



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2026
Little Rock City Hall

Attendance: Quinten Whiteside, Chemia Woods, Cannon Fletcher, Summer Campbell, Samuel Ellis, Nolan Hughes

Absent: Amber Tiegen

City Board of Director Liaison: City Director-Andrea Lewis, City Director-Capi Peck

LRPR/LRCAO Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, Deputy Director of Recreations-Shawanda Craig, Deputy City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Safety and Training Coordinator-Courtney Perry, Administrative Assistant to the Parks Director-Mahogany Burkhalter, Parks Data and Marketing Coordinator-Graham Brown, Secretary-Kyndall Richardson, City Marathon Mgr-Geneva Lamm, Marathon Coordinator-Amber Henson

Welcome: Chairman Whiteside welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 11:50 am.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Six (6) Commissioners are present. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Whiteside asked for a motion to approve March 2026 minutes. Commissioner Hughes made 1st motion. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Woods. Vote passed. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication:

Director's Reports

Staff Reports:

- No Staff Report questions

BOD Agenda Items:

- Bill Clark Wetland Improvement
- RTP Grant for Boat launch – River Mtn Park
- Reservoir Ballfield Project - FEMA
- Extension of the Natural Stepps Lease
- ELR Facility Improvement Grounds Work Lease
- Tri Creek Greenway Lease
- Fouche Bottoms, Friends of Fouche Lease
- Sculpture Relocation from Main St. to Rebsamen Golf
- Reservoir Park
- JDFAC-Roof Replacement
- Merriweather Park New Playground – Hall High NA
- Murray Park Replacement



- Riverfront Park New Addition
- Southside Park Replacement

Events:

- Director Events – Leland Couch – Parks Director
 - Masterplan work for Hindman Park – Mtg April 27th
 - UAMS LR Open – May 24th – May 31st
- Parks and Rec Events – Graham Brown – Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator
 - MacArthur Park 5K, May 1st – MacArthur Park
 - Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival, May 1st – Barton Coliseum
 - Family Fun Fest – West Central Community Ctr, April 18th – West Central Community Ctr.
- Parks Commission Subcommittee Reports
 - Parks Conservancy meeting has met yet.
 - Commissioner Campbell
 - ❖ Meeting is next week at 11:30 am – Hindman Park
 - Marketing – No Updates, No Marketing Chair
 - Masterplan – No Updates
- Presentations
 - LRM Marathon Review – City Marathon Manager – Geneva Lamm gave Presentation
 - Beyond the Divide – Ernest Banks - They didn't attend or present
 - Presentation Selection for Next Meeting - Not discussed or decided at this time

Unfinished Business:

- Vacancies – Available Positions/New Applications (Please promote)
 - Vote on Application – Ryne Pruitt.
 - Chairman Whiteside asked for Motion for approval of Ryne Pruitt's Application. Commissioner Ellis made a Motion for approval. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Campbell. Vote Passed. Motion carries. Name will be forwarded to the BOD for Appointment.
 - Letter Request – Director asked that the Parks Commission write a letter to request expediting request for available positions.
 - Chairman Whiteside asked for Motion for the Commission to prepare a letter and to send to the City Clerk. Commissioner Ellis made a motion. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Hughes. Vote Passed. Motion carried.
 - Chairman Whiteside will write letter and bring before the Commission for approval to send to the City Clerk.
- BOD Presentation Review
 - Chairman Whiteside stated that it went well.



- Parks Commission Retreat Vote
 - Deputy City Atty Simone Blagg, stated that the word vote should be omitted.
 - Chairman Whiteside gave a brief summary.
 - Will send Retreat meeting minutes out.
 - Deputy City Atty Simone Blagg, stated that there is no need to vote on the summary.
 - Site visit to Fouche Creek suggested as the first visit. Commissioner Ellis will guide and assist with Float.
 - Commissioner Ellis will check on watershed and storm run off first and will put dates together.
 - Morehart Park was also another suggested site visit.

New Business:

- Park Stories – Parks Director/Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator
 - Encourage the Parks Commission to tell more stories throughout the year.
 - **Congratulations Chenell Tucker for Parks Employee of the Year!!!**
 - Parks Director, spoke about starting new quarterly program for Employee recognition.
- Subcommittee Assignments
 - Parks Conservancy subcommittee Chair. Commissioner Ellis stated that he would like to step down as Chair. Chairman Whiteside as for a nomination. Summer Campbell was suggested.
 - Vice Chairperson Woods made a motion to nominate Commissioner Campbell as Chair. Commissioner Campbell accepted the nomination. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Hughes. Vote passed. Motion Carries.
 - Marketing subcommittee Chair. Chairman Whiteside as for a nomination.
 - Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to nominate Vice Chairperson Woods for Chair of the Marketing subcommittee. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Ellis. Vote passed. Motion carries.
 - Will complete subcommittee members' selections next meeting.
- Parks Commission Meeting Time
 - Chairman Whiteside asked for a motion to change the meeting time back to 12 pm. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to change the meeting time back to 12 pm. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Woods. Vote passed motion carried.
 - Please RSVP.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- No Discussion.

Board – liaison Feedback

- City Director Andrea Lewis – Kudos for Deputy Director Justin Dorsey for his work with the West Central NA and the Community Garden and there will be a kickoff later.

Adjournment:

- Meeting Adjourned at 12:37 pm.