

MINUTES

On September 14th, 2022 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
Ms. Terry Price	Yes	54	47
Mr. Luke Austin	Yes	46	33
Mr. Robert Altman	Yes	37	35
Ms. Tiffany Podzemny	Yes	29	27
Mr. Eric Hunter	No	19	16
Mr. Jeff Brain	Yes	19	17
Mr. Jonathan Grammer	No	19	7
Mr. John Forbis	No	14	11
Dr. Eddy Sauer	Yes	14	7
Mr. Jason Tillery	No	14	3
Mr. Shelby Massey	Yes	8	8

ATTENDEES:

MICHAEL KASHUBA	DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
KRISTEN WOLBACH	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
FELISHA KING	RECORDING SECRETARY
COURTNEY WHITE	ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
GEORGE PRIOLO	GENERAL MANAGER OF GOLF OPERATIONS
JAMES STOW	PARKS MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT
KELSEY SARGENT	RECREATION SUPERVISOR
BECKI DRYER	SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR
ERIC ELLERSICK	CIP PROJECT MANAGER
GLORIA TORRES	MARKETING COORDINATOR
KATHERYN MASSEY	BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ARTS COORDINATOR
AUSTIN FARLEY	AQUATICS SUPERVISOR
BERKELEY HILLIARD	ZOO CURATOR
LONDON MILLER	WARFORD ACTIVITY CENTER SUPERVISOR
MISTY PRIZ	ATHLETIC SUPERVISOR

ITEM 1 Call to Order

Chairman, Mr. Luke Austin, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 01:32 p.m.

ITEM 2 Public Comments

Mr. Charles Musick, Amarillo Resident, voices his displeasure and observations of the newly installed playground at Southeast Park.

Mr. Richard Walton, Outdoor Amarillo Nonprofit Representative, announces a fundraising event will be held on Thursday, September 15th from 04:30 PM to 06:30 PM. He briefly explains the Outdoor Amarillo initiative to partner with the Parks department in improving various parks within the city.

ITEM 3 Discuss and Consider Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Bob Altman, said motion seconded by Mr. Shelby Massey, and unanimously carried to approve meeting minutes from August 10th, 2022, as written.

ITEM 4 The Parks and Recreation Board will Discuss or Receive reports on:

a) Budget Update

Mr. Kashuba informs the board that the budget and proposed fee changes presented to City Council was approved. The fee changes will impact the Warford Activity Center, the Golf Courses, Special Event Permits, Park Permits, Amarillo National Tennis Center court fees, along with new entities including non-motorized boating permits. The majority of the fee changes will take place on January 1, 2023.

b) Master Plan

Mr. Kashuba informs the board of the Parks Department's effort to actively implement the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (listed in appendix D, page D-2). The director discussed a recent staff meeting where master plan tasks were assigned to the appropriate division for execution. While the Parks Master Plan is a 10-year plan, Mr. Kashuba explains that it is vital that progress is made.

He presents a progress dashboard that will follow the accomplishments of each goal. Mr. Kashuba also discusses the recent survey that was sent to the board asking for their opinion on the priority of each goal, bearing in mind the weight of current critical repairs and updates.

c) 9th Street update

Mr. Austin inquires about upcoming events at the 9th street trails. Mrs. Podzemny refers back to the previous month's minutes and confirms there will be an event held at Rick Klein on November 5th and 6th. Mr. Kashuba updates the board on the continued process of developing the construction documents and the current status of the archaeologist study. Once the study has been completed and the Parks Department is approved to begin planning, the project will be opened to receive bids.

d) Playgrounds Update

Mr. Eric Ellersick, Capital Improvements Project Manager, updates the board on playground renovation progress. He states that Pleasant Valley Playground is the next renovation to take place, pending equipment shipping progress. Demolition will begin approximately in two weeks. Will Rogers and El Alamo Park Playgrounds, using the same vendor, have had the timeline moved to early 2023. The equipment manufacturer has faced some challenges, shifting the projected dates by one to two months. Mr. Ellersick and Mr. Kashuba also state that they have a meeting scheduled for the following day, with the vendor, of Southeast Park Playground and Stephen F. Austin Playground. This meeting will address the feedback from the public. Ms. Podzemny inquires if there have been various complaints submitted. Mr. Kashuba states that there have not been many reported directly to the department. Mr. Shelby Massey confirms that his family has attended events near these playgrounds and has been able to observe the public's engagement, being primarily positive. Mr. Altman questions about positive feedback. Mr. James Stow confirms that there has been a large volume of positive feedback within the few negative.

