

**MINUTES**

On February 10, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Board met via video conference at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall at 601 S Buchanan Street, Room 201 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr. John Ingerson	Yes	37	31
Mr. Bob Altman	Yes	20	18
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	37	31
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	29	20
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	12	12
Ms. Angela Harney	Yes	12	11
Ms. Elaine Hays	Yes	2	1
Mr. Eric Hunter	Yes	2	2
Mr. Jonathan Grammer	Yes	2	1
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	2	2

**Attendees:**

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DAVID WILSON	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
GEORGE PRIOLO	GM OF GOLF OPERATIONS
KRISTEN WOLBACH	COORDINATOR OF PR AND PROGRAMMING
ROLANDO GUERRERO	AQUATICS SPECIALIST
CODY WOLFE	ATHLETIC SUPERVISOR
KEVIN WILDE	PARK SUPERINTENDENT
BERKELEY HILLIARD	ZOO CURATOR
BRYAN McWILLIAMS	CITY ATTORNEY
SHERYLENE MORRIS	RECORDING SECRETARY

**ITEM 1:** Public Comments. No Public comments.

**ITEM 2:** Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from regular Meeting held January 20, 2020. Chairman, Mr. John Ingerson, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 1:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Luke Austin, seconded by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, and unanimously carried to approve the regular minutes as written.

**ITEM 3:** The Parks and Recreation Board will Discuss or Receive Reports on the Following Current Matters or Projects.

**A. Expanded Operations Related to COVID.** The Director updated the Park Expanded Operations due to COVID Level Red.

- PARD will maintain operations with current augmented protective measures.
- Park reservations/rentals will be allowed at 50 percent capacity. Restrooms will remain closed with the exception of regional parks.
- Park amenities such as tennis courts, volleyball courts, etc. will be open.
- Athletic field rentals and leagues/tournaments at secured sites are allowed following state guidelines.
- Leagues/tournaments at unsecured sites and indoor facilities require departmental approval.
- Aquatic facilities for general usage and rentals/reservations will be at 50 percent capacity.
- Golf amenities will be at 50 percent capacity.
- The Amarillo Zoo will be open for general usage at 50 percent capacity.
- All special events will require approval of the COA Environmental Health Department.

**Expanded Operations at Level Orange**

- Same guidelines except capacity would move from 50% to 75%.
- Golf would allow shotgun tournaments.
- Everything else would stay the same through levels orange and yellow unless the Governor changes his orders.

**B. Thompson Park Pool.** The Director briefly updated the Board on the progress of the Thompson Park Pool Project to include the pouring of the concrete slabs for the Lazy River, the Leisure pool and all of the buildings with the exception of the pumphouse. The contractor will be making adjustments needed to prepare for the upcoming cold temperatures in order to keep working on the project.

**C. Thompson Park Pool Operations and Marketing Presentation.** Rolando Guerrero, Aquatics Specialist, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Thompson Park Pool and on the new Operations to include:

- Public Engagement
- Hours of Operation
- Admissions
- Pool Capacity
- Pool Staffing
- Rentals
- Concessions
- Season Passes
- Promotional Items

Kristen Wolbach, Coordinator of PR and Programming, explained the promotional items that will be offered at the new pool to include:

- Souvenir Cups with refills
- Branded Water Bottles
- Hats
- Clear/Mesh Beach Bags
- Sunglasses
- Water-Proof Pouches
- Rentals: Lifejackets, Hammocks, Games, Etc

Questions from the board on other offers at the pool were:

- Family Passes
- Lockers
- Punch Cards
- Evening Swim 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- Community affording to use the facilities compared to surrounding areas in the panhandle.
- Grants / to include non-profits
- Costs/profit for staffing/food during party rentals
- Hammocks

This PowerPoint Presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**D. Public Art Discussion.** Park staff is looking into displaying public art throughout the new Thompson Park Pool facilities in order to promote the local artists and also rotating at other Park facilities such as the golf courses, zoo, etc. The Director is recommending a review process from the Board in conjunction with the Beautification of Public Arts in the selection process.

**E. Tree Grant Program.** Ms. Wolbach presented a PowerPoint presentation of the new Tree Grant Program/Tree Giveaway Event that was awarded to Parks and Recreation this year and will receive 6,000 bare root seedlings to include:

- Live Oak
- Shumard Oak
- Eastern Redbud
- Hackberry
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Pecan
- Red Maple
- Burr Oak

The Parks Department will take a few of these trees to add to the nursery, but the rest of the trees will be free to the public to be handed out at various park locations in the city on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to get community involvement such as:

- Barrio Neighborhood Planning Committee
- North Heights Advisory Association
- San Jacinto Neighborhood Association
- Eastridge Neighborhood Planning Committee
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Volunteers from Xcel, Happy State Bank, etc

This PowerPoint Presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**F. Athletic Field Maintenance Plan.** Cody Wolfe, Athletic Supervisor, along with Kevin Wilde, Park Superintendent, stated that the athletic fields at John Stiff Park and Southeast Park will be taken off line this season in order to improve these athletic fields due to decline. This will help in making sure that the fields are safe for the public and will include:

- Preparing fields for overseeding
- Applying broadleaf weed control
- Overseeding with Bermuda
- Treating fields for grub worms
- Scalp mow
- Slit aerating fields

- Top dress sand

Park staff has reached out to the Sports Associations for alternative fields sites for the future. This PowerPoint Presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**G. Trail Grant Update.** David Wilson, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, stated that Parks staff has applied for a \$196,000 Trail Grant for the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Trails to provide a parking lot to accommodate the public when utilizing those trails.

