



## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

January 15, 2025

The Centre at University Park

**Attendance:** Ben France, James Ferstl, Samuel Ellis, Cannon Fletcher, Mike Bernardo, Summer Campbell, Quinten Whiteside

**Absent:** Ron Bara, Chemia Woods, Quincy Grant, City Director-Capi Peck, City Director-Andrea Lewis

**City Board of Director Liaison:** City Director-BJ Wyrick

**LRPR/LRCAO Staff:** Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Administration Resources-Angela Nelson, Deputy Director Recreation-Shawanda Craig, Deputy City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Courtney Perry-Safety and Training Coordinator, Administrative Assistant-Parks Director-Mahogany Burkhalter, Kyndall Richardson-Secretary, Savannah Wells-Secretary

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

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman France asked for a motion to approve November 2024 minutes & December 2024 minutes. Commissioner Campbell made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Fletcher. Motion carried

**Citizen Communication:** Ryne Pruitt w/ Walton Heights

### **Staff Reports/Director's Presentation/Events:**

#### Director's Presentation:

Director Couch presented on the following:

- Budget Approval Review
  - ❖ Commissioner Fletcher asked City Director Wyrick questions regarding the Budget review, Bond usage and ARPA funding.
- Parks – Year in Review Highlights – 2024 by Marketing & Media Coordinator - Brittany Nichols. Presented by Parks Director -Leland Couch
  - ❖ Request to send out Year End Presentation to the Parks Commission
  - ❖ Commissioner Fletcher asked questions about Kiwanis Park opening.

#### Presentation:

- No Presentation.



#### Unfinished Business:

- Subcommittee Reports
  - ❖ Masterplan Subcommittee – Chair-JT Ferstl stated that they will have a standing meeting – the hour before each Commission Meeting.
  - ❖ Marketing Subcommittee – Chair Quinten Whiteside Completed Exit Interview w/ Media & Marketing Coordinator Brittany Nichols and received a lot of great ideas and feedback to use going forward.
  - ❖ Parks Conservancy Subcommittee – Chair Sam Ellis – advised that they’re working to get a meeting schedule setup.
- Post Sales Tax Discussions – Agenda item has been covered and discussed previously.
- Commission Ideas/Goals for 2025
  - ❖ Chairman France presented ideas for the Parks Commission to visit the Centers/Parks to learn more about these areas. Will bring a list of dates. Will work with City Atty to make sure that this is in line with the Bylaws.
  - ❖ City Director Wyrick requested to see the Parks – Year in Review presentation at the BOD meeting
  - ❖ Director Couch advised that the Parks Commission will need to present to the BOD according to the Bylaws. Discussed options for presentations for BOD and when to the present. Chairman France discussed with the City Atty and the commission the best way for this process. Commission discussed items to add to the Presentation.
  - ❖ Request to schedule Parks Commission - BOD presentation.
- Extending Parks Commission Meeting Time
  - ❖ Discussed need to relocate meetings due to the facility closing
  - ❖ Presented relocation options.
  - ❖ Will table discussion and present written option next meeting.
- Parks Newsletter – Brittany Nichols/Director Couch

#### New Business:

- Approved Budget Review.
  - ❖ Agenda item was covered in Directors Report
- Parks Director Item – New location for upcoming meetings.
  - ❖ Agenda item has been discussed and tabled until the next meeting.

#### Agenda items for next meeting:

- Commission Ideas and Goals cont.
- New Meeting location



- Center/Parks Visits
- Extending Meeting Time – Commissioner Smith
- Finalize details for Parks Commission - BOD Presentation

Board – liaison Feedback

- City Director – BJ Wyrick commend Parks and the Commission on the work that's being done.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 pm**