

MINUTES

On March 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	38	32
Mr. Bob Altman	Yes	21	19
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	38	32
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	30	21
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	13	13
Ms. Elaine Hays	Yes	3	2
Mr. Eric Hunter	Yes	3	3
Mr. Jonathan Grammer	No	3	1
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	3	3

Attendees:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DAVID WILSON	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
KEVIN WILDE	PARK SUPERINTENDENT
KELSEY SARGENT	RECREATION COORDINATOR
CODY WOLFE	ATHLETIC SUPERVISOR
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 February 10, 2021. 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 Ms. Terry Price, seconded by Mr. Luke Austin, and unanimously carried to approve the regular minutes as written.

ITEM 3: Present and Discuss Foundations. Mr. Bryan McWilliams, City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Foundations pertaining to Parks with a Mission stating "Private, non-profit corporations are formed frequently to "enhance park amenities and fill funding and resource gaps related to public parks" and includes:

- Land Acquisition
- Programing
- Capital Projects
- Resources
- Maintenance and Operations

The difference between City Commissions/Boards and Foundations, is that foundations are private, non-profit, must adopt bylaws, ethics, conflict of interest polices and must have private individuals/volunteers and no city staff or resource involvement including board members.

- The Director could serve on the Foundation as ex-officio member.
- Board members could serve if notice of possible quorum is advertised.

Ms. Elaine Hays commented that as long as it was made public this is allowable. Foundation structures consist of:

- Governed by a Board
- Executive Director
- Appointment of Officers
- Operational Staff

Funding Sources:

- Donations – one-time and reoccurring
- Fundraisers/Events
- Merchandise Sales
- Investments
- Sponsorships

Examples of other city foundations were presented. Comments, concerns and questions from Board members pertaining to these foundations were to bring in Park Ambassadors, financial resources, concerns for getting staff involvement, foundations start-up cost for approval, who would do the legwork to get it started, having more outreach sub-committee conversations, what is the 12-month vision, have businesses wanted to give but needed to go through 501-C3, will this be the only way for parks to generate revenue/cost recovery, and needing someone to be willing to take the lead. Someone from the community will need to invest in their time in order to implement this process. PowerPoint presentation is on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ITEM 4: Present, Discuss and Consider Action on Changes to the Recreation Program. Kelsey Sargent, Program Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Recreation Program and what the future will look like. The past Recreation Program only offered activities in the summer such as the Summer Lunch Program and various camps. Moving forward, staff would like to offer programs throughout the whole year in order to grow. Program changes include:

- Rec at Home (Games, fitness, creative activities, etc)
- Fit and Play (Free camps along with at cost camps)
- Reset Program (Mobile Rec Unit) (Fitness classes offered in various parks)
- Amarillo Afternoon Adventures (Formally the Summer Lunch Program which will be taken over by AISD) (Will focus on after lunch activities)
- ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) (Working with various organizations)
- Enrichment Classes (To be added later)

Staff is changing the program to benefit the Amarillo Community by offering a range of outdoor activities that are fun and different, and by providing health and wellness-based activities for free and expanding them year-round. Questions from Board Members included:

- How much was grant funded/operations funded?
- How long will the grant be funded?
- When will the programs start?
- Adaptive kid's sports.
- Mandating participation, and not over-extending staff.
- Transportation.
- Funding split (operation vs. grant).
- Length of grant.

Mr. Eric Hunter exited. Motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman and seconded by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny to move forward with this program. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote. PowerPoint presentation is on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ITEM 5: Present, Discuss and Consider Action on an Art Policy for Parks and Recreation. The Director stated that staff is looking into the implementation of an art policy for Parks and Recreation. This policy/agreement would be for artists to install and display their art to the public for six months throughout our designated park facilities provided they follow the requirements of the policy. Mr. John Ingerson along with Ms. Elaine Hays, had concerns about what is excepted and what is not and suggested one of the sub-committees review this policy in order to get more information before taking action. Mr. Jeff Brain stated that the draft mentioned the lender is to provide a certificate of insurance but is not mentioned in the artwork agreement. This item will be tabled until further review.

ITEM 6: Present, Discuss and Consider Action on Park Board Meetings. A decision was made to continue to meet via zoom until such time is appropriate to meet in person per City Manager approval.

ITEM 7: 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.

- Staff has been reviewing the Governor's new order (GA-34) which will take effect on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Below is a summary of the departments COVID mitigation measures:
 - City staff will continue to use COVID mitigation measures such as masks and social distancing.
 - Outdoor Special Events will return to the normal approval process.
 - Special Events in Parks under 200 people will be approved by the Department with staff encouraging COVID mitigation measures as recommended by the CDC.
 - Special Events greater than 200 people will be approved by Environmental Health.
 - Athletic field rentals and leagues/tournaments are allowed utilizing COVID mitigation measures as recommended by the CDC.
 - Aquatic facilities are available for rentals/reservations.
 - The Amarillo Zoo will be open for general usage.
 - Indoor facilities (Zoo Buildings) will require masks and social distancing.
 - Golf is open for general usage.
 - Indoor facilities (Clubhouses) will require masks and social distancing.
 - Warford is open for general usage.
 - Indoor facilities (Zoo Buildings) will require masks and social distancing.
 - Tennis Center is open for general usage.
 - Indoor facilities (Lobby area) will require masks and social distancing.

B. Thompson Park Pool. The Director briefly updated the Board on the progress of the Thompson Park Pool Project to include:

- Shotcrete for the Lazy River and Leisure Pool to begin on Monday.
- Slide installers should be able to install slide at the end of the month.
- The steel structure is being erected for the ticket building and restroom/concession building.
- Working on the footing for the pump house building.
- Water connections have been made.
- Coordinating with Utilities to do the sewer tap.
- Pad for Xcel is poured.

This project is scheduled to open by Memorial Day as expected. Staff is looking to have another media day in the next month.

C. Thompson Park Public Art. The Director stated that we have an artist who has volunteered to do the public art pro bono and is working on sketches and renderings which will be shared with the Outreach Sub-committee and the Beautification Art Representative for review to make sure that it will be appropriate for display at the new Thompson Pool.

D. Community Investment Program (CIP). The Director stated that the department is currently setting up meetings for the divisions to look at capital programs to prioritize what is needed/replaced/high risk throughout our park system. Staff will also look at what will qualify for CDBG funding/grant opportunities. This will be presented to the Strategic Sub-committee.

E. Rick Klein Trails. The Assistant Director, David Wilson, stated that he met with Mr. Podzemny to work on the changes to the contract before he can start work on the project.

F. Athletic Field Maintenance Progress. Kevin Wilde, Park Superintendent, stated that maintenance completed the transition between infield and outfield at Rick Klein Complex, SE Complex, SW Complex and Martin Road Complex and continue to work on Thompson and River Road ball fields. Maintenance is prepping for the soccer field closer on the six fields that will be taken off-line for this year. Cody Wolfe, Athletic Supervisor, stated that the Associations are cooperating with staff to not use those fields and that staff will be taking those fields off-line temporary until the fields are ready to open.

G. Parks Master Plan. The Director stated that staff is still working with the consultant and looking to have a second round of public engagement around mid-May with feedback from the sub-committee to focus on 75% of park needs focused on now and 25% focused on what we need for long-term vision.

H. Upcoming Events. No scheduled events were announced.

I. Future Agenda Items. Update on seasonal hires for Park Maintenance.

ITEM 8: Adjournment. There, being no further business, Motion was made by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, seconded by Ms. Elaine Hays to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 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