

STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTIES OF POTTER :
AND RANDALL :

On this the 10th day of June 2014, the Parks and Recreation Commission of Amarillo, Texas convened at 1:30 PM in regular session in Room 306, City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

ATTENDANCE

	PRESENT TODAY	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT	TERM STARTED	TERM EXPIRES
Mr. Cameron Monroe	No	59	47	08/12/08	07/01/14
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	69	55	07/24/07	07/01/15
Mr. Mike Rivera	Yes	28	20	09/13/11	07/01/14
Ms. Renee McCown	Yes	28	19	09/13/11	07/01/14
Mr. David Hudson	No	15	13	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Rob Chafin	Yes	15	11	01/02/13	07/01/16
Mr. Terry Easterling	Yes	9	6	09/10/13	07/01/16

and the following staff members:

Rod Tweet	Director of Parks & Recreation
Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Pam Cognasi	Recreation Supervisor
Andy Tarkington	Athletic Supervisor
Bryan Shelhamer	Park Development Manager
Sherylene Morris	Recording Secretary

There being a quorum established, the meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman, Ms. Jackie Payne, and the following business was conducted.

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2014 MEETING

Mr. Mike Rivera made a MOTION to approve the May 13, 2014 minutes as amended. Ms. Renee McCown seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 5-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Rod Tweet announced that the new Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Pat Westbrook will start her job responsibilities beginning June 16th. She is coming from Lubbock TX where she instructed landscape architecture classes at Texas Tech University. Her background includes a Masters in Landscape Architecture, licensed landscape architect and registered in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, 16 years as a manager for the City of Albuquerque, Cultural Services Department that coordinated marketing, public relations, organizational planning, project development and capital project implementation, then as a project manager for the Albuquerque Aquarium and Rio Grande Botanic Gardens. On the private side she worked 6 years as a Senior Landscape Architect/Project Manager for various commercial, municipal, state and federal size projects. She will be overseeing our capital improvement projects with Bryan Shelhamer, Park Development Manager.

The ribbon cutting for the Eastridge School Park Improvements was postponed until June 27th due to weather related reasons. A formal invitation will be sent announcing this event. The Splash Pad was opened to the public on May 30th.

The annual Fish Derby will be held on Saturday, June 21st at McDonald Lake from 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to kids with the biggest, smallest and ugliest fish.

The Annual Globe News Fourth of July Fireworks Festival will be held at John Stiff Memorial Park with activities beginning at 4:00 p.m. The firework display is scheduled to begin around 9:30 p.m. weather permitting. Food vendors, live music and children's activities will be on the agenda. The event is free to the public however there is a charge for parking.

Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent stated that Park staff has installed sub surface irrigation, six new trees and new sod at City Hall. A total of 279 new trees have been planted on city property and a total of 370 trees have been removed. Renovations continue on the recreation hut and a CXT restroom has been installed as part of the Eastridge School Park Improvements Project. The landscaping project at the new Splash Pad in City View Park has been completed. A Mother's Day event and an Endangered Species Day were hosted at the Amarillo Zoo by zoo staff. Zoo revenue for the month of May was \$37,708.96. Our year to date total is \$162,687.03 as compared to last year's total of \$150,073.69.

Clint gave an update on the installation of the Sleepy Hollow playground. The removal of the old playground was delayed by rain so the installation of the new playground will take place once the old playground is removed.

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, stated that all city pools and recreation sites are open for the summer; however more lifeguards and recreation staff are still needed. A new "Stop Light" Program is being implemented at the city pools to help promote safety. This program requires a child seven years and younger or 48" tall or less to wear a red, yellow or green wrist band to indicate their swimming ability. Red means they are required to wear a life jacket, yellow means they are an okay swimmer but cannot go into the deep end and green means they have full access of the pool. The Memorial Day Recreational Tennis Tournament held at the Amarillo Tennis Center had over 150 participants. Junior Tennis Camps began June 2nd and will run Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Skyhoundz was held at Memorial Park on May 18th with ten competitors and several hundred spectators. The first Senior Stroll was held at Ellwood Park with twenty active adults participating. This event will take place the last Wednesday of the month from June until September. The Annual Fish Derby will be held on June 21st at McDonald Lake. Recreation and Aquatic staff have distributed over 26,000 Park Guides during the month of May to all elementary, middle and high schools in the Amarillo area. An additional 16,000 was delivered to area businesses and daycares.

