



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025

The Centre at University Park

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

Absent: Samuel Ellis, Chemia Woods, City Director-Capi Peck, City Director-Andrea Lewis

City Board of Director Liaison: None Present

LRPR/LRCAO Staff: Deputy City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Karen Sykes-Volunteer Coordinator, Graham Brown-Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator, Gabrielle Pervis-Parks Comm & Social Media Specialist, Savanah Wells-Secretary

Welcome: Chairman France welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 11:50 am.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Six (6) Commissioners out of Eight (8) Commissioners in attendance. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman France asked for a motion to approve April 2025 minutes. Commissioner Ferstl made 1st motion. Commissioner Campbell 2nd motion. Vote passed. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Citizen Communication: No Citizen Communication.

Staff Reports/Director's Presentation/Events:

Staff Reports:

No questions about Staff Reports.

Director's Presentation:

Parks Director was out for training. The Director's Report was presented by Volunteer Program Coordinator – Karen Sykes.

BOD Agenda Upcoming Items from Parks

- 4.1 million expansion for CUP for Senior center.
- New Equipment for Rebsamen Golf - \$350,000. Replacing Old Equipment
- Net replacement for Riverfront Park

Questions from the Director's Presentation:

- ❖ Commissioner Whiteside asked about the Softball field being repaired.
 - Director Couch confirmed that it is listed in the Masterplan to repair the Softball fields.
- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher asked about cricket playing at that location.
 - Director Couch confirmed that he has seen this as well.



Events:

- ❖ Fundraiser for Reservoir Park tornado recovery at Trios Restaurant. May 21st, 5pm -7 pm- Please come out and support.
- ❖ Kudos given to 20 volunteers who planted trees for Impact the Rock.
- ❖ Summer Playground program registration is open from June 2nd-July 24, 2025. \$100 p/child at 6 locations. Locations: Dunbar, Stephens, Chicot, Romine, West Central, & ELR.
- ❖ Park Staff participated in last Mobile City Hall.
- ❖ Kiwanis Park Ribbon Cutting.
- ❖ Junior Park Ranger Program starts in June, for 9–12-year-olds. There will be three (3) Sessions.

Questions from the Events:

- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher asked about being notified prior to Park openings and events.
 - Graham Brown – advised that he would start sending them out.
- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher asked about how many children were signed up for the summer playground program.
 - Karen Sykes advised that they didn't know at the time, however, they normally fill up.

Presentation:

- ❖ No Presentation

Unfinished Business:

- ❖ Subcommittee Reports
 - Masterplan Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair - Commissioner Ferstl stated that they didn't have a report at this time due to not being able to meet and should be back on track next month.
 - Marketing Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair - Commissioner Whiteside met with Graham Brown about goals for the coming year. Will focus on strategy at the next meeting, next month.
 - Parks Conservancy Subcommittee Report – Chair – Sam Ellis was not present. However, funds from the fundraiser will be received by The Parks Conservancy.
 - Subcommittee Meetings must be Recorded and sent to the Parks Commission Secretary.
- ❖ Goals/Ideas for 2025
- ❖ Second (2nd) Quarterly Site Visits at the Center/Parks visit dates for Parks Commission
 - July 10th at 4pm, Thursday afternoon – Southwest CC or West Central CC-Ballfield.
 - Deputy City Atty-Simone Blagg advised the Commission that they're not to discuss anything business related to the commission.
- ❖ Presented Parks Commission to the BOD
 - Chairman France, felt the Presentation went well. He thanked all who attended and assisted with the Presentation.
- ❖ Discuss Special Meeting on March 19th.
 - Meeting has already been discussed.
- ❖ New Date Needed for May meeting.
 - Discussed and addressed in Special Meeting.
- ❖ Upcoming Reservoir Park Fundraiser at Trios on May 21, 2025.
 - Chairman France, wanted to know who was going to be there.



- ❖ Vote on Applications for Commission Vacancies
 - Commissioner Whiteside made a motion to vote on the. Commissioner Ferstl, 2nd the motion.
 - Deputy City Atty – Simone Blagg was able to get the terms w/ limits.

New Business:

- ❖ Discussion about changing the appointment/vacancy process in the bylaws & city ordinance.
 - Chairman France stated that he would like to table the issue. Commissioner Bernardo and Commissioner Whiteside agree with the current state of the bylaws. All Commissioners agree. No further discussion is needed at this time regarding this issue.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- ❖ Items previously discussed throughout the meeting.

Board – liaison Feedback

- ❖ No Feedback. The City Directors were unable to be present due to the City Employee Award Luncheon.

Adjournment:

- ❖ Chairman France asked for Motion to Adjourn.
 - Commissioner Whiteside made the motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Bernardo 2nd the motion.
 - Vote passed. Motion carried. Adjournment approved.
 - Meeting Adj at 12:32 pm.