

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Parks Administration Office**  
**1101 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**May 16, 2022**  
**5:30 PM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jane Ann Oldrup called the May 16, 2022 meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

The following Members were present: Jane Ann Oldrup, Becky Joyce, Becky Robertson, and James Edwards with Members Barry Mathison and Maegan Sanders being absent.

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: Vicki Burress, Juno Ogle, Carolyn Mitchell, Laurie Dudek, Shawn Kelly, Fred Luna, Jorge Armendariz, and Jeneva Dearing Martinez.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Member Edwards motioned to approve the agenda with the exception of moving Item 8, Public Comments, to the beginning of the agenda, Member Robertson seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Members Mathison and Sanders being absent.

**D.1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** -- Member Edwards motioned to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 meeting, Member Robertson seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Members Mathison and Sanders being absent.

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

8. **Public Comments**. Guests Luna and Armendariz addressed the Commission regarding the murders of their two sons on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Cahoon Park. They would like to have memorial benches with plaques installed at the park. They do not want their kids to die in vain and would like to help the community by changing the lives of other kids. Guest Kelly, Exec. Pastor at Church on the Move, thanked members for letting them address the Commission. Member Edwards suggested that they attend the upcoming General Services meeting. Guest Mitchell with Roswell Rotary, gave updates on Delta West Park regarding trees that have been purchased, the sidewalk, and grant money.

**E. REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS)**

2. **Consider Approval to Recommend the Submission of All New Applications to the Mayor to Fill Commission Vacancies for Positions 2, 4, and 6, and the Re-application of Member Sanders for a Second Term for Position 1.** Chair Oldrup handed out voting

ballots for members to mark their choices for the vacancies. Member Edwards clarified how the applications had been marked as far as which opening each were applying for. Member Oldrup commented on Applicant Sanchez. Member Joyce commented on Applicant Belding.

Member Robertson motioned to rearrange Items F.3. and F.4. on the agenda; Member Edwards seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Members Mathison and Sanders being absent.

## **F. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

4. **Report on Recreation and Aquatics Center.** Director Hall gave the Recreation report. They were still looking for lifeguards and trying to get the word out anyway possible. Member Edwards suggested utilizing the schools to reach kids about the lifeguarding. Recreation's revenue and attendance numbers were good for the month. The Game Changer app is a neat tool they are now using at the Center. Member Robertson agreed and explained how she had used the app. The Trivia Night at the Adult Center was fun and the Recipe Exchange event was successful. Member Robertson commented that the fitness classes were fantastic.

## **E. REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS) – cont'd**

3. **Consider Approval to Recommend the Contracting Out of a Company to Reanalyze Trees in All the City Parks.** Director Burress provided information on how prior assessments of Park trees had been done. He had started exploring getting a company to come in to do a current analysis of trees. He also mentioned the possibility of getting a City Arborist in the future. The Parks Department normally plants 3-5 trees for every tree taken down. Trees at the Zoo nursery and the Parks tree farm would be utilized for planting. Member Edwards motioned to recommend the contracting out of a company to reanalyze trees in all the City parks; Member Joyce seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Members Mathison and Sanders being absent.

## **F. NON-ACTION ITEMS – cont'd**

5. **Report on Zoo.** Director Wright gave the Zoo report. Attendance was up 35% from this time last year. They had received a donation of \$25,000. Two bear experts came to the Zoo to provide input on a new exhibit design and how to improve the welfare of the bears in their current structure. The elk had been relocated into a new enclosure. There had been lot of cleaning going on. Two new Keepers had started and were being trained. US Fish & Wildlife and OSHA had been at the Zoo. Other events for the month were gone over, as well as the status of the butterfly garden.

6. **Report on Parks Department.** Director Burress gave the Parks report. The Parks Department would be planting several trees on Friday. Roswell had been named Tree City USA for 32 years now. Upcoming updates at the bird sanctuary were gone over. 70-80 bats had been removed from a home by Animal Control and relocated to the Waste Water Treatment Plant area. An update for the golf course was given. Member Robertson

inquired about the follow-up meeting that was supposed to have happened after the Golf meeting at the Rec Center. Member Joyce asked about the carousel bench renovations and funding/fund raising for the carousel. Director Wright provided plans and prices regarding the carousel renovation and possibly using the lead horse at businesses to get donations. The Friends of the Zoo are wanting to assist with funding and fund raising. Director Burress gave the status of Carpenter Park and details on the Virginia/Chisum Park project.

7. **Explore Future Goals**. The Park Department's goals were: trees/tree canopies, solidifying playgrounds and continued work on the trails, the bird sanctuary, and the area where the pool used to be. Member Joyce commented about the trail connection still not being done. Member Robertson asked about the resurfacing of the tennis courts.

## **H. ADJOURN**

Member Edwards motioned to adjourn the meeting, Member Robertson seconded; a voice vote was unanimous, and the motion passed with Members Mathison and Sanders being absent.

The meeting ended at 6:32 p.m.

Next Commission meeting: June 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.