



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

The Centre at University Park

Attendance: James Ferstl, Samuel Ellis, Cannon Fletcher, Linda Smith, Mike Bernardo, Summer Campbell, Quinten Whiteside, Chemia Woods

Absent: Ben France, Ron Bara, Quincy Grant, City Director-Capi Peck, 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, Susie Matheny-Recreation Facility Supervisor, Courtney Perry-Safety and Training Coordinator, Parks Marketing and Social Media Coordinator-Brittany Nichols, Administrative Assistant-Parks Director-Mahoganey Burkhalter

Welcome: Vice Chairman Ferstl welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 12:03 pm.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Eight (8) Commissioners out of Eleven (11) Commissioners in attendance. A Quorum was initially established with Six (6).

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Ferstl asked for a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Smith made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Campbell. Commissioner Bernardo asked for minutes to be amended to reflect a name change from Parks Directory to Features Directory. Commissioner Smith Amended motion reflect change. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Campbell. Motion Carried.

Citizen Communication: No Citizen Communication

Staff Reports/Director's Presentation/Events:

Staff Reports:

No questions regarding Staff reports.

Director's Report:

Director Couch presented on the following:

- Clifton family donation of 5 acres adjacent to Rimmel Park. Parks has accepted the donation. Will take to BOD for final approval.
- Senior Facility construction plan has been completed and is in the process of being put out to bid. Will take to BOD for final approval once bid is complete.



- Working on Reservoir Park Road improvement repairs. Was initially approved but lost FEMA funding. Looking forward to working with Public Works to get road repaired.
- Western Hill's construction project is ongoing.
- Working to get out several RFP's
- Working to get out RFP for Arkansas River Trail for concession based on public proposal.
- Reference to the NPRA conference that was attended by Parks and Recreation Leadership
- Introduction of New Recreation Program Coordinator – Leon Harrs

Events:

- Squatch til up drop Trail Run – 5k/Endurance Run – 11/16/24
- McArthur Museum – Dog Park Shade Structure Design Contest reception – 11/13/24
- After School Programs
- Christmas Parties at the Recreation centers
- MacArthur Museum - Christmas Recital

Presentation:

Deputy Director of Operations Justin Dorsey – Update on Bond funds and expense

- Commissioner Fletcher asked if the funds for the River Market for the Playground Structure
- Commissioner Woods asked if they could see the plans for the River Market before, they're finalized.
- Commissioner Bernardo asked for a summary of how Bonds evolve.

Unfinished Business:

- Subcommittee Reports
 - ❖ Social Media Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Whiteside gave report.
- New Commission Ideas for 2025
 - ❖ No new ideas submitted. Will table to next meeting.
- Letters of Support
 - ❖ Will table until Chairman France returns.
- Parks and Recreation Dashboard – Commissioner Mike Bernardo
 - ❖ Commissioner Bernardo presented a report on the information that the Dashboard would provide.
- Vote on Social Media Subcommittee name change – Committee Chair - Commissioner Quinten Whiteside.
 - ❖ Sr. Deputy Atty Carpenter advised that this would be a vote to amend the name of the Social Media committee to the Marketing committee in the bylaws. Vice Chairman Ferstl asked for a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to amend the bylaws. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Woods.



- ❖ Sr. Deputy Atty Carpenter – stated that she would have the bylaws completed by the next Commission meeting.

New Business:

- Bond Funds discussion – Parks Director Leland Couch
 - ❖ Referred to previous presentation and will proceed forward with the way that they've been processing Bonds.
- Post Sales Tax/Election discussion
 - ❖ Discussion about the Sales Tax initiative and the plan on how to proceed moving forward. Advised that they have requested revenue from the BOD and will wait to hear back.
- Parks Newsletter – Brittany Nichols/Leland Couch - Please list the top three (3) things gathered from the meeting.
 - ❖ Commissioner Smith-Bonds Funds
 - ❖ Commissioner Fletcher-Inhouse design

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Subcommittee Reports
- 2025 New Commission Ideas
- Extending Meeting Time – Commissioner Smith
- Letters of Support
- Parks & Recreation Dashboard Update – M&M Coord - Brittany Nichols
- Budget Update Parks Director - Leland Couch

Meeting Adjourned at 1:13 pm