

MINUTES

On December 08th, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Board met at 01:30 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation board room at 509 S. Johnson St, Amarillo, TX, 79101 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr. John Ingerson	Yes	46	39
Mr. Bob Altman	Yes	29	27
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	46	40
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	38	27
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	21	20
Mr. Eric Hunter	Yes	11	10
Mr. Jonathan Grammer	Yes	11	6
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	11	10
Mr. John Forbis	Yes	6	5
Dr. Eddy Sauer	Yes	6	2
Mr. Jason Tillery	No	6	3

Attendees:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
KRISTEN WOLBACH	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
FELISHA KING	RECORDING SECRETARY
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
JAMES STOW	PARK SUPERINTENDENT
MATRACA PENNER	SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

ITEM 1: Public Comments. No public comments made.

ITEM 2: Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held October 13th, 2021 Minutes. Chairman, Mr. John Ingerson, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 01:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman, seconded by Mr. Luke Austin, and unanimously carried to approve meeting minutes from October 13th, 2021 as written.

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

A. Department Staff Updates –

Mr. Michael Kashuba, Parks and Recreation Director, elaborates on recent staffing changes:

1. Mr. David Wilson's resignation as assistant director that led to Ms. Kristen Wolbach's promotion to assistant director.
2. Mr. Kevin Wilde's retirement from park maintenance that led to Mr. James Stow's divisional change from golf operations. Along with a promotion to park superintendent.
3. Mr. Nick Bonner as the new business analyst, from an internship in the city of Amarillo's accounting department.
4. Vacant Positions:
 - CIP Project Manager
 - Aquatics Specialist
 - Marketing Coordinator
 - Senior Services
 - Beautification

Ms. Podzemny inquires about applicants for current vacant positions. Mr. Kashuba elaborates on applicants and the lack of qualification standards or compensation expectations, along with city-wide staffing shortages.

B. Park Board Committee Member Changes

1. Director explicates the transformation of union between the Parks and Recreation board and the Parks and Recreation staff. The transformation has been advantageous for the quality of life in the city of Amarillo, with the master plans Mr. Ingerson has assisted in developing. Mr. Ingerson was presented with a plaque for his devotion of time, 6 years, during his terms on the Parks and Recreation board. Director introduced Mr. Shelby Massey as the new Parks and Recreation Board member.
2. Mr. Ingerson explained the benefits in the participation of a subcommittee. Director also conveys the upcoming vacancies for chairman and vice chairman along with additional benefits of the invaluable contributions of the subcommittee, to the parks staff. Director also briefly explains the principles of both the strategic planning and outreach committees. Subcommittees are limited to 5 members, to avoid a

quorum. Mr. Bob Altman asks the date of the January meeting. Director informs Mr. Altman that the meeting will be held the 12th of January 2022.

C. Tree City USA

Director states the city of Amarillo has been a designee of Tree City USA for 24 years. Tree City USA is dedicated to the reforestation of the united states in celebration of Arbor Day. The application for the upcoming year of 2022, has been submitted. There will be a proclamation submitted to city council to acknowledge Arbor Day and the pursuit of Amarillo's official designation in the program.

D. City Council Meeting Recap

1. Item 1 – C – Discuss Parks and Recreation Service Adjustments to Include Potential Future Park Closures

- Director states no decisions will be made for potential park closures during the current meeting. He also acknowledges the significant budget increase, with the controversy of the current asset recovery costs. Director addresses main questions to be discussed, following City Council's discussion of the matter. Which assets are not cost neutral – what are the things that are subsidized? Director clarifies that every division in the department is not cost neutral. He elaborates on the divisions that are the closest to cost recovery. It is stated that, with the most recent changes, tennis will be the most cost recovery efficient. Tennis stands at a seventy plus percent cost recovery. Golf subsidy dropped significantly, versus the prior two years. Aquatics has been stated as a growing cost recovery division. Mr. Ingerson states that the city council appointed one of the council members to the parks and recreation board, as a major asset to the board. Mr. Ingerson asks Dr. Eddy Saur to give his perspective on the current item in discussion, from the council's point of view. Dr. Saur explains that the city of Amarillo has the most efficient budget in the state of Texas, in his opinion. Amarillo's tax rate and property value are the lowest in the state, besides Frisco. However, Frisco's average home value is much more substantial than the average of Amarillo's. Frisco accumulates three times more currency than Amarillo, with the same tax rate, hence the quality-of-life variation. Mr. Luke Austin asks Dr. Sauer what the deciding factor was for the city council, for the budget increase to the parks department. Dr. Sauer informs that the Park Master Plan was the driving factor for the decision made by council. Mr. Ingerson asks Dr. Sauer to explain to the board what city council will need from them in the future. Dr. Sauer responds with the request of consistency in the diligence towards the continuing improvement of Amarillo's parks department.
- Director, chairman and Dr. Sauer mention potential leasing propositions in larger city-owned parks. Wonderland Amusement Park was mentioned as a prime example of leasing city-owned park space.
- Chairman and George Priolo discuss cost recovery with the golf courses.
- Ms. Podzemny and director discuss lack of funds due to tax and revenue, with the goal of cost recovery.
- Mr. Austin asks when the city will stop being responsible for school parks' maintenance, what the department's plan is with the 2.4 million and when the committee will be informed of the budget plans. Mr. Austin also asks when park maintenance will begin removing park restroom structures and he estimated time required to execute removal. Mr. Altman inquires if it is expensive to remove these restroom structures. Mr. Austin asks if that task has been put out to bid, while Ms. Podzemny concurs with that inquiry. Ms. Podzemny asks how many restrooms are in the plan to be removed. James Stow, Park Superintendent, clarifies that removing the structures are more complicated than just removing/knocking down the structure the restroom is inside. Ms. Podzemny states the parks department is not exacerbating additional costs maintaining restrooms, currently; asking if that is correct. Mr. Altman states that the public should not be surprised at the removal of the park restrooms. Mr. Austin asks if there will be a notification to the public or restroom removals. Mr. Grammer asks if there will be signage of removal for the information of the public.
- Director states playgrounds in process of submission to council in January.

2. Item 2 – T – Consider Approval Agreement for Design Services for Athletic Facilities within City of Amarillo Parks

- Director states a report of strategy, acquired quotes and prioritization complex renovations are estimated to be completed in March, for board presentation and discussion.
- Mr. Hunter asks if Mr. Kashuba knows the costs of lighting repair in sports complexes, with current inflation. Director states the costs were rounded up to highest percentage and reevaluation of these costs will be done; the budget is given a rounded-up sum in preparation of unforeseen increases as well.
- Mr. Brain asks for clarification regarding the American Rescue Plan Funds. Director elaborates the 4 chosen parks for the ARPA funds, as the under-served locations.

3. Park Board Attendance Requirements

- Director reminds board member of the seventy-five-percentage attendance average requirement for committee members.
- Mr. Ingerson states date and time for meetings can be changed, to accommodate board member availability. Mr. Altman states that board can't discuss anything not on the agenda.

E. Capital Projects

- Tentatively presenting 14 playgrounds to city council in January.

F. Upcoming Events

- Explore the Four Promotion – Golf Promotion – said promotion is 4 rounds of golf at each course for \$120. Mr. Priolo explains the cost of promotion card and redemption average in revenue vs profit loss.
- Breakfast with Santa event explanation from Ms. Matraca Penner, special event coordinator. Ms. Penner states the event is sold out on both days. Ms. Price asked how the event was marketed, Ms. Wolbach informs Ms. Price the event was marketed on Facebook and Peachtree.
- Director praises recreation staff's past event successes.

G. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items.

ITEM 4: Adjournment. There, being no further business, Motion was made by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny. Motioned seconded by Mr. Luke Austin to adjourn the meeting at 03:00 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:



Felisha King, Board Secretary



John Ingerson, Chairman