



**Wednesday, February 19, 2020, Minutes  
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Centre at University Park**

At 11:33 AM the twenty-ninth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Peter McKinney O'Connor, co-chair. Committee Members present during the meeting were: Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Andrea Neal, Erma Peterson, Steve Strickland, June Matheny, Ken Gill, Musheerah Tharpe, Don Shellabarger, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Tim Daters and Kristi Lambert.

Also present were: City Manager Bruce Moore; Mayor's Chief of Staff Charles Blake; LR CENT liaison Scott Whiteley Carter, and other City Staff.

**Welcome:** Mr. O'Connor welcomed everyone at 11:33 am. He then introduced Andrea Neal, the new Ward 1 member of the LR CENT Committee.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the November 20, 2019, meeting were approved.

**General Financial Report**

Sara Lenehan, the City's Chief Financial Officer, reviewed sales tax collection. Through the end of 2019, there was a growth of 6.06%. This does include a large variance in April, which could be eligible for rebate, but the Department of Finance and Administration will not disclose the cause for the marked increase. Even without that outlier, revenues for 2019 were stronger than 2018.

**Community Programs**

Director Dana Dossett discussed the success of past "Crash Courses" and highlighted upcoming programming. In April, there will be a course for "Disconnected" Youth in Transition (ages 18 to 30). It will focus on Hospitality and Customer Service. The Department is awaiting a grant from Arkansas Workforce Development in order to offer additional courses.

Also in 2020, there will be a Violence Reduction Strategy pilot program. Twenty of the most endangered young people chosen and screened by the DCP will be enrolled in LRSD's

Metropolitan Vocational Technical School and trained in trades such as Basic Carpentry, Basic HVAC, Basic Plumbing, Basic Welding, etc. Students will attend school 4 hours a day for 3 days a week for 12 weeks. After the in-class training, students will be placed on actual crews for another 40 weeks, completing a full year's training program.

Regarding the re-entry program, in 2019 there were 290 clients served. Twenty were placed in City departments and twelve hired by outside partners. Two have moved into full-time work with the City. One of the outside partners, Eco Kids, is a new partnership.

### **Fire**

Chief Delphone Hubbard distributed invitations to the February 26 grand opening of Fire Station 24. The truck and personnel are in place. The City took possession of the building on February 18th.

### **Police**

Chief Keith Humphrey updated the committee on plans for the new Police headquarters building. WDD Architects will be providing the schematic design to the general contractor, Baldwin Shell.

Three officers were promoted to Sergeant in February. On August 19, Recruit Class #95 began with 34 members and graduated 21 recruits on January 31. Recruit Class #96 has 19 in the class and is set to graduate in July. One former LRPD officer was rehired in February. 81 applicants are eligible to enter the structured interviews for Class #97, which is set to begin in August 2020.

911 Communications personnel added five (5) call takers after successfully completing the eight-week academy in December 2019.

Regarding the 12th Street Station retail space, City Manager Moore reported that negotiations were being finalized with Philander Smith College. Papers are expected to be delivered to the college in February. It is expected that the space will be occupied before the end of 2020.

### **Public Works**

Director Jon Honeywell presented the Public Works update. As of February 2020, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 224,971 square feet (approximately 44,994 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by the contractor with Sidewalk Program funds totals 153,725 square feet (30,745 linear feet) since September 2015. A total of 378,696 square feet (75,739 linear feet) of sidewalk reconstruction. That is approximately 14.3 miles of sidewalks

Regarding the 2016 to 2018 Street Drainage Improvement Program, there were 38 street/drainage projects: all design work is completed, one project is in bidding and award phase, seven are under construction, and 30 are complete.

The 2019 to 2021 Street and Drainage Improvement Program is underway. \$56 million was allocated for Street, Drainage, and Resurfacing projects. Public meetings are 91% complete, 26 projects are in design, 14 projects are in right-of-way phase, 9 projects are in the bidding and award phase, 18 projects are under construction, and one project is complete.

The 2019 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 73,360 linear feet of City streets. The 2019 Street Resurfacing Program is 60% complete.

### **Little Rock Zoo**

Zoo Director Susan Altrui reported the construction continues on the new Colobus/Serval Cat exhibit. It is scheduled for a grand opening at the end of March. The Trails project is underway and construction crews are on site daily. The renovated pathway near the bear habitats is nearly complete. The next phase will include pathways at the Colobus/Serval, lion, and alpaca habitats. One additional classroom is on order for 2020 to allow for the continuation of the successful summer Zoofari season. Fencing at the education building and compost area are complete, and new fencing is in progress at the elephant habitat and the Arkansas Heritage Farm. The Guest Services point of sale system went live in late January.

The Zoo is planning to construct a central hay barn, so they won't have to have trucks drive over the newly constructed public paths. A pasture will be built to provide additional encounters at the Arkansas Heritage Farm. A "dino" experience will be added at the train.

### **General Comments**

Chief of Staff Charles Blake reviewed the Mayor's Lift Little Rock proposal and discussed how it will fold in the 3/8 sales tax set to expire in December 2021. He also noted that the work of the R-3 Parks group will be presented at the City Board on February 25.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.