



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2024
The Centre at University Park

Attendance: Ben France, Cannon Fletcher, Mike Bernardo, Ron Bara, Summer Campbell, Quinten Whiteside

Absent: James Ferstl, Samuel Ellis, Linda Smith, Quincy Grant, City Director-Capi Peck

City Board of Director Liaison: City Director-Andrea Lewis

LRPR/LRCAO Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Administration Resources-Angela Nelson, Deputy Director Recreation-Shawanda Craig, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, City Attorney-Beth Carpenter, City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Courtney Perry-Safety and Training Coordinator, Parks Marketing and Social Media Coordinator-Brittany Nichols, Administrative Assistant-Parks Director-Mahoganey Burkhalter

Welcome: Chairman France welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 12:04 pm.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Five (5) Commissioners out of Eleven (11) Commissioners in attendance. No Quorum was established. Quinten Whiteside arrived later.

Approval of Minutes

Commission was unable to approve minutes or conduct any voting due to No Quorum. Meeting was conducted for informational purposes only.

Citizen Communication: No Citizen Communication

Staff Reports/Director's Presentation/Events:

Staff Reports:

Director's Presentation:

Director Couch presented on the following:

- Clifton family donation of 5 acres adjacent to Rimmel Park. Parks has accepted the donation BOD final approval.
- Budget Presentation to the BOD. Final vote will occur on 12/17/24
- Parks requested 5 items per CFO new process.
- Rebsamen Golf Course Request for funds for merchandise to make it through the year.
- Presented balanced Budget to the BOD.
- Commissioner Fletcher asked questions regarding increase in revenue for Rebsamen & Jim Dailey Fitness.



- Presented Plaque to Sr. Deputy Attorney – Beth Carpenter, who is retiring after 30 plus years with the City of Little Rock Attorney’s Office.
- Recognition of Marketing & Media Coordinator – Brittany Nichols will be leaving the Parks Department at the beginning of the year.

Events:

- Pop up Disc Golf-War Memorial / Warm Weather Coat Drive – 12/14/24
- Kanis Park Opening 11:30 am Wednesday - 12/18/24
- Therapeutic Recreation Christmas Play- Fellowship Bible Church, Thursday @ 7pm — 12/19/24
- Holiday Music at the Arsenal Program Recital – MacArthur Military Museum, Sunday @ 2pm – 12/22/24

Presentation:

Safety & Training Coordinator - Courtney Perry gave Safety Presentation

- Parks Director discussed how this report is used internally and the meeting schedule to address the concerns and safety issues in the Parks department.

Unfinished Business:

- Commissioner Mike Bernardo asked questions regarding the bylaws.
- Newsletter-Parks Director advised you to continue to submit those items that need to be highlighted.
 - ❖ Commissioner Fletcher – suggested highlighting the process of giving feedback and educating the public on the process.

New Business:

- Extending the Parks Commission meeting time.
 - ❖ Chairman France advised to table until January meeting.
 - ❖ Commissioner Bernardo – suggested that it may not be necessary to schedule extra time.
 - ❖ Parks Director – suggested scheduling a time.
 - ❖ Deputy Attorney Blagg advised that we can schedule the meetings for longer if needed without obligation of using the total time.
- Post Sales Tax/Election discussion
 - ❖ 2024 Review of the Parks
- Brittany Nichols – discussed upcoming updates for the website to be completed by the beginning of the year 2025.
 - ❖ Add a Parks Dashboard on the Promo homepage located next to Masterplan link
 - ❖ Add link to Masterplan
 - ❖ Add link to Strategic plan
 - ❖ Add link to the Visuals from the Sales tax initiative



- ❖ Add link to the Parks Commission
- ❖ Add link to Parks conservancy
- ❖ Add link to Job Opportunities
- ❖ Add link to Leadership
- ❖ Add link to Budget
- ❖ Add link to Accomplishments & Goals
- ❖ Add link to Performance Measures
- ❖ Add link to Maps
- ❖ Add link to Online Request
- ❖ Add link to Social Media
- ❖ Add link to Latest News
- ❖ Add link to Past Presentations

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Subcommittee Reports
- 2025 New Commission Ideas
- Extending Meeting Time – Commissioner Smith
- Approved Budget Parks Director - Leland Couch

Board – liaison Feedback

- City Director – Andrea Lewis asked about dates for Kiwanis Park
 - ❖ Deputy Director – Justin Dorsey gave updates on Kiwanis Park.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:58 pm