



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2025

The Centre at University Park

Attendance: Ben France, Quinten Whiteside, Cannon Fletcher, Mike Bernardo, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Samuel Ellis

Absent: James Ferstl, City Director-Capi Peck, City Director-Andrea Lewis

City Board of Director Liaison:

LRPR/LRCAO Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Administration Resources-Angela Nelson, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, Deputy City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Administrative Assistant to the Parks Administration-Mahogany Burkhalter, Graham Brown-Parks Data and Marketing Coordinator, Kyndall Richardson-Secretary, Gabrielle Pervis-Parks Communication and Social Media Specialist, Parks Maintenance Supervisor-J.P. Rogers.

Welcome: Chairman France welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 11:49 am.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Seven (7) Commissioners out of Eight (8) Commissioners in attendance. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman France asked for a motion to approve May 2025 minutes. Commissioner Campbell made 1st motion. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Bernardo. Vote passed. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication: No Citizen Communication.

Director's Presentation/Staff Reports/Events:

Director's Presentation:

- ❖ BOD Agenda Items and Upcoming Agenda Items from Parks
 - Jim Dailey Roof Repair – No questions from the BOD. No questions from the Parks Commission.

Staff Reports:

- ❖ Commissioner Bernardo requested a Parks Dashboard Update
- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher requested a Website Assets Review
- ❖ Commissioner Ellis requested an Arkansas River Trail update on the Parks Website
- ❖ Graham Brown-Parks Data and Marketing Coordinator advised Parks Newsletter has begun to be sent out.

Events:

- ❖ West Central Baseball Field Ribbon Cutting– July 15, 9:30 am – Noon.

Presentation:

- ❖ Parks Maintenance Supervisor - Parks Maintenance Presentation



Unfinished Business:

- ❖ Subcommittee Reports
 - Masterplan Subcommittee Report – Commissioner Bernardo –Spoke on the process for disposal of properties. He requested a presentation for analysis of Section 13. Commissioner Fletcher asked for Ordinance 20183 to be distributed to the Commission for review.
 - Marketing Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair - Commissioner Whiteside stated that there is No update at this time.
 - Parks Conservancy Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Ellis stated that there is no update at this time. Chairman France stated that they have spoken with the Facility Supervisor at Rebsamen Golf and they have decided to either postpone this event until the Fall or next Summer. Chairman France will add to the agenda for next month meeting.
- ❖ Commission Ideas/Goals for 2025
 - Request by Chairman France to remove this item from the agenda. Item is no longer needed.
- ❖ Second (2nd) Quarterly Site Visits at the Center/Parks visit dates for Parks Commission
 - July 10th at 4pm, Thursday afternoon –West Central CC-Ballfield.
 - Will tour the facility.
- ❖ Onboarding for New Commissioners and Subcommittee Assignments.
 - Waiting for the Commissioners to be appointed by the BOD.
- ❖ Summer Playground numbers update.
 - Director Couch gave an update.
- ❖ LR Open Update
 - No new discussion on this subject.
- ❖ Ongoing Parks Fundraiser – Request/Update
 - Chairman France made note that the Parks Conservancy is the Fundraiser for Parks.
 - Chairman France stated that he will give an update for the Golf tourney Fundraiser next meeting.
 - Director Couch thanked the LR Marathon team for their continuous support of Parks initiatives.
- ❖ Request for Park Commissioners to submit one (1) photo a month of themselves in a Park to Graham for the Parks social media (Was mentioned by the Marketing Committee last meeting.)
 - Chairman France reminded the Commissioners of this initiative.

Chairman France asked for a motion to add a new agenda item for the acceptance of resignation of Vice Chairman JT Ferstl.

- Commissioner Whiteside made the motion. Commissioner Ellis 2nd the motion. Vote passed. Motion carried.



New Business:

- ❖ The Acceptance of the Resignation of Vice Chair-JT Ferstl

Chairman France asked for a motion to add a new agenda item for the acceptance of resignation of Vice Chairman JT Ferstl.

- Commissioner Whiteside made the motion. Commissioner Ellis 2nd the motion. Vote passed. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Whiteside gave a Kudos to the Parks employee who worked to get the lights working in the evening.
- Director Couch asked about the process of nominating a new Vice Chair.
 - Deputy City Atty Blagg reviewed the bylaws and stated that they can move forward with nominations for a Vice Chair or a temporary Vice Chair. Chairman France open the discussion for who is interested. Commissioner Whiteside advised that he was interested in the position. There were no other interested Commissioners.

Commissioner Bernardo made a motion to nominate Commissioner Whiteside. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Fletcher. Vote Passed. Motion Carried.

- Commissioner Quinten Whiteside is the new Vice Chair for Little Rock Parks Commission.
Congratulations Vice Chair Whiteside!
- ❖ Presentation list discussion/Selection for the next meeting.
 - Commission has already requested a presentation on Section 13. Will leave this as an agenda item to prompt for presentation selection for upcoming meetings.
- Commissioner Fletcher asked for information about the Pickle Ball Tourney.
 - Director Couch gave an update. The Tourney has moved locations.
- Commissioner Fletcher asked about the upcoming 2026 Budget.
 - Director Couch has advised that this process has just started. Director Couch said that it can be added to the agenda for next months meeting.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- ❖ Items previously discussed throughout the meeting.

Board – liaison Feedback

- ❖ No Directors Present. No Feedback provided.

Adjournment:

- ❖ Chairman France made a Motion to Adjourn due to the meeting ending earlier.
 - Commissioner Whiteside made the motion to adjourn at 12:49 pm
 - 2nd by Commissioner Fletcher.
 - Vote passed. Motion carried. Adjournment approved.
 - Meeting Adj at 12:49 pm.