



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2024

The Centre at University Park

Attendance: James Ferstl, Samuel Ellis, Linda Smith, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Quincy Grant, Quinten Whiteside

Absent: Ben France, Cannon Fletcher, Mike Bernardo, Ron Bara, City Director-Andrea Lewis

City Board of Director Liaison: City Director-Capi Peck

LRPR Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, City Attorney-Beth Carpenter, City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Safety and Training Coordinator-Courtney Perry, Data Special Programs Coordinator-Briana Hatfield, Parks Marketing and Social Media Coordinator-Brittany Nichols, Administrative Assistant-Parks Director-Mahoganey Burkhalter

Welcome: Vice Chairman Ferstl: Welcomed everyone. Called meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Seven (7) Commissioners in attendance out of Eleven (11) Commissioners in attendance. A Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ferstl asked for a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Linda Smith made a motion for approval of the minutes. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Whiteside.

Citizen Communication: Eva Woodward spoke about the restoration of Reservoir Park. She lives on Alvin Ln, located in Ward 4. She has attended prior community meetings and Commission meetings to understand the plan. She expressed both support and explained what her concerns were regarding the current restoration plan.

Ryne Pruitt with the Walton Heights Neighborhood Association presented a PowerPoint presentation to show where they were in the design process and to elicit feedback from the commission regarding their process moving forward. Parks Director was consulted and assisted with the plan. Invited the Parks Commission to the Pop-up Q&A on June 20th.

Director's Presentation: Director's Report: Parks Director covered items that were presented to the Board of Directors. Board Agenda Items to be voted on next week.

- Western Hills Project. Requested \$800,000. Have Legacy grant funds available.
- Dunbar Community Center Roof replacement. Request to use ARPA funds that are available and have to be used.
- Southwest Community Center Bid will be closing soon. Bid amount expected to be \$750,000 to \$850,000.



- Dunbar Community Center possible secondary request and West Central Ballfield Completion are items that will be going before the BOD. Parks has two (2) million dollars to use on improvements.

Staff Reports.

- Deputy Director Justin Dorsey gave an update on Reservoir Park.

Sales Tax Deferred questions to later on, in the agenda

Unfinished Business

- Subcommittees and the appointment of Chairs were discussed. Due to the Chair being out, request for Commission members to take time to decide what subcommittee they would like to serve on. Setting an expectation that every commission member is serving on a subcommittee. Tabled discussion to the next meeting as this is an ongoing issue.

New Business

- Sales Tax Initiative
 - ❖ Presentation given by Parks Director. Vice Chair discussed how the Parks Commission can support the Sales Tax Initiative. The Letter of Support drafted by the Commission Chair was discussed and will be sent out to the Commission and discussed at the next meeting. Director Peck voiced her support of providing a Letter of Support. Social Media Coordinator, Brittany Nichols shared where the Commission can find the links, from Presentation on the City of Little Rock website.
- Outdoor Recreation Grant
 - ❖ Discussed applying for the Outdoor Recreation grant. Discussed that this is a 50/50 matching grant. Looking to apply funds for the upgrade the Rebsamen Archery Range and adding a restroom to the location that will also benefit the Arkansas River Trail, Rebsamen Golf Course, and the Archery Range. Commissioner Linda made motion to approve this action. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Whiteside.

New Items for Next Meeting:

- Commissioners Subcommittees selections will be discussed/Appointment of Chairs for Subcommittee.
- Sales Tax Initiative discussion

Board Liaison Feedback

Director Peck advised that Sales Tax Initiative discussion should be ongoing and on every agenda until the election. Discussion about a possible special meeting if needed to be called prior to the next Parks Commission Meeting. City Attorney Beth Carpenter advised that an electronic communication is not an option but there is an option to call a Special meeting if needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm