

STATE OF TEXAS :  
COUNTIES OF POTTER :  
AND RANDALL :

On this the 13th day of May 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:

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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	58	47	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	68	54	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	Yes	27	19	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	No	27	18	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	Yes	14	13	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	Yes	14	10	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Terry Easterling	Yes	8	5	09/10/13	07/01/16

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and the following staff members:

Rod Tweet	Director of Parks & Recreation
Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Kevin Wilde	Assistant Park Superintendent
Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Andy Tarkington	Athletic Supervisor
Bryan Shelhamer	Park Development Manager
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 APRIL 8, 2014 MEETING**

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the April 8, 2014 minutes as amended. Mr. Terry Easterling seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0.

**ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS**

Rod Tweet informed the Park Commissioners that the Ambucs agreement on the barrier free playground to be located in Medical Center Park is going before the City Council today for approval. Also on the agenda for approval is the Ben E. Keith concession contract for the Amarillo Zoo and all three city pools.

Rod also stated that the 2014-2015 budget has been completed and submitted for City Council approval. Department meetings with the City Manager will be scheduled July 7<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>. The City Manager will review the operating and capital budgets with the City Council between August 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and the final adoption will be in September. New operating budgets go into effect October 1, 2014.

A final candidate for the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation has been selected.

Rod stated that a formal invitation will be sent to Park Commissioners for a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new splashpad at Eastridge School Park. This ribbon cutting is tentatively set for Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. This ceremony will be similar to the ribbon cutting at Hamlet School Park in 2012 with various activities for the school kids planned.

Kevin Wilde, Assistant Park Superintendent, stated that 30 trees were planted at Windsor Elementary for the Arbor Day event. A total of 279 trees have been planted and a total of 289 trees have been removed in our city parks since October 2013. Park crews completed the irrigation renovation at San Jacinto Park as well as continued renovations at Eastridge School Park and the Longhorn exhibit at

the zoo. Graffiti has been removed at six privately owned properties throughout the city. Over-seeding and fertilization has been completed on the Athletic fields and the dog park at John Stiff Memorial Park. The annual Easter Egg-citement event was held on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> with approximately 2629 in attendance and gross revenue of \$13,878.20. The next event held at the zoo will be a Youth Environmental Summit hosted June 25 thru the 28<sup>th</sup> by the zoo education staff. Total zoo revenue for the month of April 2014 was \$38,268.93. Our year to date total is \$124,978.07 as compared to last year's total of \$117,704.46.

Mr. Cameron Monroe thanked and complimented Park staff on the Arbor Day event held at Windsor School Park on April 25<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Care and Safety Workshop held on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, stated that the city pools will open May 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. Aquatics staff is still looking to hire more lifeguards for the summer. She also stated that Aquatics has received a donation from National Note and Float and Aquatic Safety for lifeguard jackets at Thompson Pool. Safe Kids donated \$750 to help pay for the cost of our swim lesson Parent / Coloring Handbook. They also donated \$1,500 towards life jackets at Southeast and Southwest Pools. An Ellis and Associates instructor trained seven of our city aquatics staff to be lifeguard instructors.

New wind screens have been ordered for the Tennis Center. Wendy Baca, Recreation Coordinator Specialist, has confirmed several sponsors for the SPARK and Food Sponsor Program as well as added new sponsors for the 2014 summer season. A donation of \$500 was received from Toot 'n Totum for the Food Sponsor Program. A new Event Coordinator has been preparing upcoming events that include Sammy's Summer Recruiting, Skyhoundz, Starlight Theater, Fish Derby and Senior Social. Park Guides have been printed and delivered to various locations throughout the city.

Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor, stated that a total of 225 teams registered for the summer Volleyball league. Sand Volleyball has been introduced this year for the summer season. League play begins on May 19<sup>th</sup> for both regular and sand volleyball teams to be played at Memorial, Ellwood and Thompson Park. Spring / Summer Softball leagues continue playing with playoffs ending in June. The next city softball tournament will be the Budweiser Memorial Day Weekend Tournament held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 25<sup>th</sup>. At least thirteen fields are being utilized by the Sports Associations. West Texas Youth Baseball Association hosts two tournaments a month with approximately 90 – 100 teams in each tournament.

### **ITEM 3. 2014 – 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION**

Rod Tweet stated that Parks Administration has submitted an application for 2014-2015 CDBG funds in the amount of \$175,000 for the construction of a splashpad at Glenwood Park. This splashpad will replace the current drain and fill pool at the park. This funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Community Development has already funded five splashpads throughout the city. A MOTION was made by Jackie Payne to endorse the Glenwood Park Splashpad Community Block Grant. MOTION was seconded by Mike Rivera. MOTION passed by a vote of 6-0.

Cameron Monroe mentioned the need/concern to be watchful about water usage. Rod mentioned the need to prioritize the water usage in our park programs with golf courses and athletic fields being at the top of the list.

### **ITEM 4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

Bryan Shelhamer, Park Development Manager, provided an update on the current capital improvement projects with a PowerPoint presentation with photos of the progress at City View Park Splashpad and Eastridge School Park Splashpad. These photos provided a step by step view of how a splashpad is built. The City View splashpad will be operational by May 24<sup>th</sup> and the Eastridge School Park splashpad will be up and running by May 30<sup>th</sup>. Bryan stated that the Sleepy Hollow playground will be installed after school is out this year and will be ready for next year's school year. Bryan also stated that there are ADA issues with the sidewalks at the new multi-use fields located south of the Rick Klein Baseball Complex. New plans for the ADA sidewalks will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in order to expedite this project.

### **ITEM 5. AMARILLO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Terry Hawthorne, Amarillo Zoological Society President, provided information on the board's previous successes and their desired short and long term goals. Terry stated that the Amarillo Zoological Society assists and supports the Amarillo Zoo. The Mission Statement is "To promote the development, improvements, and awareness of the Amarillo Zoo and its mission". He stated that in 2015 we will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Amarillo Zoo. In the last five years, over \$2 million has been raised through AZS, grants, donations and memberships supporting the zoo to help

fund various projects at the zoo. AZS also helps raise money for all of the events at the zoo such as "Boo at the Zoo", "Easter Eggscitement", etc. AZS is also looking at implementing the Zoo Master Plan by asking for \$125,000 in next year's budget. This Zoo Master Plan would help identify what, where and how to put future exhibits at the zoo.

**ITEM 5. PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments from the public.

**ITEM 6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Mr. Terry Easterling stated the need to have better hand dryers at the Ross Rogers Clubhouse.

**ITEM 7. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 10, 2014

**ITEM 8. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

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Rod Tweet,  
Director of Parks and Recreation