



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026
Little Rock City Hall

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

Absent: City Director-Capi Peck

City Board of Director Liaison: City Director-Andrea Lewis

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, Recreation Programs Coordinator (Athletics) – Darryl Marbley

Welcome: Chairman Whiteside welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 12:03 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 July 2026 minutes. Commissioner Hughes made 1st motion. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Fletcher. Vote passed. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication: Mike Bernardo discussed concerns about Pickleball court upkeep at Kanis Park.

Presentation: Presentations – Parks Summer Day Camp Recap – Deputy Director of Recreation – Shawanda Craig / Recreation Programs Coordinator (Athletics) – Darryl Marbley

Director's Reports:

Staff Reports

- Administrative Resources Report overview given by Parks Administrator - Angela Nelson
- Operations Report overview given by Deputy of Operations - Justin Dorsey
- Recreation Report overview given by Deputy of Recreation - Shawanda Craig.

Director's Presentation

- Highlights:
 - Working on purchasing a new Golf Mower
 - Bucket Truck replacement for Urban Forestry placed on the BOD agenda
 - 30 Crossing Park updates
 - Approved 2 Ordinances for the City agreement with the LR Chamber of Commerce.
 - Sasaki – Design firm agreement.
 - Working to get BOD approval to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Grant.



BOD Agenda Items

- Baroness Mower – Rebsamen Golf working w/ Fleet
- 30 Crossing Park

Events

- Director Events – Leland Couch – Parks Director
 - No high-profile events at this time.
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- Parks and Rec Events – Graham Brown – Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator
 - Youth flag football start - 8/17/2026
 - Youth Cheerleading start – 8/17/2026
 - Youth Volleyball start – 9/1/2026
 - Adult Fall Baseball at Interstate Park coming up – No Date
 - Sasquatch Race – October 2026
 - LR Marathon has many races slated for the Fall 2026 season
- Parks Commission Subcommittee Reports
 - Parks Conservancy – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Summer Campbell.
They have had two meetings since the last PCM. They are working on items. Was suggested that they come present and explain their role so they can work together with the PCM. They're in the process of preparing a presentation and will let Commissioner Campbell know when they're ready.
 - Marketing – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Chemia Woods.
Discussed ideas and stories that should be highlighted on the SM pages.
 - Masterplan – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Cannon Fletcher.
Discussed process of getting new masterplan started and the National Parks Association certification.

Unfinished Business:

- Parks Commission Applications Status/Vacancies – Letter to the City Clerk/Mayor Office.
 - Chairman Whiteside prepared a letter and asked Director Lewis if she could speak to the BOD regarding the issue and she stated that she would if it's not a part of the upcoming BOD Agenda. I advised that we have spoken with the City Clerk and that they have this issue slated to be on the August 18th BOD agenda.
- Site Visit dates for Fouche Creek – Benny Craig Park Float – Commissioner Ellis – Vote on dates and times.
 - Tentative Save the Date – 10/7/26 or 10/8/2026, 4pm – 6pm
 - Discussed times staying the same. Discussed access point as being Interstate Park. Commission requested that Operations do a pre-check. Will discuss during September meeting.
- March Retreat Discussion



New Business Parks Commission:

- No New Business discussed.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Request for the State to present on the topic of biking trails and all of the connection that have been added and updated, Director Couch stated that this is part of the Maumelle Pinnacle Masterplan and that the City of Little Rock is a Stakeholder.

Board – liaison Feedback:

- City Director – Andrea Lewis advised of upcoming events.
 - 1st Kids Fishing Derby - Kiwanis Park - September 19, 2026 – 9am – 1pm w/ Arkansas Game and Fish. (Request to add a reminder to the Upcoming Parks Commission Agenda)
 - 4th Annual Ward 6 Block Party – Kanis Park - November 7, 2026 (Request to add a reminder to the Upcoming Parks Commission Agenda)
- **Adjournment:**
 - Chairman Whiteside asked for motion to Adjourn.
 - Meeting Adjourned at 1:04pm.