Amarillo Adult Baseball Association will start playing their home games at the Hines Memorial field beginning on June 9, 2013.

Cameron Monroe asked if there was any way of monitoring the age groups that play at the school parks. An example he gave was there were some four year olds playing t-ball at the two backstops at South Georgia School Park and close to the school were some high school kids with their coach playing ball and hitting in the direction of the smaller kids. Kim stated that the school parks are first come first serve and we do not schedule any practices at the neighborhood parks.

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent, stated that 370 new trees have been planted and 346 trees have been removed since October 2012. Maintenance staff has completed the first ten horseshoe courts at Southeast Park. Trash receptacles have been added at the splash pad at Memorial park and others will be added to all other splash pad locations in order to control the trash problem. Maintenance staff continues to renovate the Ellwood sand volleyball courts.

Seven outreach programs were conducted at the zoo in addition to 31 onsite school programs for a total of 1,565 participants. Three special events were scheduled at the zoo to include Asian Pacific Festival, Zoo Birding Day and Cold Blooded Weekend. The Grand Opening of the new Zoo Education Center was held on May 23, 2013. Total zoo revenue for the month of May was \$32,369.23. The year to date totals was \$150,073.69 as compared to last year's totals at \$148,235.79.

Clint also stated that the extent of the hail damage from the storm was mainly north of 37<sup>th</sup> Street close to the Belmar, Medical Center and Thompson Park. Most of the hail damage was leaves knocked off from the trees and damage to the shade structure at Belmar. There were flooding issues at West Hills, Medical Center and Thompson Parks. There was minimal damage at the zoo.

David Hudson asked if the vandalism is up or down in the parks. Clint stated that it is relatively concentrated to three or four parks. He stated that there was some vandalism at the skate park in JSM this last weekend, but mostly the kids will regulate the vandalism because Parks will shut down the skate park and take their time cleaning it in order to control this problem. As for the other parks it just depends on which gangs are being more active at that time.

### **ITEM 3. OVERVIEW OF THE STORM DAMAGE SUSTAINED AT ROSS ROGERS**

James Stow, Golf Superintendent at Ross Rogers provided an overview of the damage sustained at the Ross Rogers Golf Complex that took place during the weather event on May 28, 2013. He displayed photos of the damage at both WildHorse and Mustang courses as well as photos of the clean-up. He explained how the Ross Rogers Maintenance staff repaired and restored the damaged areas back to their original form.

Jackie Payne commented that she had just learned that our golf courses never close for maintenance like the athletic fields do in order to keep the course in quality shape. James explained that some private sector golf courses do close certain days of the week but that you rarely see the public golf courses close due to permit holders and the need to generate revenue with such a short season.

#### **ITEM 4. BILL & ALICE O'BRIEN EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAMING AND EXHIBITS**

Mike Boley, Visitor Service Coordinator at the Amarillo Zoo, stated that since the opening of the zoo education center, zoo staff is still finalizing the new exhibits that will be exhibited there. There are fifteen live exhibits in the education center. These animals were never on exhibit until now but have been used for the school onsite programs. The Black-Footed Ferret is the newest exhibit to the zoo and is one of the surviving species that was thought to be extinct in the North American prairie and the Texas plains. The Amarillo Zoo is very proud to be the first zoo in Texas to display the Black-Footed Ferret. This particular ferret is retired from the Toronto Zoo's Black-footed Ferret breeding program. He, Quarry, is five years old and will live the rest of his life at the Amarillo Zoo.

Other animals that are exhibited in the zoo education center are the Prairie Dogs, Emperor Scorpion, Brazilian Giant Cockroaches, Texas Horned Lizard, Blue Tongue Skink, large tarantula and an Amazon Parrot. In front of the zoo education center is an area that is called the Critter Encounter Station. This station allows children or adults to touch a live snake, or see a live tortoise up close, or pet a hedgehog or rabbit. There is a parrot tree in front of the building that will have one of the five parrots from the education program for the children and adults to see.

The education center is open six days a week, Tuesday - Saturday from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Sundays from noon to 4:00 PM. It is closed on Mondays. Programs will be offered year round. There are several programs scheduled for this education center such as family/adult programs, teacher workshops, summer, fall, winter and spring camps, story times, Zoo Tunes with local musicians and special training workshops for local animal control workers. The special event planned for this year is Happy Zoo Year for kids to come out and celebrate New Year's at noon at the zoo. A new exhibit called Birds of Prey will include a grey horned owl, falcons and hawks that have been permanently grounded by injury.

Cameron Monroe asked if the zoo was going to interface with Region 16 to do classes throughout the region. Mike Boley stated that zoo staff has already met with Region 16 to make a proposal that would help to benefit surrounding schools outside of the community to be able to watch a televised classroom program at the zoo education center and interact with the educator in the classroom program to see that same type of animals. This would also include tours throughout the zoo.

Cameron Monroe also encouraged others to watch a program series on the Discovery Channel on Sunday nights at 8:00 PM called North America which is about all of the different kinds of animals in this country and their habitats.

#### **ITEM 5. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING REQUEST**

Rod Tweet gave an update on the CDBG funding for the Eastridge Park Improvement request. He stated that he had done a public presentation on May 14<sup>th</sup> and on June 16<sup>th</sup> and they unanimously approved the full funding of \$326,435. This will now go to the City Commission on July 16<sup>th</sup> for their approval, to HUD on July 26<sup>th</sup> and then by August 20<sup>th</sup> we will know if it has been fully approved. This Splash Pad will be similar to the one at Hamlet Park. The mascot at Eastridge is an eagle so it will be the center piece for the Splash Pad.

Rod also stated that there are five recreation sites left to remove the wading pools and install new Splash Pads. These park sites fall into the CDBG target area and would be eligible for future funding.

#### **ITEM 6. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **ITEM 7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Cameron Monroe complimented the staff on the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Zoo Education Center.

Cameron Monroe also asked about the progress at the Splash Pad at Westover Village Park. Clint stated that everyone was enjoying it and that it was a great addition to that area of town.

Cameron Monroe also complimented the Parks staff on a job well done in putting together projects throughout the parks.

**ITEM 8. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE**

July 9, 2013

**ITEM 8. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

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Rod Tweet,  
Director of Parks and Recreation