

STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTIES OF POTTER :
AND RANDALL :

On this the 11th day of February 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	55	44	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	65	53	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	No	24	16	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	Yes	24	17	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	Yes	11	10	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	No	11	8	01/02/13	07/01/15
Mr. Terry Easterling	Yes	5	3	09/10/13	07/01/16

and the following staff members:

Rod Tweet	Director of Parks & Recreation
Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Andy Tarkington	Athletic Supervisor
Bryan Shelhamer	Park Development Manager
Mike Boley	Visitor Service Coordinator
Haley Wilde	Zoo Educator
Joie Taylor	Administrative Assistant II
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 JANUARY 14, 2014 MEETING

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the January 14, 2014 minutes as amended. Mr. David Hudson seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Rod Tweet stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out to various contractors and five submitted their proposal for the design and build of the splash pad at Eastridge Park. However, these five submittals were deemed non-responsive as they did not supply the city with all of the information that is required in the RFP. Therefore, there will be a 30 day delay and this could possibly jeopardize our ability to get the splash pad completed and opened for the Memorial Day weekend.

The Amarillo Zoological Society notified the city that a \$2,500 donation was received from the Paul Engler Foundation to assist in supporting the zoo. This funding will help to assist in the completion of the outdoor classroom area at the Bill & Alice O'Brien Education Center. Additional funds will be required to help complete this project.

Rod also presented a text marketing card that will offer text services to the public in order for them to get information via a text message for specific activities offered by the Parks & Recreation Department. People can text in the specified number, then the keyword in order for them to opt in. This will expand our marketing potential and increase our ability to communicate more effectively and efficiently with our customers.

Bryan Shelhamer, Park Development Manager, stated that we are waiting on the final bids for the Sleepy Hollow playground. Sent out the Notice to Proceed for the City View splash pad. Rod stated that legal is currently preparing an agreement with Ambucs that will reserve the property at Medical

Center Park to be designated for the special needs playground. The agreement would hold the property for the next five years or until they raised the necessary funds.

Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor, stated that the 2013-2014 Adult Basketball season has ended. The spring Adult Volleyball season started February 10th with a total of 181 women's and mixed teams. All games will be played in the AISD gymnasiums. Andy stated that he had attended a State USSSA Softball Conference for West Texas in Midland and received three awards that included: #1 in team registrations, Scot Plunk was recognized as the Women's Softball Director of the Year and the Ruby Tequila's Pre-Howl Softball Tournament was awarded Tournament of the Year. Softball deadline is scheduled for March 3rd with league play beginning on March 21st.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor stated that summer job positions are still open for Recreation and Aquatics. She also stated that we have started testing junior tennis camps on our website test site, working on the tennis season passes to work like the pool passes as well as working with Accounting on the financial side. Starlight Theater calendar is almost complete with just one more band to fill a vacant date.

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent, stated that since October 2013, a total of 40 trees have been planted. Maintenance has started adding ten new horseshoe courts at Southeast Park in addition to the ten already installed. These horseshoe courts will be lighted in order for the Horseshoe League to hold tournaments. A new scoreboard has been installed on JSM #5 softball field along with the advertising panels funded from a donation from Amarillo National Bank. Revenue at the zoo for the month of January was \$4,831.00 with a year to date total of \$49,091.61. Last year's year to date total was \$44,991.91.

David Hudson inquired about the small park at 6th and Taylor. Rod explained that City Council as of the week before approved a lease agreement, (five year lease with option on a second five years), with Amarillo National Bank to renovate and maintain the park.

ITEM 3. AMARILLO ZOO PROGRAMMING

Mike Boley, Visitor Service Coordinator at the Amarillo Zoo, introduced Haley Wilde as the Zoo Educator who assists with the introduction of different types of animals to various groups throughout the Panhandle. Mike explained that smaller animals are easily transported to the various locations throughout the Panhandle. He also stated that zoo personnel can go to the locations if that particular location cannot come to the zoo. This education program is year round. The zoo also holds various events throughout the year with the first event of the year being Mardi Growl to be held on March 1st. Other larger events are Easter Eggscitement, April 19th, Boo at the Zoo in October and Zoo Lights in December. Several other smaller special events are also scheduled throughout the year at the zoo. Mike also stated that attendance is growing every year.

Haley Wilde presented a Brazilian Rainbow Boa to the Park Commissioners. She stated that this particular snake grows anywhere from four to six feet in length. The specified diet of this snake is one frozen small rodent once a week. She then presented a Vinegaroon (Web Scorpion). She stated that this scorpion does not sting but sprays an acid which is like vinegar which is how they get their name. The lifespan for this animal is around ten to twenty years.

ITEM 4. 2014 ATHLETIC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor, presented a list of all the baseball, adult softball and fast pitch tournaments to be held in Amarillo for the 2014 season. Parks & Recreation will host five softball tournaments this year with the first one "Spring Warm-up" that will be held on March 14th – 16th. The other tournaments include the Budweiser 31st Annual Memorial Day Weekend, the Summertime Smash, Men's "E" North and Women's State and Ruby Tequila's Pre-Howl. Andy also stated that the High Plains Fast Pitch A.S.A. Gold Qualifier held on July 9th – 13th is a large tournament that will bring in around 90 to 100 teams. This tournament has been held in Midland TX for several years but due to the oil boom, the hotels were already booked.

Cameron Monroe suggested keeping track of all out-of-town revenue brought in during athletic tournaments, tennis tournaments and zoo events in order to keep the City Council updated on the dollar amounts being brought in. He also stated that the ARC will eventually come back and the revenues from these events may help to impact this project.

ITEM 5. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent, stated that each year Parks & Recreation partners with the Texas A&M Forest Service in the planting of trees at a specified AISD or CISD school park to observe

Arbor Day. Last Year this event was held at Forest Hill Elementary School Park. This year the event will take place at Windsor Elementary School Park on April 25th at 1:30 PM and a total of 30 trees will be planted. The trees are pre-set and the kids will help fill in the dirt. Clint stated that since these trees have been planted at these locations, there has been less vandalism at these parks.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public was present.

ITEM 7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Cameron Monroe stated that the next Park Commission meeting will be during spring break. He stated that in the past it would either be cancelled or held on another date. He suggested an email be sent out asking the Park Commissioners if they will be able to attend the meeting or not. There needs to be at least a quorum of four Park Commissioners attending in order to hold a meeting.

ITEM 8. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE

March 11, 2014

ITEM 9. ADJOURN

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Terry Easterling seconded the MOTION. Meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM.

Rod Tweet,
Director of Parks and Recreation