Andy Tarkington, Athletic Supervisor stated that the summer outdoor Volleyball leagues began May 19th with teams playing at Thompson, Ellwood and Memorial Parks Monday through Thursday. A new sand Volleyball league has been added and teams will play on Thursday nights at Ellwood Park. Due to weather related cancellations, Volleyball playoffs will begin July 14th. Spring/Summer Softball playoffs will go through June 22nd due to weather related cancellations. Fall Softball registration deadline is June 30th with the league starting July 18th. The 31st Annual Budweiser Memorial Day Weekend Softball Tournament with a total of 56 teams registered, was rained out and rescheduled for June 7th and 8th which was also rained out. The Skip Ferrell Memorial 3 on 3 Soccer Tournament will be held on June 14th and 15th at John Stiff Memorial Park and will be hosted by Amarillo Soccer Association.

Bryan Shelhamer, Park Development Manager, stated that the two Splash Pads at City View and Eastridge School Park that have been completed and are up and running. The Eastridge School Park Improvements Project however is still under construction and should be completed by June 20th with the ribbon cutting rescheduled for June 27th. The plans for the volleyball courts at Ellwood Park are being reviewed and updated by the Engineering Department. The ADA path plans for the soccer fields at multi-purpose Sports Complex are pending with the Purchasing Department and should bid out within the next week.

ITEM 3. HIKE AND BIKE MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

Rod Tweet stated that Parks Administration and the Traffic Department will work together to complete an updated Hike & Bike Master Plan. A Hike and Bike Trail Advisory Committee was organized in 2002. It was originally adopted in December 2003 by City Council. Park Commission reviewed recommended revisions to the plan in March 2010. Park Commission approved 2003 Hike and Bike Trail Master Plan revisions in June 2010. The City of Amarillo adopts the Amarillo Comprehensive Plan in October 2010 recognizing the need to elevate walk ability and bicycle "friendliness" community wide and a call to carefully integrate bicycle and pedestrian transportation modes with vehicular transportation in order to achieve a balanced multimodal transportation system. Staff recognizes the need to revisit the 2003 Hike and Bike Master Plan and its goals and objectives along with its implementation strategies in order to meet the current mission statement. Rod briefly discussed the goals and objectives of this Master Plan. He also stated that the next step would be to go over the Hike and Bike Master Plan in sections for future Park Commission meetings.

ITEM 4. SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, in place of Wendy Baca, Recreation Specialist, commended the efforts of Wendy on her progress of implementing the Summer Recreation Program Sponsorship idea. The goal of this program is to get as many sponsors to donate money/food to provide meals for the children who attend the summer program in the parks which may be the only meal the child receives

for the day. Wendy's goal is to make the community aware that these programs help to benefit the underprivileged children in our community by helping to provide more than one meal a day. Pam listed various businesses that have become involved in these programs. The goal has been reached to not only provide the summer lunch at each park site but also provide at least one hot meal a week to these kids. The S.P.A.R.K. Program also helps to get school supply donations for the kids. Last year 200 backpacks filled with school supplies were given to the kids. There are at least 4,000 to 5,000 kids who register for the park program and the next goal is to try to provide a backpack for each and every child who attends the summer recreation program. Pam stated that Forest Hill School Park is one of the largest park sites. Pam announced that Cargill has adopted Forest Hill School Park and has donated \$7,500 to the summer program to help provide a weekly meal, school supplies including t-shirts, socks and possibly shoes for all Forest Hills participants. She also stated that sometimes over 100 lunches are served in a day. A special ceremony to present the check to the summer program is set for Friday, June 13th at 11:45 a.m. at the Forest Hills School Park. Invitations will be extended to the media, Park Commissioners, Forest Hills residents and kids participating in the summer program.

ITEM 5. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments from the public.

ITEM 6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments from the Park Commission members.

ITEM 7. ANNOUNCEMENT – NEXT MEETING DATE

July 8, 2014

ITEM 8. ADJOURN

Rob Chafin made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Terry Easterling seconded the MOTION. Meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.



Rod Tweet,
Director of Parks and Recreation