

**MINUTES**

On July 14, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Board met at 1:30 p.m. in the board room at the 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	41	35
Mr. Bob Altman	Yes	24	22
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	41	35
Mr. Luke Austin	No	33	22
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	16	16
Mr. Eric Hunter	Yes	6	6
Mr. Jonathan Grammer	No	6	2
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	6	6
Mr. John Forbis	Yes	1	1
Dr. Eddy Sauer	No	1	0
Mr. Jason Tillery	Yes	1	1

**Attendees:**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| MICHAEL KASHUBA | DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION           |
| DAVID WILSON    | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION |
| COURTNEY WHITE  | ATTORNEY I                                 |
| FELISHA KING    | RECORDING SECRETARY                        |
| KELSEY SARGENT  | RECREATION COORDINATOR                     |
| GEORGE PRIOLO   | GM OF GOLF OPERATIONS                      |

**ITEM 1: Public Comments.** Ryan Callen, 9805 Digby Lane Amarillo, TX, 79119, from the disc golf association has proposed that he is wanting to have more disc golf in more parks.

**ITEM 2: Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from regular Meeting held May 12th, 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 Mr. Bob Altman, seconded by Mr. Jeff Brain, 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. **Introduction of New Parks and Recreation Advisory Members -** Director of Parks and Recreation introduced new park board members: Dr Eddy Sauer was not able to attend but is a new member. Mr. John Forbis introduced himself with a brief description of himself. Mr. Jason Tillery introduced himself as well, with a brief description of himself.
- B. **Friends of the Zoo –** Jackie Payne and Lelea Escajeda presented the Zoo, on behalf of friends of the zoo, with a donation check in the amount of \$54,254.59. There was also \$150 of petty cash located in a binder, was also turned in.
- C. **Thompson Park Pool –** Director provided a brief update of contractor filling pool with water as of today (July 14<sup>th</sup>). Yesterday (July 13<sup>th</sup>), plaster was being finished up. Lazy river was being finished up with plaster and doing acid wash onto the plaster inside of the pool. Friday (July 16<sup>th</sup>) tentatively filling lazy river with water. Aiming for construction to be complete on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. No official ribbon cutting/grand opening date is decided yet. Information technology is beginning coordination of installation of credit card machines, computers for admissions and concessions, phone lines. Most buildings are complete, aside from some HVAC work and minor touch up work. Temporary windows have been installed, along with fencing. Parking lot is being done now, and they're aiming for the parking lot to take one day. Goal is to open Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, for an evening swim to the public, a 'soft opening'. However, open for a full day the following Saturday, to the public. Director also states there are plenty of job openings in our department, encouraging board members to spread the word to anyone in need of a job. Ms. Tiffany Podzemny asks if Thompson will have enough staff to open for the projected date. Director confirms, however it will be a very tight crew to open.
- D. **Parks Master Plan –** Director opens with statement of the 'Red-X Initiative' as an effort to engage the public. First round of engagement is 'Tell Us What You Want' with the survey posted on all platforms and on signage posted in parks and Parks Facilities. Second round of engagement is rooted in our asset management plan, assessing what decisions our community would make. Our current funding doesn't support all of the existing infrastructure that we have. Our asset management plan completed in 2019 we owned over one-hundred million dollars in assets, and as a department we should be spending 3.3-3.8 million each year for maintenance and upkeep of those assets. Over the last couple of years, that number has been \$100,000 and dropped to \$0 as of last year. We're currently running a 3.2-million-dollar deficit every year. With that being said, if funding doesn't improve, we face high-risk assets. When we did this study, we had 14 million in high-risk assets, that included Thompson Park pool. Over the last couple years, we've gone from 14 million to almost 50 million

dollars in high-risk assets. We are at a critical point where we are asking the public to weigh in, help us determine where we spend those dollars, and help us move forward as a department. The purpose of the Red X is to make the public aware of what could happen in the future, without that funding. The survey closes at midnight on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

