

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Parks Administration Office
1101 W. 4th St.
April 18, 2022
5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jane Ann Oldrup called the April 18, 2022 meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Members were present: Jane Ann Oldrup, Becky Joyce, and Maegan Sanders with Members James Edwards, Barry Mathison, and Becky Robertson being absent. A quorum was not present.

Staff present: Jim Burress, Special Services Director; Colette Hall, Recreation Director; Alex Diaz, Recreation Manager; John Wright, Zoo Director; and Sharene Brooks, Parks Administrative Assistant, Sr.

Guests present: City Councilor Juan Oropesa, Corrine Oropesa, Vicki Burress, and Juno Ogle.

Guests via GoToMeeting: Rita Kane Doerhoefer.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – No quorum was present; no action or vote was taken.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -- No quorum was present; no action or vote was taken.

E. REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS) *(none)*

F. NON-ACTION ITEMS

2. **Discussion on Fee Schedules.** (This item was not discussed.)

3. **Discussion on Potential Capital Projects.** Director Jim Burress encouraged the Commission members to think about talking points and capital project ideals for the parks. Examples were discussed (putting book pages and statues along the walking trails, creating areas for selfies/picture-taking, bringing parks to 100%). Costs for playgrounds, mulch, and picnic tables were also discussed. The Spring River Corridor Foundation would be contributing funds for the Hayne's Dream Project. Plans for the project had been created and were gone over.

4. **Report on Recreation and Aquatics Center.** Director Hall let Commission members know she also needed indoor project ideals for her department. She provided revenue and membership numbers for the month of March. She was now certified to teach

lifeguarding. Close to 100 people came to their St. Patrick's Day event and 26 people came to the first Game Night at the Adult Center. The hospitality room at the Adult Center would be getting painted and the kitchen area would be getting changed up. The Easter Egg Hunt event was a hit with over 100 participants. Manager Diaz explained how the hunt took place in the swimming pool.

5. **Report on Zoo.** Director Wright informed the Commission that they had hired their 5th Zoo Keeper. They had decided on a designer for the new entrance gift shop/farm experience/bear exhibit. The Kids Stampede had gone well with 15 kids participating. The possibility of a 1-mile run happening in the future was discussed. Bear experts would be coming in to help with the design of the new bear exhibit. March had been the busiest month for attendance since the Zoo had opened with fees. The reptile building and concession stand would be getting updates. The butterfly garden would be opening in May with a ribbon-cutting scheduled and the Brew At The Zoo event would be at the end of April with over 200 pre-tickets sold.

6. **Report on Parks Department.** Director Burress gave details on the upcoming massive beautification and clean-up of the bird sanctuary. Over the Easter weekend, City parks were packed and greatly utilized. Parks crews had been busy picking up plastic Easter egg remains and trash left behind in the parks. The Boys & Girls Club gardening area, the old swimming pool, would be getting prepped for kids to continue to learn planting skills. The kinds of plants and trees planted during the renovation of Carpenter Park were discussed. With the frequent use of the Sunken Garden for photos and weddings, additional flowers, etc. may be added to the pond landscaping.

7. **Explore Future Goals.** (This item was discussed during the Parks Department report.)

G. OTHER BUSINESS

8. **Public Comments.** Guest Burress mentioned the upcoming Open House at the Boys & Girls Club on Saturday from 11-2.

H. ADJOURN -- No quorum was present; no vote was taken.

The meeting ended at 6:14 p.m.

Next Commission meeting: May 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.