**H. Zoo Update.** Berkeley Hilliard, Zoo Curator, updated the board on the two new arrivals at the zoo to include a Pot-Bellied Pig, Dudley, that came from the City of Abilene. He will be harness trained in order to interact with the public throughout the zoo. The other new arrival is a small bear cub from a private landowner in New Mexico. A naming contest will be in the future to name the new bear. Staff is looking into adding other new animals in the future.

**I. Parks Master Plan.** The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee had concerns about the next round of public engagement as they wanted to place a higher emphasis on current issues while still allowing for the long-term vision.

**J. Upcoming Events.** Park facilities are opening at 50%.

**K. Future Agenda Items.** No future items were suggested.

**ITEM 4: Present, Discuss and Consider Action on the Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.** Motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman and seconded by Ms. Terry Price for Mr. John Ingerson to remain as Chairman of the Board. Motion was made by Ms. Terry Price and seconded by Mr. Jeff Brain for Mr. Bob Altman to remain as Vice Chairman of the Board. Motion passed by a 10-0 vote.

**ITEM 5: Present, Discuss and Consider Appointment of Board Members to the 'Strategic Planning' Sub-Committee.** The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee is a committee supporting the operations side of Parks and Recreation and currently serving on this committee is Mr. John Ingerson, Mr. Luke Austin and Ms. Angela Harney. Motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman and seconded by Ms. Elaine Hays to recommend that 5 Board members be on the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee, to not exceed 6 members and to include Mr. John Ingerson, Mr. Luke Austin, Mr. Eric Hunter, Mr. Jeff Brain and Ms. Elaine Hays to replace Ms. Angela Harney who is resigning from the Board. Jonathan exited and Angela did not vote. Motion passed by an 8-0 vote.

**ITEM 6: Present, Discuss and Consider Appointment of Board Members to the 'Outreach Planning' Sub-Committee.** The Outreach Planning Sub-Committee is a committee supporting the program side of Parks and Recreation and currently serving on this committee is Ms. Terry Price, Mr. Bob Altman and Ms. Tiffany Podzemny. Motion was made by Mr. Jeff Brain and seconded by Ms. Terry Price to re-appoint the 3 members and add a 4<sup>th</sup> member to the Sub-Committee. Motion passed by an 8-0 vote.

**ITEM 7: Present, Discuss and Consider Appointment on Proposed Trails at Rick Klein Park.** Chris Podzemny, Six Pack Outdoors Inc, a 501 C3 non-profit in Amarillo TX, stated that this organization puts on a series of mountain bike races in the Panhandle area and uses those funds raised to help build trails through federal, state, municipal and private entities. This organization would like to provide outdoor recreational opportunities at the Rick Klein Sports Complex to include a 15-mile multi-use hike and bike trails in the undeveloped areas and converting the Tornado Alley BMX track into an open to the public pump track and skills park for mountain bike BMX riders. A map was provided to show the 15 miles of bike trail. Mr. Bob Altman asked if it would be dirt or calesche, how wide would it be and if there will be signs. Mr. Podzemny stated that they would use what is already there naturally, that the width would be 6 to 8 ft. in width, and they would post signs as needed. Mr. Luke Austin asked about the culvert that is adjacent to the ballfield. Mr. Podzemny stated they would put in bridges with guidelines from the US Forest Service where needed. Ms. Elaine Hays suggested the Amarillo boot logo for the trail designs as a major branding image and logo through the Convention and Visitors Bureau as a tourist attraction. This project, if started soon, would be completed by the end of summer. Community volunteers will be recruited to help implement this project. Motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman and seconded by Ms. Elaine Hays and Motion passed by a 10-0 vote. This presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**ITEM 8: Present, Discuss and Consider Appointment on the Happy Hour Golf Promotion.** George Priolo, GM of Golf Operations, provided information on the history of the Happy Hour Golf Promotion that started in the fall of 2019 and was implemented by the Golf Task Force on the recommendation of the City Council. This program was to generate revenue after 6:00 PM which turned into a success at both golf complexes. The GM provided recommendations to the board to change fees along with rule changes that would help improve this program. Ms. Elaine Hays questioned training on etiquette and what would be implemented to get the information across to the customers which the GM stated would be on the website and Facebook. Ms. Terry Price asked if laminated rules to be included on the carts. Motion was made by Ms. Terry Price and seconded by Ms. Elaine Hays and Motion passed by a 9-0 vote. This presentation is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**ITEM 9: Present and Discuss Park Board Meetings.** Discussion was made on whether to continue the Board meetings on Zoom or in person due to COVID guidelines. A unanimous decision was to continue to meet via Zoom meetings for the months of March and April and list as a future agenda item on where to meet in person.

ITEM 10: Adjournment. There, being no further business, Motion was made by Ms. Elaine Hays, seconded by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Clarence John Ingerson  
John Ingerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sherylene Morris  
Sherylene Morris, Board Secretary