



## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

January 14, 2026  
Little Rock City Hall

**Attendance:** Ben France, Quinten Whiteside, Mike Bernardo, Cannon Fletcher, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Amber Tiegen, Nolan Hughes

**Absent:** Samuel Ellis

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

**LRPR/LRCAO Staff:** Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Administration-Angela Nelson, 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

**Welcome:** Chairman France welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 11:51 am.

**Roll Call:** Roll call completed. Seven (7) Commissioners present. Quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman France asked for a motion to approve January 2026 minutes. Vice Chairman Whiteside made 1<sup>st</sup> motion. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Campbell. Vote passed. Motion carried.

**Citizen Communication:** None

### **Director's Presentation/Staff Reports/Events:**

#### Staff Reports:

- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher – asked about Organizational Safety report.
  - Coordinator Courtney Perry discussed the breakdown in his report.
- ❖ Commissioner Woods – asked about the open Social Media Specialist position & asked for more data regarding Parks employee management processes.
  - Director Couch discussed where they were in hiring and asked Coordinator Graham Brown to give information regarding who they were using to fulfill the role. Deputy Director Angela Nelson discussed the employment process and will provide more information at the next meeting in February.

#### Director's Report:

- ❖ BOD Items:
  - Otter Creek Soccer field Contract
  - Pedestrian Bridge project
  - 30 Crossing project
  - ELR facility lease
  - Saferooms project



- Natural Stepps lease expansion
- MacArthur Dog Park
- ❖ Coordinator-Graham Brown – In the process of working on Accreditation for Parks and will apply in Spring 2026.
- ❖ New Commissioner Introductions.
  - Amber Tiegen
  - Nolan Hughes

#### Events:

- ❖ State of the City – January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ❖ Deck Park - Community Engagement Meeting – January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ❖ Disc Golf Course event – January 31<sup>st</sup>

#### Presentation:

- ❖ Presentation – Parks Director Leland Couch – 30 Crossing

#### Unfinished Business:

- ❖ Subcommittee Reports
  - Masterplan Subcommittee Report– Commissioner Fletcher - No Masterplan Subcommittee meeting was held. No update at this time.
  - Marketing Subcommittee Report –Vice Chairman Whiteside had No Update. They weren't able to meet.
  - Parks Conservancy Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Ellis was absent today. Parks Director attended and gave an update.
- ❖ Presentation list discussion/Selection for the next meeting.
  - Wasn't discussed, we will add an update later based on what was requested during the course of the meeting.
- ❖ Subcommittee Assignments/Subcommittee Chair/ Subcommittee Chair Procedure.
  - Subcommittees and the process were explained to the new Commissioners. No new assignments at this time.
- ❖ Commissioner Retreat Dates – Deputy City Atty Blagg.
  - Chairman France asked about the Facilitator. Discussed their role for the upcoming retreat. An Agenda for the retreat was requested.
- ❖ Chair – Vice Chair Discussion – Election
  - Will table until New Business.
- ❖ Vacancy Discussion/Commissioner Ellis Update/Commissioner Knight Removal
  - Discussed addition of new Commissioners and encouraged the Commissioners to continue getting the information out about the vacancies on the Parks Commission.



- ❖ Parks Commission Presentation to the BOD
  - Chairman France discussed what was presented to them previously by Coordinator Brown at the last meeting and how helpful it was.

#### New Business:

- ❖ Vote for Retreat Day being on January 28, 2026
  - Commissioner Whiteside made a motion to have the Retreat on January 28, 2026.
  - Commissioner Fletcher asked about why the meeting wasn't an official meeting.
  - Commissioner Whiteside restated the motion. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Campbell. Vote Passed. Motion Carried
- ❖ BOD Presentation – (Does this need to be moved to a later date)
  - Commissioner Bernardo made a statement about what the BOD presentation is.
  - Commissioner Whiteside asked if the BOD presentation date has been confirmed. Deputy Atty Blagg was absent. Asst. Mahogany Burkhalter advised that she will get confirmation on that.
- ❖ Commissioner Cannon Fletcher - Request to make Dashboard presentation. Will have to be submitted to Parks prior to meeting.
  - Commissioner Bernardo discussed the Dashboard and what it shows.
  - Commissioner Fletcher delivered a presentation on a Dashboard that he created. He pulled data from the reports.
- ❖ Commissioner Kemp Resignation. **Thank you for your service. You will be missed!**
- ❖ Commissioner Mike Bernardo last meeting, parting words. **Thank you for your hard work and service. You will be missed!**
- ❖ Chairman Ben France last meeting, parting words. **Thank you for your hard work and service. You will be missed!**
- ❖ Chair/Vice Chair Election
  - Commissioner Whiteside nominated himself for Chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Woods. Vote passed. Motion passed.
  - Commissioner Fletcher nominated Commissioner Woods for Vice Chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Whiteside. Vote Passed. Motion carried.
  - **New Chair of Parks Commission is Quinten Whiteside. New Vice Chair of Parks Commission is Chemia Woods. Congratulations!!!**

#### Agenda items for next meeting:

- ❖ Commissioner Woods asked about an ongoing update about the 30 Crossing. Director Couch extended an invite to join the Masterplan Subcommittee.
- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher – extended an invitation to join the Masterplan Subcommittee. Director Couch asked if an agenda can be sent to Asst. Burkhalter prior to the meeting.



Board – liaison Feedback

- ❖ City Director Andrea Lewis welcomed the new Commissioners and praised the outgoing Commissioners for their commitment and hard work.

Adjournment:

- ❖ Commissioner Whiteside made a motion to adjourn at 12:59 pm. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Chairman Whiteside Vote passed. Motion carried.
- ❖ Meeting Adjourned at 1:07 pm.