



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2024

The Centre at University Park

Attendance: Ben France, James Ferstl, Samuel Ellis, Linda Smith, Mike Bernardo, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Quinten Whiteside

Absent: Cannon Fletcher, Ron Bara, Quincy Grant, City Director-Andrea Lewis, City Director-Capi Peck

LRPR Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Recreation – Shawanda Craig, 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-Mahogany Burkhalter

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

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Eight (8) Commissioners in attendance out of Eleven (11) Commissioners in attendance. A Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman France asked for a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Ellis made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication: Ryne Pruitt with the Walton Heights Neighborhood Association presented a PowerPoint presentation to present the current design plan, to show the current design plan that the Neighborhood Association has decided to move forward with, and to discuss the fundraising plan through Kickstarter. There will be three (3) Phases of development pending the results of the fundraiser. They're looking to raise \$10,000 for Phase 1. They have currently raised \$5200. Parks Director attended a community Q&A on June 20th. Parks Director advised that LRPR supports this initiative and will step in to assist with maintenance and upkeep due to this being property that is already owned by the LRPR.

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.

- Sales Tax Initiative – Mayor will ask for BOD to vote on placing Sales Tax Initiative up for vote in November at the next Board meeting.
- RFQ for The Downtown Master Plan – Focus on designing I-30 crossing Park. Will be reviewed later this month. The design has been funded from ARPA funds. The funds to implement is 10 million from the Sales Tax Initiative, pending the election outcome. LRP is partnering with Central Arkansas Library System and Museum of Discovery for the



area. Question about why a separate fundraising foundation was suggested for the downtown partnership. The recommendation came from the Downtown Masterplan design group.

- Outdoor Recreation grant was discussed last night and will be voted on Next Week.
- Rebsamen Golf Course – new fiber placement – Funded through ARPA funds
- Dunbar Community Center Roof replacement. - \$160,000 cost. Approved by BOD.
- Southwest Community Center - \$700,000 project. Approved by BOD
- Western Hills improvement project - \$800,000. Approved by BOD. Continuation of Legacy grant.
- All funds being used right now are ARPA and grants funds at this time outside of LRPR regular maintenance funds.

Staff Reports.

- Staff Updates
 - ❖ Deputy Director Angela Nelson is currently out on leave.
 - ❖ LaShawna Dean is currently assisting as Acting Deputy for Administration
 - ❖ Yolanda Rainey is the new Revenue Compliance Analyst.
- No Presentations

Unfinished Business

- New Subcommittee Chair Appointments & Subcommittee Presentation/Discussion/Overview-5 mins limit
 - Determination made that Chairs will be selected today by Chairman France and committee members will be added next meeting.
 - ❖ J.T. Ferstl appointed as Masterplan Committee Chair.
 - ❖ Quinten Whiteside appointed as Social Media Committee Chair.
 - ❖ Samuel Ellis appointed as Parks Conservancy Committee Chair.
- Sales Tax Initiative

New Business

- Sales Tax Initiative Chairman France suggestion for the Parks Commission to show support by sending a Letter of Support.
- Letter of Support – Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the Letter of Support in favor of the Sales Tax Initiative. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Whiteside. Motion carried.

New Items for Next Meeting:

- Subcommittee member selection.

Board Liaison Feedback

- No Board Liaison Feedback.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:44 pm