

STATE OF TEXAS :

COUNTIES OF POTTER :

AND RANDALL :

On this the 13th day of August 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:

ATTENDANCE

	PRESENT TODAY	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT	TERM STARTED	TERM EXPIRES
Mr. Cameron Monroe	Yes	51	40	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	61	49	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	No	20	13	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	No	20	14	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	Yes	7	7	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	Yes	7	5	01/02/13	07/01/15

and the following staff members:

Mr. Rod Tweet	Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Kevin Wilde	Assistant Park Superintendent
Ms. Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Mr. Bryan Shelhamer	Project Development Manager
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 9, 2013 MEETING

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the July 9, 2013 minutes as amended. Mr. Rob Chafin seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 4-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Rod Tweet stated that the 2013 budget has been reviewed by the City Commission. Capital Improvements will include ten additional horseshoe pits at Southeast Park, a new splash pad for City View Park, irrigation and lighting enhancements at San Jacinto Park, new restroom at Eastridge Park and a new play structure at Sleepy Hollow Park.

Rod Tweet announced that Kim Killian, Athletic Supervisor, has resigned and is going back to work at Kids Inc. Interviews are currently underway to try to fill that position.

The 9th Annual Tree Care and Safety Workshop will be held on Thursday, August 15th at the Amarillo College Business and Industry Center. This event is hosted by Parks & Recreation along with Brian Scott, Texas A&M Forest Service representative and former Park Commissioner in order to provide hands on training and educational information on tree care and safety related topics. Sponsors for this event include: Amarillo College, Texas A&M Forest Service, Landscape Supply, Amarillo Arborlogical, Arbor Systems, Amarillo Outdoor Power & Equipment, Xcel Energy and Beef O'Brady's.

The annual Zoo-la-Palooza fund raising event hosted by the Amarillo Zoological Society will be postponed this year. The new board members will evaluate the event as they plan for 2014.

Golf rounds at Comanche Trail were down around 2,104 for this year's year to date compared to last year's year to date. Ross Rogers's rounds were up 6,879 for this year's year to date compared to last year's year to date.

ASA and Kids Inc are getting ready to start their fall season in late August and early September as well as the West Texas Youth Baseball and the YMCA.

The adult Softball and Volleyball leagues are currently playing in the fall season.

The city pools and the recreation programs are now closed for the 2013 season. Staff at the Tennis Center will be cleaning the courts and getting them ready for winter. The recreation programs were a success this year with the help of sponsors.

Kevin Wilde, Assistant Park Superintendent, stated that 376 new trees have been planted this year with a total of 403 removals since October 2012. Park staff removed graffiti at 38 park locations and seven privately owned properties for the month of July. Park staff prepared SW and SE Complexes for the girls fast pitch state tournament. They also installed plumbing and built pads for the new restrooms at City View and Greenways Parks. The event at the zoo for the month of July was "Making Toy Enrichment" activity on July 13th with over 170 visitors. Total zoo revenue for the month of July was \$37,728.33 with the year to date total at \$228,977.70 compared to last year's year to date at \$212,888.37. The Zoo Curator and all full-time zoo keepers were honored at the City Commission meeting on July 23rd with a proclamation given to celebrate National Zookeeper Week.

ITEM 3. PRESENTATION FROM THE AMARILLO RECREATION COMPLEX (ARC) REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives from the ARC Committee, William Ware and Trevor Caviness presented the Park Commission Board members with a plan that would incorporate the existing development currently around and including the Rick Klein Baseball Complex with additional facilities. These proposed facilities would include sports fields, recreation center, indoor aquatic facility and hike/bike/jogging trails. These facilities would also be operated as municipal year round facilities and not a private club facility. This expansion of current facilities is in accordance with the 2012 Park Master Plan and the City Comprehensive Plan. This is a public/private partnership that has been formed in order to help minimize a tax burden for the citizens of Amarillo. This proposed facility would help families with several kids that participate in different sports to be able to utilize this recreation facility without having to drive to other different locations throughout the Amarillo area. A video presentation of this project was presented to show to the Park Commissioners exactly what this project would look like.

Questions were brought up about Amarillo citizens concerns for taxes being raised to help build the facilities. An economic study would show that revenues from this multi-use facility would help offset these costs in the future and help bring in revenues from people coming in from out of town.

ITEM 4. RECOMMENDATION TO ENDORSE THE ARC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Cameron Monroe opened the meeting up for discussion among the Park Commissioners for their input on this project. All agreed that this project would not only help Amarillo's economy but help out the Parks Department as well. Cameron then asked the Parks staff how much this would impact them. Kevin Wilde, Assistant Parks Superintendent, stated that running this facility would impact the Parks Department to maintain the facility on a daily basis. Rod Tweet stated that Parks staff was considering a synthetic surface for the playing fields in order to cut down on maintaining the fields as an option. An emphasis would be placed on Xeriscaping for the landscape in order to cut down on man power and watering. Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to recommend that the Parks & Recreation Commission endorse and approve the Amarillo Recreation Complex, a private/public partnership, to enhance the recreation facilities in accordance with the master plan for the regional park, the 2012 Park Master Plan and the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Rob Chafin seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 4-0.

ITEM 5. PARK COMMISSION TOUR

The Park Commissioners set the Park Tour date for Tuesday, September 10, 2013 starting with a brief Park Commission meeting at 8:30 AM. The Park Tour will begin at 9:00 AM with a charter bus transporting Park Commissioners, City Commissioners, Media and Park Staff to various future or current project locations throughout the city. The tour will end at the Amarillo Zoo with lunch provided at the Bill & Alice O'Brien Education Center located at the zoo.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC FORUM

Al Quinto, 3800 Westlawn, said that he supports the building of the recreational facility at the Amarillo Complex but would like the public to be more informed of the economic impact it would have on the citizens of Amarillo in order to gain their support.

ITEM 7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments from the Park Commission.

ITEM 8. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE

September 10, 2013

ITEM 8. ADJOURN

Mr. Cameron Monroe made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jackie Payne seconded the MOTION. The meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Rod Tweet,
Director of Parks and Recreation