

The officers were elected during a directors' meeting immediately following the general session.

Diana Nail was re-elected to serve as president of the local Chamber during 2011. Pam Farmer was named as vice president, while Lester Galbreath accepted the title of vice president of heritage tourism. Randall Palmore was selected executive secretary-treasurer.

Lauren Jo Edwards was appointed to replace director Robert Snyder, who recently resigned.

Other directors include: Lisa Barton, R.P. Mitchell, Steve Waller, Tammy Brown, Jim Law, Gayle Mikeska and Doyleen Terrell.

Also Brent Clegg, Jess Phillips, Lester Galbreath, and Treca Edgington. Chuck Senter serves as executive director.



JODY PATTERSON / ALBANY NEWS

Albany water plant supervisor David Bales scans a water sample with equipment in the high tech lab at the new water plant. Although there are still a few details to finish at the \$5.1 million facility, the plant is now producing water for Albany customers.

a major project go so smoothly as this one has," Russell said.

According to Russell, a plant of this nature is expected to last, with proper maintenance and repairs, at least "75 or so years."

Wall construction at the plant features 26 concrete wall panels, each weighing 70,000 pounds.

(See Water plant, pg. 8A)

Park project granted 60-day extension

◆ *Committee still seeking \$384,750 to satisfy match*

By Kathryn Stapp

The bad news is that the clock ran out on the Albany Park committee's efforts to raise \$1.5 million in cash and like kind donations by the Feb. 28 deadline.

Fortunately, the Abilene foundation that had promised a \$500,000 donation to the project if the Albany community could raise the additional \$1.5, believes in the park project so strongly that they have granted an extension. Albany has until the end of April to bring in an additional \$384,750.

"We are so close, and the foundation recognizes that, and

has agreed to a one time 60 day extension to bring in the \$1.5 million," said park committee member Gaye Davis. "This is a now or never deal for Albany. We stand to lose a huge opportunity if we let this slip away."

Davis indicated that there are other grants that may become available to the community if the city is able to pull off the three to one challenge with the Abilene foundation.

The total estimated park project is \$2 million. The Abilene foundation, with Albany ties, proposed that if supporters raise \$1.5 million in cash and like kind donations, the city will be given \$500,000 from the foundation. Committee members are encouraging everyone to make whatever contribution fits their budget.

The preliminary plan for the total park project, which is roughly estimated to cost \$2 million, was approved by the city council in September.

Since that time, committee members Amy Kelly, Kim Neece and Davis have been visiting potential individual donors and organizations to help boost local understanding and support of the project.

They are aware that the total amount of the project intimidates some potential contributors, but the organizers encourage current and former Albany residents, as well as those with local ties, to give what they can.

Proposed Project

Predictably, the pool and bathhouse are the most expensive items in the plan, estimated at a cost of about \$1.2 million.

According to Davis, the committee approached the design of the pool with the needs of the whole community in mind. There is a shallow area for toddlers, a swim area for water aerobics, swim lanes, a dive area and a slide.

"The reality is that we can

patch the existing pool for maybe one more summer before it will be unusable. We feel that every member of our community could benefit from this facility," Davis continued. "According to our research, the cost of the pool and bathhouse is comparable to other area communities who have also renovated their pools."


Also proposed for the park complex is a six-foot wide concrete lighted walking trail, a skateboard ramp, a revamped baseball/softball field with lighting and bleachers, a fitness station, basketball court, four soccer fields, a covered multi-use pavillion, improvements to the playground and sand volleyball court, picnic tables and grills, a horseshoe pit, tetherball pole, benches, water fountains and two paved parking areas.

Donations of any size may be mailed to: Park Project, City of Albany, PO Box 3248, Albany, TX 76430.

WEATHER WEEK

Feb. 22 - 28

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PREC.
2-22	N/A	N/A	
2-23	77	46	T
2-24	75	27	
2-25	53	27	
2-26	83	37	
2-27	90	39	
2-28	63	29	
Feb. total			0.55
Year-to-date total			0.87



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