- E. Program Events and Update – Kelsey Sargent, our recreation coordinator, has put together a [powerpoint](#) presentation for upcoming events and event ideas.
- F. Athletics – No policy changes at this time.
- G. Trails – We have two trail projects in the works, at this time. Rick Klein open date is tentatively Labor Day. This trail is approximately 13 miles, one of the largest continuously going chain geograph in the United States. We'd like to invite Guinness World Records out for the grand opening, to measure and confirm. They're open, there just are not any signs just yet. We encourage patrons to go ride those trails because it helps pack soil down to establish the trail. Second project is 9<sup>th</sup> street trails, we did receive news that the grant application was approved. The grant amount was \$240,000 with an 80/20 match. It's currently in the review process with the state. Once that process is the complete, we will explain the next process which would include a timeline. This trail was made by the citizens of Amarillo, getting this grant means that we are just supporting what the community has achieved by officializing it as a real trail with signs, parking and an established permanence. Mr Bob Altman asked about a timeline for all of this to start moving forward. Assistant Director, David Wilson, states that he is anticipating next spring. They will also be adding half of a mile to those trails. Which will make that entire trail 4 miles. Ms. Tiffany asked for a timeline on the signs, and we informed her we would have a timeline for her soon.
- H. Upcoming Events- Starlight theatre and cinema, pumpkin hustle in October. 69<sup>th</sup> annual Budweiser partnership with our golf facilities. This year would've been the 70<sup>th</sup>, but they canceled last year due to COVID. Coors partnership is July 1<sup>st</sup> at Comanche. Coors champion even, street Toyota senior charity classic. We roughly contribute \$825,000-\$850,000 a year towards charities with these golf events. Golf events that are open to the public generate roughly 1.5 – 2 million a year. The food bank raises 70-75k in a day, with their event.
- I. Zoo Concession Renovation – The goal with the concession stand renovation is to take it from a underutilized concession stand, to a gift shop that will sell very basic snacks. Since our zoo is not huge and patrons are only there for about 30 minutes to an hour, we found that having a concession stand was unnecessary. It would consist of having a store-front type door, and some shelving. Elimination of the certification costs will allow us to move that money to the zoo improvement fund.
- J. Budget Update – Council had 3 days of budget meetings. City council talked about Parks and recreation for 3.5 hours at their allotted meeting time. It appears they are finally getting a grasp on how bad things could be if the funding isn't changed, for the assets we currently have. Mr. Bob Altman expressed his pleasure in hearing the council acknowledge the Parks and Recreation department and being actively engaged in what is going on. Once the survey closes and the public has made their preferences known, council can make a more educated decision. Our budget was presented to city council, the next steps are waiting for the vote on the presented budget changes. Council has another meeting in, possibly, August. Ms. Tiffany asked is employee wages are included in the budget, and if those positions are not filled, where does that money go. Director informs her that the money stays in the assigned budget. If we have vacancies, we do try to contract out that labor. Mr. Ingerson has asked if there has been an increase to operating budgets this year. Director confirms that they do increase operation costs with general inflation. Parks is budgeted for 14-14.5 million in the city budget. Mr. Eric Hunter has asked for an update with grants. Director informs him that we are still in a waiting period for those things, and that they did discuss it in the city council meeting today. But as of now, it is still up in the air. Warford Activity Center grant is still in the works, to get the HVAC system fixed. We met with PRPC to work on a grant with Texas Parks and Wildlife on a grant for the Martin Road lights. We continuously look for grant opportunities, sponsorship opportunities, and partnership opportunities.
- K. Community Solutions Update – This topic was opened up to discuss how well board members thought it went, and suggestions, comments, concerns.
- L. Future Agenda Items – Disc golf to be added.

ITEM 4: Present, Discuss, and Consider Appointment of Board Members to the 'Strategic Planning' Sub-Committee. Discussion of this item was performed after item 3.B for consideration by the board, because Mr. Bob Altman knew he would be excusing himself from the meeting early. Director of Parks and Recreation gave a description of this item to new board members, to give them the opportunity to be appointed to this sub-committee. Mr. John Ingerson mentions there is an opening for this sub-committee. Vote was postponed for next board meeting, to give Dr. Eddy Sauer the option to decide on being on these sub-committees or not.

ITEM 5: Present, Discuss, and Consider Appointment of Board Members to the 'Outreach' Sub-Committee. Discussion of this item was performed after item 3.B for consideration by the board, because Mr. Bob Altman knew he would be excusing himself from the meeting early. Director of Parks and Recreation gave a description of this item to new board members, to give them the opportunity to be appointed to this sub-committee. Mr. John Ingerson mentions there is an opening for this sub-committee. Vote was postponed for next board meeting, to give Dr. Eddy Sauer the option to decide on being on these sub-committees or not.

ITEM 6: Present, Discuss and Consider Action on an Art Policy for Parks and Recreation. Park board was given a draft of the Art Policy with their agenda copies in this day's meeting. Director of Park and Recreation gives a brief description of the policy. Considering this policy because of art pieces that will be installed at Thompson Park Pool. This is formalizing and adopting the policy as an official policy for the department. This policy is still a draft, this motion and vote is to make it official and adopt it henceforth. A question of artists holding an insurance policy for the art installed was presented by Mr. Jeff Brain. Director mentions it can absolutely be added to the policy. Mr. Bob Altman also asked about adding more

art pieces in more parks, which would also require this policy to be adopted. Director mentions the idea of having a uniform bolt pattern for all art pieces, providing an interchangeable base for multiple art pieces, that would theoretically be able to change pieces of easily, no matter the piece or location of installation. However, this policy does state the art pieces are not city property. They remain the artists' property, in turn, the artist is responsible for installation, removal and maintenance. This allows us to beautify our city parks, without the cost of maintenance or replacement. Mr. John Ingerson states he trusts the Parks and Recreation staff to decide what art is tasteful and appropriate to display. Ms. Tiffany Podzemny made a motion to approve this policy. Ms. Terry Price second this motion. Motion was approved with unanimous vote 8 to 0.

ITEM 7: Adjournment. There, being no further business, Motion was made by Ms. Tiffany Podzemny, seconded by Mr. Eric Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:

  
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Felisha King, Board Secretary

  
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John Ingerson, Chairman