



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025
Little Rock City Hall

Attendance: Ben France, Quinten Whiteside, Mike Bernardo, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods, Samuel Ellis, Christopher Kemp

Absent: Cannon Fletcher, Mabel R. Knight

City Board of Director Liaison: City Director-Capi Peck, City Director-Andrea Lewis

LRPR/LRCAO Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, Deputy Director Recreation Services-Shawanda Craig, Deputy City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Administrative Assistant to the Parks Administration-Mahoganey Burkhalter, Graham Brown-Parks Data and Marketing Coordinator, Kyndall Richardson-Secretary, Gabrielle Pervis-Parks Communication and Social Media Specialist

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

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Started meeting with Four (4) Commissioners. Three (3) more Commissioners arrived for a total of Seven (7) Commissioners out of Ten (10) Commissioners in attendance. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman France arrived. Commissioner Bernardo asked to amend the meeting minutes. He asked for a motion to approve Amended July 2025 minutes. Commissioner Whiteside 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 Report:

- ❖ BOD Agenda Items and Upcoming Agenda Items from Parks
 - Musco Lights replacement approved for War Memorial.
 - Fleet equipment Sprayers for First Tee Golf Course was taken to the Board.
 - I-30 Crossing Masterplan-will be hosting a public input session at UALR 9/20 4- 6 pm & the Food Truck Festival on 9/27, 11am – 6 pm.

Staff Reports:

- ❖ Commissioner Bernardo asked about the budget and operations report. Deputy Director Dorsey provided an update.



Events:

- ❖ Volunteer Division – Karen Sykes, Volunteer Coordinator
 - National Public Lands Day – 9/27 – 9am -11:30am, Hindman Park
- ❖ Parks Communication – Graham Brown – Parks Data & Marketing Coordinator
 - 3 on 3 Basketball Event – 9/13 – 8am – 2pm, Kanis Park
 - Rebsamen Golf Course and Two Rivers Parks are nominated for Best of the Best
- ❖ City Director Capi Peck
 - Adopt a Highway, Thrasher Boys club, 8/16 8:30 – 11:30
 - Keep the Rock Beautiful by Keep Arkansas Beautiful, 9/13th @ Murray Park
 - Free Litter Kits at CALs that students can use to gain Volunteer hours.
- ❖ Commissioner Christopher Kemp was given an opportunity to introduce himself.

Presentation:

- ❖ Section 13 Parks Presentation – Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Dorsey

Unfinished Business:

- ❖ Subcommittee Reports
 - Masterplan Subcommittee Report – Tabled until New Business.
 - Parks Conservancy Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Ellis stated that there is no update at this time.
 - Marketing Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair - Commissioner Whiteside stated that there is No update at this time. Opportunity offered for a new Chair for the Marketing committee due to the Vice Chairman's new position.
- ❖ Onboarding for New Commissioners and Subcommittee Assignments
- ❖ Ongoing Parks Fundraiser – Request/Update
- ❖ 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.)
- ❖ Parks Commission Vacancy/ Appointment update.
- ❖ Presentation list discussion/Selection for the next meeting.
- ❖ The Acceptance of the Resignation of Vice Chair – JT Ferstl
- ❖ The Nomination and Vote for a New Vice Chair.

Chairman France requested that some recurring unfinished business items be removed. He requested that the recurring items going forward should be Subcommittee Reports, Requests for Parks Commissioners to submit 1 photo a month of themselves in a park, and Parks Commission Vacancy/Appointment Update.

New Business:

- ❖ Parks Features Directory Update – Commissioner Bernardo –
 - Graham will request for someone to come give an update regarding the website update.
- ❖ Website Assets Review – Commissioner Fletcher
 - Commissioner Fletcher was absent – Will keep on New Business. Graham will provide an update at next meeting.
- ❖ Arkansas River Trail update request – Commissioner Ellis –
 - Graham stated that they would need to look at a 3rd Party tool.



- Suggestion by the Director for an interactive tool that can be updated by users. Commissioner Ellis will look at possible options to present to the Commission.
- ❖ Section 13 and Ordinance 20,183
- ❖ Section 13 Public Hearing Dates (8/27, 8/28, 9/3, 9/4)
- ❖ Dates for Parks Commission Golf Tourney - Chairman France, will speak with Mike to get dates for some time next year.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- ❖ Items previously discussed throughout the meeting.

Board – liaison Feedback

- ❖ Director Peck – Spoke earlier during events. Kudos to Parks Communication team.
- ❖ Director Lewis – Kudos

Adjournment:

- ❖ Chairman France made a Motion to Adjourn due to the meeting ending earlier.
 - Commissioner Woods made the motion to adjourn at 12:57 pm
 - 2nd by Commissioner Whiteside.
 - Vote passed. Motion carried. Adjournment approved.
 - Meeting Adj at 12:57 pm.