

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2011

3:45 P.M.

Councilman Gilbert, Chairman, called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order with Councilpersons Robinson, Murphy, Rico, Scott, Benson and McGary present. City Attorney Phil Noblett and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Chief Flynn, Chief Whitmire, Richard Beeland, Dickie Hutsell, Larry Zehnder, Dardee Long, Alice Cannelli, Mike Patrick, Tony Boyd, Lee Norris, Steve Leach, Gary Hilbert, Dennis Malone, Bill Payne, Susan DuBose, Jean Smith, Paul Page, Justin Holland, Greg Haynes, and John Bridger.

REVIEW BY FRIENDS OF THE ZOO

Mr. Zehnder stated that they had a Friends of the Zoo Presentation today; that late last year an agreement was entered into with Friends of the Zoo for the operation of the Chattanooga Zoo, and the stipulations said that before March 1st, an Annual Report and Budget was to be presented, showing the estimated gross revenue. He went on to say that the City Council may provide comments and suggestions and can disapprove the Budget; that their responsibility was to provide the Council with the Budget which calls for a \$639,000 contribution to Friends of the Zoo to operate the facility. He stated that a full report would be given on the activity and the payment of the loan made to Friends of the Zoo by the City. He read from a section of the Agreement that calls for a payment of \$150,000 per year to be made, which is due by July 1, 2011. He went over the provisions of the Loan Agreement, again stating that they were obligated to present the Budget and that Dardee Long was her to present this Budget and to tell the Council about the accomplishments during the last year.

Ms. Long presented a power point presentation but first presented this year's payment of \$150,000 to the City as a gesture of good will. It was given to Dan Johnson. She went on to say that this had been a good year for the Zoo, mentioning the Jaguar Exhibit and new species. She stated that this was the first time they had provided an annual report and were continuing their philosophy of "Indoor Spaces" and "Retreat Areas". She mentioned new species that had been introduced, including capybara and milk frogs. She mentioned a tremendous amount of programs that they were involved in, with 15,000 participants and noted that they did all this with a Staff of three. She noted that they had hired a new Visitor Service Manager that was running the new gift shop and also an Activity Events Planner. She showed pictures of their Staff, also mentioning a new Camp Coordinator. She stated that their Conservation Program continued to grow.

Next, she went into the Budget, stating that she would have copies for the Council at a later date. She showed their revenue sources and also expenditures, mentioning challenges for 2011. The current contract with the City of Chattanooga and Friends of the Zoo calls for an appropriation of \$639,000 to be continued each year. The overall budget is \$1,569,585.22, and the request from the City is \$677,238. There are capital donations of \$505,000, and the City's match is \$250,000.

She then covered a few more good things that have happened—twin tamarans and a baby snow leopard, which she stated was really growing. She noted that the baby snow leopard has quite a good caregiver. She ended by notation of a memory of Hank, stating that the Council had received his necropsy report. She stated that a lot of things had changed and they had many new positions.

On motion of Councilman McGary, seconded by Councilman Murphy, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.