



## **AGENDA**

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting, February 14, 2024  
12:00pm Creekmore Community Center

Approval of minutes from the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

1. RAISE Grant Presentation
2. Fort Smith Botanical Society Presentation
3. Project Updates
4. Public Comments
5. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
December 13, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 in the Rose Room at Creekmore Park Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Madeline Marquette, Chris Raible, David Roberts, Sandy Sanders, Nancy Raney, and Andrew Deal.

Park Commission members absent: Sam Hanna

Staff members present: Jeff Dingman, Sara Deuster, Linda Woodruff, and Amber Plank.

Others: Jo Elsken, Michael Mings, and Andre Good.

Chris Raible called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Raney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Roberts and unanimously approved.

**1. Review Design Proposal for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Splash Pad**

A design proposal was presented from ACS Playground Adventures that included new amenities, a fence to protect kids in the play area, ground spray features, and a calming space for inclusive area. After receiving feedback from the community of the lack of seating the design featured raised seating along the toddler play area. The splash pad is projected to be opened on Memorial Day weekend.

**2. Project Updates**

John Bell Jr. Park – The support beams and roofing for the pavilion were delivered on Monday. Staff are currently working with the installer to get a price for the pad to be laid and to include a price for the concrete portion.

Creekmore Park – Bids are due tomorrow for the tunnel and maintenance shed for the train. A Notice to Proceed for the picnic patio is set for February 1<sup>st</sup> with a completion date of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Bathhouse & Diving Well Enclosure – Pricing from the design development documents has been received. The price came in closer to 6 million. Staff, the architect, and construction manager are continuing to identify additional cost savings.

Tilles Park Improvements – The Notice to Proceed was issued for December 18<sup>th</sup> with an estimated completion date of May 2024.

Maybranch Trail – The National Park Service has the contract ready but is unable to send it to the State due to computer issues. Halff and Associates is working on an agreement for Phase II.

Transportation Alternative Program Grant – Received a \$500,000 grant for Chaffee Crossing Phase III. Due to this project being delayed, we will work with the State about the possibility of transferring this to Phase II of the Maybranch Trail.

Woodlawn Park – Bids will be opened on December 19<sup>th</sup> for construction of the restroom pad, basketball court resurfacing, and drainage improvements.

Fort Smith Park – The design plans have been submitted to the Building & Safety Department for review. This project is expected to bid in January or February.

Carol Ann Cross Park Boardwalk – Bid documents have been received and sent to City attorney for review.

Carol Ann Cross Park Inclusive Playground – A purchase order has been issued to begin site evaluation and engineering services necessary to complete the design of the inclusive playground.

### 3. **Public Comments**

Michael Mings, Mobility Coordinator for the City of Fort Smith, mentioned there will be a public meeting tonight and tomorrow night for input regarding the Active Transport Plan.

### 4. **Commission and Staff Comments**

Raible mentioned he would like to discuss with the Board of Directors the Commissions priorities. Director Good suggested that it would be a good idea for the Commission to meet with the Board. Good noted the Board's point of view on issues in the parks are different than that of the Commission thoughts and comments. Dingman suggested the Commission and the Board have a joint meeting in June or July to discuss this as part of the planning for next year's CIP.

Marquette mentioned Pancakes with the Grinch was a success with serving about 1600 pancakes. She added there were plenty of volunteers, including Parks Commissioners are several organizations such as Fort Kids, Arvest Bank, and Sebastian County Democrats. The next event will be Father Daughter Dance. This year's theme will be "A League of Their Own". The date will be determined soon.

Raible wanted to mention that Holiday Express went well and was a success.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Chris Raible, Chairman

Amber Plank, Records Coordinator