

STATE OF TEXAS :
 COUNTIES OF POTTER :
 AND RANDALL :

On this the 14th day of January 2014, 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	54	43	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	64	52	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	Yes	23	16	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	No	23	16	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	Yes	10	9	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	Yes	10	8	01/02/13	07/01/15
Terry Easterling	No	4	2	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
Bryan Shelhamer	Park Development Manager

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 NOVEMBER 12, 2013 MEETING

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the November 12, 2013 minutes as amended. Mr. Mike Rivera seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Rod Tweet announced that Bryan Shelhamer was promoted to the full-time Park Development Manager position in December. He has been employed as a part-time employee in this position with a different title since 2008. He will resume his responsibilities to oversee park planning and capital development project implementation, coordination and supervision.

The position of Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation was opened in December. As of this date, eight candidates have applied and interviews will be scheduled later this month for this position.

Last month, two contracts were renewed and approved by the City Council for the Amarillo National Tennis Center and Comanche Trail Golf Complex. Jan Munch-Soegaard has been the Tennis Professional and Manager at the Tennis Center for almost fifteen years. His management contract is for five years with an option for an additional five years. George Priolo has been the contract manager for twenty-two years. His contract was renewed for two years with an option of two additional years.

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent, stated that a total of 19 trees have been planted on city property and 117 trees have been removed since October 2013. Park staff continues irrigation renovations at San Jacinto Park and removed graffiti at Sam Houston Park as well as two privately owned properties. Completed infield renovations at SW, SE and Martin Road Complexes and began playground renovations at Margaret Wills School Park. Irrigation renovations continue at Hamlet School Park. Zoo Light Safari was held on December 13th, 14th, 20th and 23rd with approximately 2,000 visitors attending. Gate revenue for this event was \$5,836.00. Total revenue for the month of December was \$9,909.75. The year to date total revenue at the zoo is \$44,260.61 as compared to last year's amount at \$40,842.91.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, thanked all the Park Commissioners that attended the Parks & Recreation Awards Banquet and also for their help at this event. She stated that the weekend of May 24th is when the city pools will open but will close down during that week to reopen May 31st for the entire summer. She also stated that a recommendation was made to close each pool one day a week for a routine maintenance day. Southwest will be closed on Mondays, Thompson on Tuesdays and Southeast on Wednesday. This way at least two pools will be operating at all times. This will also allow at least two pools at the end of the year to extend the season operation a few more days. Starting February 1st summer positions will open online for re-hiring recreation leaders and aquatics lifeguards. Lawndale recreation site will be closed this year due to attendance but Oakdale will open in its place. Pam stated that food vendors will be needed for the Starlight Theater concert. Marketing is currently working on the 2014 Park Guide, preparing for the text marketing, and looking at the possibility to create a mobile app for our website.

Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor, stated that the Winter Basketball season will finish up on January 14th with playoffs the following week. Winter Volleyball will finish up on January 15th. Spring Volleyball deadline will be January 27th. The Courts of Amarillo will be closing so all indoor volleyball games will be played at the AISD school gymnasiums. Spring League Volleyball begins February 10th. Spring/Summer Softball registrations will begin next week with the deadline on March 3rd. League play will begin on March 21st. Since ball fields do not open until March 1st, Athletics staff is meeting with all Sports Associations to receive field requests and discuss athletic field policy for the 2014 year. The sports calendar included in the Park Commission packet gives dates for league play, tournaments, umpire training and manager's meetings.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTHWEST AMBUCS

James Brown, representative from the Southwest Ambucs Chapter, along with John Teague and Vance Hall, presented an overview of a partnership opportunity with the Amarillo Parks & Recreation Department towards a purchase and installation of a barrier free playground at Medical Center Park for children with special needs. He displayed a conceptual design and site plan to show what the playground will look like. The location of this barrier free playground is proposed to be located between the Discovery Center and the Botanical Gardens. The cost of this type of playground is approximately \$300,000. The SW Ambucs Chapter would work towards raising funds for this playground and is asking for a 5 year period to hold this spot in Medi Park in order for them to reach the \$300,000 goal. A MOTION by Ms. Jackie Payne was made to endorse a 5 year commitment to hold the area between the Discovery Center and the Amarillo Botanical Gardens in order to install a barrier free playground. Mr. Rob Chafin seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0. A concern was considered about placing a fence around the playground to protect the children from falling into the lake. Cameron Monroe also suggested the possibility of putting in a splash pad.

ITEM 4. 2013-2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Park Development Manager, Bryan Shelhamer provided an update on the progress of our current Capital Improvement Projects for the first quarter of the budget year. He presented a site plan for the City View splash pad that will be installed in 2014. This splash pad will be similar to the one installed at Westover Village Park. This project will be in conjunction with the Eastridge Park splash pad, a CDBG project that will also be installed in 2014. Security lighting and walkway connection will be installed at the Eastridge Park and resemble the Hamlet Park Project. Cameron Monroe asked if any emergency phones would be placed in the park.

Ellwood Park will also be upgraded with a new playground, trail lighting and construction of two new volleyball courts for a cost of \$195,000. A new interior trail will also be considered in the future.

A playground will be installed at Sleepy Hollow School Park that will be similar to the one installed at City View Park. This project will cost approximately \$175,000.

ITEM 5. FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING TIME

There was a discussion on whether or not the Parks & Recreation Commission monthly meeting could consider changing the start time from 1:30 PM to 8:30 AM in order to accommodate the City Council meeting held on the same day at 3:00 PM. After a brief discussion it was determined to go ahead and leave the meeting at 1:30 PM since there was not a unanimous decision to change the time.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC FORUM

Donna Raef – 4605 Matador Trl, was wondering about the water quality at McDonald Lake and that it attracts the migration birds. Clint Stoddard stated that all of the city lakes are tested by the City of Amarillo's Environmental Lab every quarter for water quality and it is posted on the city's website.

ITEM 7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Jackie Payne asked about online registration for the Tennis Center. Pam Cognasi stated that the goal is to start have the junior camps online by June 1st and also tournaments that would affect outside areas.

Jackie also asked about closing the golf courses one day a week for maintenance just like the pools are doing. Rod Tweet stated that he would check with the Golf Pros and discuss this with them and have an answer at the next Park Commission meeting.

Cameron Monroe asked Park Commissioners if they were interested in ordering shirts like the Parks & Recreation staff are wearing.

ITEM 8. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE

February 11, 2014

ITEM 9. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

Rod Tweet,
Director of Parks and Recreation