

MINUTES OF THE SPRING RIVER ZOO REVIEW COMMITTEE
City Hall - 425 N. Richardson
August 5, 2019 - 4:30 PM

Call to Order

Committee Chair, Angela Moore called the August 5, 2019 meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following were present:

Members: Committee Chair, Councilor Angela Moore, Councilor Jacob Roebuck, Councilor Judy Stubbs, and Staff Liaison, Marge Woods.

Staff present: Joe Neeb, City Manager; Mike Matthews, Deputy City Manager; Juan Fuentes, Administrative Services Director; Aaron Holloman, City Attorney; Jim Burrell, Parks Director; Marge Woods, Zoo Superintendent; Andrea Cole, Head Zookeeper; Amy Youngren, Zookeeper; and Lisa Bennett, Administrative Assistant.

Public present: Jeanine Best, City Counselor; Kerry Moore, Vicky Burgess, Don Weld, Friends of Spring River Zoo and Allison Penn, Roswell Daily Record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Roebuck motioned to approve the agenda with the change to move Action Item 6 to Action Item 1, no members seconded.

Member Stubbs motioned to approve the agenda as presented; Chair Moore was the second, a voice vote was two 2-1, the motion passed with Member Roebuck voting no.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Member Roebuck motioned to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2019 meeting, member Stubbs was the second. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion of requested Traffic Count Completion – Joe Neeb, City Manager
Joe Neeb presented the traffic counts from 2015 (June 17-23) to this year (June 14-20), averages on a week-by-week comparison. Numbers are slightly lower this year due to the change in Zoo open hours, less two hours a day and being closed on Tuesdays every week.
3. Discussion of separation of Spring River Park from Zoo – Joe Neeb, City Manager
Joe Neeb presented to the Committee the current Zoo mission statement, an overview map of the property and the masterplan. Several options for separating the Park and Zoo were discussed as well as reasons not to separate the two. Member Roebuck suggested a presentation from staff of the costs associated with ticketing at the gate.
4. Discussion of the name of Zoo
Joe Neeb presented to the committee that it has been suggested that the Zoo be renamed for rebranding purposes. Several options were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Status Update on big cat exhibit

Joe Neeb presented to the committee the financial expectations for the Jaguar exhibit, based on the masterplan and final engineering plans. Conceptual drawings were shown to give the committee a better idea of what is expected to actually look like. Total project cost is \$500,000, donations already received, \$208,000, funding still needed, \$291,000. Member Roebuck made a motion to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee to make a budget amendment to fund the Jaguar exhibit from cash on hand in the amount of \$291,156.61, member Stubbs was the second. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

6. Closed session pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H (2), to discuss limited personnel matters relating to zoo staff

Jim Burress, Director of Parks stated that he has frustration when councilors get this far into the weeds, it is concerning and doesn't believe the council should be able to speak about personnel. Member Roebuck stated that the closed session is for the benefit of the personnel.

Member Stubbs made a motion that the Spring River Zoo Review Committee go into Closed Session pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H (2), to discuss limited personnel matters relating to the Zoo staff, Member Roebuck was the second.

Roll call vote was as follows: Councilor Roebuck-yes, Councilor Stubbs-yes, and Councilor Moore-yes.

FOR THE RECORD: the Spring River Zoo Review Committee came back in open session at 7:21 pm; they had a closed session pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H (2), to discuss limited personnel matters relating to the Zoo staff. No action was taken, and no votes were cast.

CHAIR COMMENTS / REPORTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Moore stated that the Committee have missed a few meetings, perhaps the committee can make them up, as it was originally stated this was a temporary committee and there will be limited meetings. The next scheduled meeting is a holiday, Chair Moore suggested moving it to the next Monday, September 9, 2019.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Vicky Burgess, thanked the recreation center for bringing the vacation fun kids out to the Zoo. Thank you to the Zoo staff and Rudy Chavez for all their help with the different activities.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Next Committee meeting: September 9, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.