Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026
Little Rock City Hall

Attendance: Quinten Whiteside, Cannon Fletcher, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Nolen Hughes, William Beattie, Ryne Pruitt, Rogers Yarnell

Absent: Samuel Ellis, City Director-Andrea Lewis

City Board of Director Liaison: 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-Mahoganey Burkhalter, Secretary-Kyndall Richardson Parks Data and Marketing Coordinator-Graham Brown, Office Assistant III-Ramona Smith

Welcome: Chairman Whiteside welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 12:06 pm.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Eight (8) Commissioners are present. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Whiteside asked for a motion to approve August 2026 Amended with the correction for the spelling of Commissioner Nolen Hughes name. Vice Chair Woods made 1st motion. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Fletcher. Vote passed. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication: No Citizen Communication.

Presentation: No Presentation – Suggestion to go over Retreat Discussion. Commission Chair Whiteside asked to work on getting in contact with 30 Crossing Project Manager-Katie Rutledge for the November Meeting. Parks Director suggested that we continue to work to secure Katherine Andrews with State Parks and the Commission agreed. Masterplan Subcommittee Chair – Cannon Fletcher suggested a presentation for their Capital Project Tracker.

Director's Reports:

Staff Reports

- Administrative Resources Report overview given by Parks Administrator - Angela Nelson
    - Introduced New Employees
        - Admin Asst – Preston Porter
        - Office Asst – Ramona Smith
- Operations Report overview given by Deputy of Operations - Justin Dorsey
- Recreation Report overview given by Deputy of Recreation - Shawanda Craig.

Director's Presentation

- BOD Agenda Items
  - 30 Crossing Park – Finalized Contract w/ Sasaki presented to the BOD.
  - Kanis Park Loop - TRP – Small Grant Approved
  - Urban Forestry – Bucket Trucks
    - Question about a Sasaki Presentation: Parks Director advised of options
    - Question about Dunbar Garden: Parks Director advised about the use of PTI funding for the Garden.
    - Question about Reservoir Park and a request for a ribbon cutting from Director Capi Peck. Parks Director provided an update.
    - Question about Kanis Park Loop – Director advised of TRP Grant and gave update on Tri Creek Greenway Project grant awarded.

Events

- Director Events – Leland Couch – Parks Director
  - Senior Facility Sneak Peek event at the End of the Month.

- Parks and Rec Events – Graham Brown – Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator
  - Logans Run Therapeutic Recreation w/ LR Marathon – War Memorial Park - 9/26/2026
  - Squash to you drop Trail Run – Allsopp Park – 3rd Year – 2-day event -
  - Creep N Crawl Run - LR Marathon – Two Rivers Park – 10/31/2026
  - 2nd Annual - Arkansas Salsa Festival – West Central Community Ctr – 10/17/2026 – 12pm
  - Ward 6th – 4th Annual – Kanis Park – 10am – 2pm - 11/07/2026

- Parks Commission Subcommittee Reports
  - Parks Conservancy – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Summer Campbell.
    The Parks Conservancy is preparing to present to the PCM. They will get back to us with a date. They will have a booth at Harvest Fest. Please become a "Friend of the Parks Conservancy". Passport program is on hold. They would like to meet with Parks to determine which parks to use. They're having meetings about War Memorial. They have a meeting on Friday, 9/11 at 2pm at Boulevard and Co in the Heights. Commissioner Campbell. Summer explained the CPC for the Parks Commission.
  - Marketing – Subcommittee Chair – Vice Chair Chemia Woods.
    Commissioner Hughes discussed ideas and stories that should be highlighted on the SM pages. He interviewed Sam Ellis to contribute to some of the stories for Parks and Rec SM. Commissioner Hughes asked questions about the T-shirt. Parks Director Couch explained how this was processed and what the vision is for these items. Commissioner Hughes asked about Outdoor Recreation and their program. The Director explained the differences and their separate programs.
  - Masterplan –Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Cannon Fletcher.

Commissioner Fletcher advised of what they're focusing on. He stated that they're looking at Capital Projects, New Masterplan, Parks Accreditation Process, 5-year Strategic Plan.

Unfinished Business:

- Parks Commission Applications Status/Vacancies
    - Chairman Whiteside advised that this has been taken care of.
- 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 that water level is low and will follow up with Commissioner Ellis. Will update PCM in between meetings due to Site Visit occurring prior to next meeting.

New Business Parks Commission:

- No New Business discussed.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- No new agenda items at this time.

Board – liaison Feedback:

- City Director – Capi Peck – reminder for Keep Arkansas Beautiful Annual Park Cleanup – 9/12/2026 – Saturday – Murry Park – 9am – 12 pm.
- **Adjournment:**
    - Chairman Whiteside Adjourned meeting at 1:09 pm.