

**REPORT OF THE
LITTLE ROCK PARKS & RECREATION
COMMISSION**

**Pursuant to the ASSET MANAGEMENT AND
DISPOSITION POLICY FOR LITTLE ROCK
PARKS AND RECREATION PARK LAND as set
forth in Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 20,183
(October 20, 2009)**

in relation to

**MODIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
PRESIDENTIAL PARK**

February 21, 2023

On Tuesday, February 21, 2023, beginning at 12:00 noon, the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission (“the Commission”) met to consider a modification of the boundaries of the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Park (“Clinton Park”), and whether such modification fulfilled the concerns of *the Asset Management and Disposition Policy for Little Rock Parks and Recreation Park Land* as set forth in Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 20,183 (October 20, 2009) (“the Ordinance”). The Commission, among other duties, is required to hold a public hearing, and to make a report to the Little Rock Board of Directors about the consideration of removal of any land from the Little Rock Parks and Recreation portfolio.

In this particular instance, the City is asked to eliminate approximately 3.15 acres of land currently in the Clinton Park, to obtain approximately 3.159 acres of land which will be added to the Clinton Park, in order to facilitate the location of the Lyon College School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Lyon College School of Dentistry and Oral Health on property currently owned by Heifer Project, International. It was pointed out during the meeting that between these developments, the creation of the deck park for I-30 through the City of Little Rock, and other measures, this project will help to further reconnect east and west Little Rock which were separated decades ago by the construction of I-30.

Section 4 of the Ordinance requires the Commission to address two specific questions about the land in question:

- (1) It is not suitable or effective, now or in the foreseeable future, for its intended service delivery functions and alternative City use of the property is not practical; or,**
- (2) The City can realize significant alternative benefits by the disposal of the property.**

The Ordinance, § 4. In this particular situation, the Commission believes unanimously that the disposal of this small piece of park property, to be off-set with

an equal or larger piece of park property in the same area, to facilitate these two educational institutions will enable the City “to realize significant alternative benefits by the disposal of the property.” Further, since the actual size and use of the Clinton Park will not change.

This opportunity is unique and exciting. Further, Parks Director Leland Couch noted that the transactions would actually benefit a trail that extends into east Little Rock and is under the auspices of his Department.

For these and other reasons, the Commission recommends to the City Board of Directors that it take the necessary actions as quickly as possible to authorize the exchange of land, and the other steps necessary, to redefine the boundaries of the Clinton Presidential Park, the location of the two new schools of Lyon College, and the participation of Heifer International. In addition, the Commission expresses its support of the anticipated actions and authorization for the City to contract with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Society, Inc., to locate its projected structure and offices on a part of the land that will be provided to the City.

For clarification purposes, two exhibits are attached to this Report that demonstrate what will occur.

February 21, 2023.





