



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026

Little Rock City Hall

Attendance: Quinten Whiteside, Chemia Woods, Cannon Fletcher, Summer Campbell, Nolan Hughes, Amber Tiegen

Absent: Samuel Ellis, City Director-Andrea Lewis, City Director-Capi Peck

City Board of Director Liaison:

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, Darryl Marbley-Recreation Programs Coordinator, Michael Simmons-Outdoor Recreation Coordinator

Welcome: Chairman Whiteside welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm.

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

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

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

Citizen Communication: Bob Hinn – Made a Kick Golf in War Memorial Park presentation to the Parks Commission.

Director's Reports

Staff Reports

- No Staff Report questions

BOD Agenda Items

- Rebsamen Tennis Resurfacing
- HVAC – JDFAC & Dunbar CC
- Maintenance Contracts – 30 Contracts Rebid – Two of the Three Zones – ZMD
- River mountain Boat Launch approval to apply for Grant
- Locker Room HVAC – JDFAC
- Senior Facility Fitness Equip
- Musco Lights – Interstate Parks – Fields 4, 5, & 6 – TCD Funds



Highlights

- New Playgrounds – Southside Park, Allsopp Park, Murray Park, Riverfront Park, Reservoir Park.
- Completed Hindman Park Masterplan 2025. Working with Hindman Park NA on Package of Improvements.
- All four (4) Splash Pads will be opening soon by Memorial Day

Events

- Director Events – Leland Couch – Parks Director
 - UAMS LR Open – May 24th – May 31st
 - Sculpture Selection Event – Findley Vinson Plaza – Infront of the Doubletree – Selection of new LR Parks Sculpture via the River Market Sculpture Committee.
- Parks and Rec Events – Graham Brown – Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator
 - Dancing at Dusk - Free and Open to the Public – May 21st & June 18th
 - LR Trail Run by Fleet Feet – War Memorial Park – June 3rd – 6pm. LR Parks & Rec Benefit.
 - LR Parks Summer Day Camp Registration is Open.
- Parks Commission Subcommittee Reports
 - Parks Conservancy – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Summer Campbell
 - Meeting was cancelled. Commissioner Campbell gave notes from previously held meeting.
 - They're having a fundraiser with Hall NA for Merriweather Park.
 - They declined the land donation near Hindman Park.
 - They're working on the Passport Program. Provided literature will be sent out for next meeting.
 - Marketing – No Updates
 - Masterplan – No Updates
- Presentations
 - Summer Playground Program – Recreation Programs Coordinator – Darryl Marbley & Outdoor Recreation Coordinator – Michael Simmons.

Unfinished Business

- Letter Request – The letter was supposed to be drafted but the City Clerk's office is consolidating the Parks Commissioner's application appointments. Boards and Commission appointments should be completed in June 2026. Looking to having the new commissioners in place by the July 2026 meeting.
- Subcommittee Assignments – Chairman Whiteside made assignments. Once assignments were made. Chairman Whiteside asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes made a motion. Motion was Second by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.



- Parks Conservancy Subcommittee: Chair Commissioner Summer Campbell, Commissioner Samuel Ellis
 - Masterplan Subcommittee: Chair Commissioner Cannon Fletcher, Commissioner Masterplan
 - Marketing Subcommittee: Chair Commissioner Chemia Woods, Commissioner Nolen Hughes.
- Parks Commission Retreat – Review. Vice Chair confirmed that the retreat will be in January 2027.

New Business Parks Commission

- Applications Status/Vacancies – Applications/Status – Discussed that the City Clerk will place all applications for membership on the June BOD Agenda. The Parks Commission approved Bill Beattle, Sharon Bennett, Rogers Yarnell, Ryne Pruitt to be submitted to the BOD for their final approval and appointment.
Chairman Whiteside asked for a motion for approval. Vice Chair Woods made a motion to approve the candidates and refer to the BOD for approval and appointment. Motion was Second by Commissioner Campbell. Vote passed. Motion Carried.
- UAMS LR Open – Attendance – Tues, May 26th-6pm. Discussed that Per Chip, the best day to come was on Tuesday, May 26th during the opening ceremony and sponsorship. Chairman Whiteside asked for a motion. Vice Chair Woods made a motion. Motion was second by Commissioner Tiegen. Vote passed. Motion Carried.
- Site Visit dates for Fouche Creek – Benny Craig Park Float – Commissioner Ellis was going to present on this and was unable to attend. Chairman Whiteside requested that this will stay on the New Business agenda so he can address it when he returns.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- No Discussion.

Board – liaison Feedback

- No City Director’s Present.

Adjournment:

- Meeting Adjourned at 1:04pm.