e) Department Divisional Updates

1) Golf Operations

Mr. George Priolo updates the board on current metrics for both Comanche and Ross Rogers Golf Courses. This update includes a comparison of 2022 revenue generation to previous years. He also expresses the condition of the courses have suffered due to the lack of rain and staff shortage.

2) Beautification and Public Arts

Mrs. Massey updates the board regarding the Beautification and Public Arts Board Meeting held on September 13th, 2022. She and Ms. Sargent give a brief overview regarding the success of the State of the City event held, September 10th. Ms. Massey also presents the board with the mural installation on the restroom structure in Sam Houston Park, funded by the event's donations. The completion of Color Art and Amarillo Little Theatre's are also presented, these murals were approved by the Beautification and Public Arts Board for the Mural Grant Program. The Amarillo Downtown Library will also be obtaining a mural installation, courtesy of the Friends of the Library Organization.

3) Tennis Operations

Mr. Kashuba informs the board that the department plans to have the athletic lighting funding presented to City Council by the end of September. If City Council approves the funding, the project will be underway. This project includes the replacement or repair of lighting at the Amarillo National Tennis Center. Ms. Misty Priz also informs the board of the success during Labor Day Weekend, the tennis center hosted an event that included approximately 100 attendees.

4) Aquatics

Mr. Kashuba states that trespassing continues to be an issue at Thompson Park Pool. Parks is working with facilities to implement more effective security measures, while keeping the aesthetic. Mr. Austin Farley, Aquatics Supervisor, informs the board that Thompson Pool is closed for the season. It is also stated that the 2023 season will incorporate the option of having special events at Thompson Park Pool and Southwest Pool. The Warford Activity Center pool is undergoing repairs to the plaster and tiling but will be completed in time for the beginning of swim lessons during October.

5) Recreation and Special Events

Ms. Kelsey Sargent informs the board of past, current, and future events.

Including:

- Nerf Gun Wars
- Kids Day Out – October 7th and 10th at Warford Activity Center
- Hooked on Fishing Camp & Fishing Derby – September 18th from 08:00 am – 10:30 am at Medical Center Park

Ms. Becki Dryer updates the board on upcoming special events.

Including:

- Tree and Turf Safety Conference – October 6th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Amarillo Civic Center, in the Heritage Room.
- Hocus Pocus in the Park – October 8th from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm at Memorial Park.

6) Warford Activity Center

Mr. Landon Miller, Warford Activity Center Supervisor, updates the board regarding the Reset Program Showcase held on September 1st. It is also stated that the memberships have shifted from a day pass to a monthly pass, including one free trial month. Mr. Miller states that the free month incentive has generated 30 new memberships, 25 individual and 5 family. The computer lab is in the process of being renovated into a game room, to actively engage the public more effectively and offer a rental space to the public. Mr. Miller also states that an active effort is being made to upgrade the gym equipment, as budget allows.

7) Park Maintenance

Mr. Stow updates the board on an open bid for forestry contractors. Mr. Stow also informs the board of the continuous effort to resolve irrigation issues within the parks. It is also said it has been a busy time of the year for athletic fields, keeping maintenance staff busy. Mr. Altman inquires if Amarillo College is pleased with the quality of the field being leased for practice. Mr. Stow confirms they are pleased and even assisting with maintenance.

8) Senior Services

Mr. Kashuba and Mrs. Wolbach informs the board that the RFA is still open, with no actions being taken until a response is received.

f) Future Agenda Items

- 9th Street Parking Lot
- Next Meeting: October 12th, 2022, at 1:30 P.M.

Adjournment

There, being no further business, this meeting was adjourned -at 02:49 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTEST:

Felisha King, Board Secretary

Luke Austin, Chairman