



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2024

The Centre at University Park

Attendance: Ben France, James Ferstl, Samuel Ellis, Cannon Fletcher, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Quinten Whiteside, Quincy Grant

Absent: Linda Smith, Mike Bernardo, Ron Bara, City Director-Capi Peck

City Board of Director Liaison: City Director-Andrea Lewis

LRPR Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Administration Resources – Angela Nelson, Deputy Director Recreation – Shawanda Craig, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, City Attorney-Beth Carpenter, City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Safety and Training Coordinator-Courtney Perry, Parks Marketing and Social Media Coordinator-Brittany Nichols, Administrative Assistant-Parks Director-Mahogany Burkhalter

Welcome: Chairman France: Welcomed everyone. Called meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Eight (8) Commissioners in attendance out of Eleven (11) Commissioners in attendance. A Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman France asked for a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Ferstl made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Campbell. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication: Nolan with the Walton Heights Neighborhood Association presented a PowerPoint presentation to present the current design plan, to show the current design plan that the Neighborhood Association has decided to move forward with, and to discuss the fundraising plan through Kickstarter. They have currently raised \$11,872 and have set a goal for \$15,000. This will cover initial Phase 1 cost. They're currently starting the cleanup in the area. Park Director Couch spoke to how they can assist. He stated that he is supportive of the plan and maybe able to assist in some small aspects of the phasing.

Director's Presentation/Staff Reports/Events:

Staff Reports

- Commissioner Fletcher asked questions about the Summer Playground program.
 - ❖ Deputy Director of Recreation, Shawanda Craig will deliver report on Summer Playground program next meeting.



Director's Report

- Parks Director discussed the Maumelle Pinnacle Master Plan due to some of the Little Rock Parks that would be involved and impacted by this plan. Multiple agencies across the state are involved in this plan. The workgroup is asking for the Masterplan to be reviewed by the involved Stakeholders and would like to hear from the Parks Commissions. The review is due End of Next Week, 8/22.
- Nothing new has been presented to the BOD
- Will be taking the Two Rivers Trail project to the next BOD.
- The BOD meeting has been moved back to City Hall.
- The Parks Commission will continue to meet at Centre of University Park for now.
- The Sales tax Initiative has passed review with the BOD. There has been an updated to the \$60 million Sports Complex in which \$5 million was reallocated for Infrastructure & Garbage trucks. Initiative is now cleared to be added to the Ballot and will be voted on in the November 2024 election. Parks Commission can continue to support by sharing on their social media and sending to the Sales Tax Website.
- Chairman Ben France recognized Commissioner Chemia Woods and Commissioner Samuel Ellis for their assistance and speaking in favor of the Sales Tax at the last BOD meeting.
- City Director Lewis asked for an update on Boyle Park. Director Couch provided an update on Boyle, Pankey, and Kiwanis Park.

Unfinished Business

- Parks Commission Chair-Letter of Support.
 - ❖ Chairman France thanks the Parks Commission for their support of the letter
- Sales Tax Initiative
 - ❖ Wants to the Parks Commission to come up with ideas of what they can do to help. (Ex. Writing a Letter to the Paper, Parks Q&A Pop-up)
 - ❖ Discussion about New Ideas to address any misinformation.
- Parks Marketing and Social Media Coordinator-Brittany Nichols – Spoke about the updates that she has been working on to the support the Sales Tax Initiative on the website and in the centers.

New Business

- Subcommittee Chairs/Member Appointments
 - ❖ Masterplan Committee - Chair - JT Ferstl, Linda Smith, Mike Bernardo, Samuel Ellis, Cannon Fletcher. Vote passed.
 - ❖ Parks Conservancy - Chair Samuel Ellis, Ben France, Summer Campbell. Vote Passed



- ❖ Social Media – Chair Quinten Whiteside, Chemia Woods, Quincy Grant, Ron Bara. Vote Passed.
- Subcommittee Chair/Member requirements and responsibilities.
 - ❖ By-laws discussed. Sr. Deputy City Attorney Beth Carpenter provided insight on this subject and advised of how to properly setup/facilitate meetings.
 - ❖ Requests for the Sr. Deputy Attorney to send out a Do's and Don't for emailing and meetings.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Deputy Director of Recreation – Summer Playground Program presentation
- Sales tax Initiative
- How can the Parks Commission assist the Sales Tax initiative/forming a Coalition Committee. (Ex. Writing a Letter to the Paper, Parks Q&A Pop-up)
- New Commission Ideas
- Pickleball Tournament

Board Liaison Feedback

- Thanks to the LRPR Commission
- Highlighted West Central Football Clinic
- Happy with the progress and responsiveness regarding Boyle Park and Kiwanis Park construction and progress.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:58 pm