

STATE OF TEXAS :

COUNTIES OF POTTER :

AND RANDALL :

On this the 12th day of November 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	No	53	42	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	63	51	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	Yes	22	15	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	Yes	22	16	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	Yes	9	8	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	Yes	9	7	01/02/13	07/01/15
Terry Easterling	Yes	3	1	09/10/13	07/01/16

and the following staff members:

Mr. Rod Tweet	Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Ms. Sherylene Morris	Recording Secretary
Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Andy Tarkington	Athletic Supervisor
George Priolo	Golf Pro Comanche Trails Golf Complex
Sherwin Cox	Golf Pro Ross Rogers Golf Complex
James Stow	Golf Superintendent Ross Rogers Golf Complex
Jason Floyd	Assistant Golf Superintendent Ross Rogers Golf Complex
Bryan Shelhamer	Park Development Manager

There being a quorum established, the meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman, Ms. Jackie Payne, and the following business was conducted. Ms. Payne introduced Terry Easterling as the newest member of the Park Commission and Rod Tweet introduced Andy Tarkington as the new Athletic Supervisor for Parks and Recreation.

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 8, 2013 MEETING

Mr. Mike Rivera made a MOTION to approve the October 8, 2013 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 Community Development Advisory Committee has recommended an additional \$75,000 in funding for the approved Eastridge Park Improvement Project already funded at \$326,435 which would bring the project total to \$401,435. The additional funds would be used to purchase and install a new restroom, benches, backstops and a drinking fountain if approved by the City Commission on November 19th.

Rod reminded the Park Commissioners that the annual Parks and Recreation Employee Recognition and Awards Banquet will be held on December 18th in the Heritage Room at the Amarillo Civic Center from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. This event will replace the regularly scheduled meeting for the month of December. Invitations will be mailed out for this event.

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent, stated that fourteen Parks and Recreation employees traveled to Midland/Odessa for the annual TRAPS Conference and Equipment Rodeo on November 7th & 8th. Clint was proud to say that for the second time in a row our maintenance staff won the equipment rodeo which was held on November 7th. These employees will be recognized at the annual Awards Banquet on December 18th.

Clint also stated that maintenance staff installed a new perennial flower bed at the Amarillo Airport as well as installing fifteen new Pecan Trees along Airport Blvd. As of October 1st, 105 trees have been removed. A new park rules sign was installed at Windsor Park. Graffiti was removed at four park locations and two privately owned properties. A new restroom was placed at the Rick Klein Athletic Complex. Boo at the Zoo was held on October 25th, 26th and 27th with approximately 5,000 in attendance. The gate revenue's for this three day event was \$22,178. The next scheduled zoo event will be the Zoo Light Safari that will be held in December. Total revenues for the month of October were \$29,915.86 compared to last year's totals at \$25,915.62.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, stated that Aquatics staff is getting ready for next year's events. The staff is looking at closing the pools for a maintenance check at least once a week, however at least one of the three pools will be open during this time in the summer. Aquatics are also trying to increase our lifeguard instructors in order to utilize better working hours. The Alex O'Brien Foundation has started a junior program for the best junior tennis players in the Panhandle and is also offering clinics at the Amarillo National Tennis Center. The Recreation Summer Program is looking to move the Lawndale program to Oakdale due to attendance. Recreation staff is working on the upcoming Parks and Recreation Awards Banquet that will be held on December 18th. Marketing is working on the 2014 Park Guide which will be combined with the Summer in the City into one publication. Pam also stated that she and Renee Stovall are working on the Centennial Education Day to be held on November 25th and 26th at the Civic Center. Twenty-four city departments are participating in this event in order to educate all 7th graders about each city department and their operations. AISD students will be bused to the Civic Center for this event.

Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor, stated that all the sports organizations that use city fields are winding down their programs for the season. The City of Amarillo hosted a Halloween Howl Warm-up tournament with 59 men and women's teams participating. The adult Basketball League has started with a total of 14 men's teams participating. The indoor Volleyball Leagues have started for the winter with a total of 176 women's and mixed teams participating. Athletic staff is working on the 2014 athletics calendar.

ITEM 3. CITY OF AMARILLO SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Sonja Gross, Community Relations Coordinator for the City of Amarillo, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the newly approved Social Media Policy for the City of Amarillo. She also explained the guidelines for the use of this social media as a communication tool for all City employees. She stated that there are three primary tools that the City of Amarillo will be using for their social media that includes Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. She stated that if the city needs to send a short message to the public they will Tweet on Twitter but if they need to send photos they would use Facebook. This social media will allow the public to ask questions or voice concerns about any city related topic. Comments on our content will be monitored by the Community Relations Coordinator in order to make sure that the city's policies and procedures are not being violated. Sonja also stated the need to be careful when using the social media as to not conduct any business on line such as items on the Park Commission agenda but just to like the page.

ITEM 4. GOLF OPERATION YEAR END REVIEW

George Priolo, Golf Pro at Comanche Trail Golf Complex, reported that this year at Comanche Trails they ran 46,120 rounds of golf which is down 3,683 from last year due to the opening of the Mustang Course at Ross Rogers this year in April. Annual permits were up at Comanche Trails due to the Mustang Course not open at the beginning of the year. He also stated that tournaments are also a key factor that brings in more revenue each year. Tournament golfers will play regardless of what kind of weather we may be having so that no money is lost. Local charity golf tournaments also help to generate more money that stays in Amarillo. The three major tournaments held at Comanche Trail Golf Complex are the Coors Partnerships, Millers Lite Open and the Coors Light Senior Partnership that are held in the summer. George also stated that as of now Comanche Trail Golf Complex's water usage is now on well water and not the city's water system. A computer has been purchased and updated software has been installed in order to control the irrigation system that aids in the water conservation program. George stated that in 2014 the golf courses will be taking online tee times.

Sherwin Cox, Golf Pro at Ross Rogers Golf Complex, stated that since the opening of the Mustang Course there has not been an increase in play but has increased in revenue since the Old Course was at \$17 and the new course at \$24. Sherwin stated that some of the senior players were going back to WildHorse due it being a shorter course to walk. A few comments about the course is that the grass is too tall around the bunkers but grounds crews are mowing as per the architects design and the need for a women's restroom on the back nine. Sherwin announced that Ross Rogers Golf Complex won best Golf Course with the Amarillo Globe News again this year. Golf Digest ranked Ross Rogers Golf Complex as one of the best new golf courses in America in 2013.

Jackie Payne commented on how quickly the golf course was able to bounce back after the big hail storm in the summer that damaged a good portion of the golf course. James Stow, Golf Superintendent at Ross Rogers, explained how the golf course was rated by photos of the old course and compared them to the new course as to how it looked then and how it looks now.

ITEM 5. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments from the public.

ITEM 6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Jackie Payne commented about the ARC not passing and asked Rod Tweet as to what was in store for the future. Rod stated that Parks staff would just need to continue our services to the general public and face all challenges that may arise. We would need to continue to look at our parks and what services that we can provide to accommodate the public needs and continue to look at public/private partnerships to help with funding of various projects.

Renee McCown commented about the ARC being a part of the Park Master Plan and asked if we would continue to follow that plan. Rod stated that we would need to evaluate our capital improvements for the next year's budget and prioritize these improvements. He also stated that Texas Parks and Wildlife has resumed the grant program for statewide projects.

ITEM 7. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE

December 18, 2013 – Parks and Recreation Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Banquet held at the Civic Center Heritage Room from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

ITEM 8. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Rod Tweet,
Director of Parks and Recreation