



## **AGENDA**

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting, April 10, 2024  
12:00pm Creekmore Community Center

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

1. Discuss 2024 Creekmore Park Pool Operating Procedures
2. Project Updates
3. Public Comments
4. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 13, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 in the Rose Room at Creekmore Park Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Madeline Marquette, Chris Raible, David Roberts, Sandy Sanders, Sam Hanna, Nancy Raney (left at 1:15pm), and Andrew Deal.

Park Commission members absent: None.

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

Others: Josh Buchfink, Bob Hall, Debby Thomas, Bill Kincannon, Brent Lewis, Bobby Aldridge, Brian Pillar, Doug Ross, Michele Jackson, Andre Good, Keley Simpson, Rob Ratley, and Mandy Dime.

Chris Raible called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes as written with the amended changes to reflect that Hanna was not present at the December meeting; however, he was already listed as absent. The motion was seconded by Raible and unanimously approved.

Raible formally congratulated Deuster on officially being named Director of Parks and Recreation.

**1. Creekmore Park Tennis Courts Presentation**

Bobby Aldridge with Frontier Engineering made a presentation of a potential project to renovate and expand the Creekmore Park Tennis Center. The project includes 10 tennis courts and eight (8) pickleball courts and new lighting. Aldridge noted the project would require a portion of the new walking path to be rerouted and the existing greenspace to the east of the tennis courts would be needed to construction additional tennis courts and add pickleball courts. Commissioners expressed multiple concerns with the project. These included the need for additional parking, four of the pickleball courts running east to west (north to south is typical), the amount of flooding that occurs in the area because there is a major stormwater drainage ditch that runs through the area, the removal of trees and picnic areas, and the location for the project. The Commission agrees the project is nice, but Creekmore Park is not the best location for this type of project.

**2. Fort Smith Youth Baseball & Softball Annual Report**

Bill Kincannon with Fort Smith Youth Baseball & Softball was present to give an annual report of their operations. He asked if the Commission had any questions regarding the financials provided in the agenda packet. The Commission had no questions. Kincannon stated the number of registered players is up tremendously. He added they are trying to get better information out to the public by working with the schools, utilizing their Facebook page, and through digital advertising.

### **3. Social Pinpoint Presentation**

The City of Fort Smith Public Relations Manager, Josh Buchfink, made a presentation about Social Pinpoint. This platform will allow the City to have more public engagement, be more accessible to people, increase transparency about projects, harness data collected, and improve decision making. Social Pinpoint will make it easier for people to provide input and feedback to the City.

Buchfink asked the Commission to review the three art designs for the fitness court mural to be installed by the Riverfront Skate and Bile Park. He noted a survey was made published asking citizens to vote on their favorite design. Buchfink stated about 3,000 people participated in the survey. Design #3 was the top choice with a total of 1,340 votes. Marquette made a motion to formally recommend that the Commission goes along with the public's choice (Design #3). The motion was seconded by Roberts and unanimously approved.

### **4. Creekmore Park Sidewalks & Drainage Improvements**

The final design for the sidewalks and drainage improvements is complete. Some members of the Board of Directors asked the department to find a location to install a basketball court. The only place to do this without eliminating a significant amount of greenspace is to expand the patio area adjacent to the large gazebo. Fencing will have to be installed around the court due to a significant drop-off on the west side. The Parks Department has worked with the engineer to look at reducing the size of the pad to keep the area as a patio extension for overflow from gazebo. Roberts made a motion to put a patio and find another suitable location for the basketball court. The motion was seconded by Raible and unanimously approved. In addition to the sidewalks and patio, a new 30" pipe will be installed along the south of the community center, from the train tracks to the parking lot. Beehive drains will be installed certain areas, which will help mitigate flooding and pooling of water in this area of the park.

### **5. Project Updates**

Fort Smith Park Restroom- The Board of Directors approved the contract for the pad, electrical, and plumbing at their last meeting. There will be a pre-construction conference with the contractor tomorrow. The bathroom is scheduled for delivery for next month. Demolition and site prep will be starting next week.

Carol Ann Cross Park Greenway & Boardwalk- The Board approved the contract for the greenway and boardwalk on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The construction time is approximately 240 calendar days; however, most of that is for the fabrication for the boardwalk.

Creekmore Park Putter- The Parks Department is in the process of making improvements. The fence damaged by the storm will be replaced soon. The turf will also be replaced on each of the 36 holes. This will be completed as part of the United Way Day of Caring on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Maybranch Greenway-Phase IA- This project is out for bid. Approval of the contract will be taken to the Board on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is an approximate 0.6 mile, 10ft-wide, concrete greenway that will travel

along P Street beginning at North 7<sup>th</sup> Street and terminate at the Greenwood Avenue side of Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Creekmore Park Bathhouse & Diving Well Enclosure- Finalizing the guaranteed maximum price before taking to the Board for approval. The swim community, architect/engineer, Beshears Construction have been instrumental in helping with making changes and design modifications to lower the costs. Deuster noted the GMP has not yet been finalized but it was below budget. Deuster asked for the Commission to make a recommendation regarding the project. Sanders made a motion to take the under-budget design and contract to the Board of Directors for approval. The motion was seconded by Roberts and unanimously approved.

Rugby- The Arkansas High School Rugby League reached out to the Parks Department about putting dual purpose rugby/soccer portable goals at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The rugby league would purchase and install these goals. Raible made a motion to approve the installation of the goals at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The motion was seconded by Deal and unanimously approved.

#### 6. **Public Comments**

Rob Ratley was present to make comments regarding pickleball. He stated he is a pickleball advocate and wanted the Commission to know it is not just a trend; the sport is here to stay. Ratley encouraged the Commission to do a deep dive into the data on pickleball, adding pickleball has surpassed tennis as far as player participation.

#### 7. **Commission and Staff Comments**

Marquette mentioned the Father-Daughter Dance was a success and there were 164v attendees. She also wanted to mention the next event is Spring Break on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Parks Department will setup the Ninja Warrior Course, crafts, and provide free food from 10am-1pm.

Roberts inquired about the comments on a post that was on the "Fort Smith Residential Forum" page on Facebook asking about restrooms during the winter. Deuster said, as of right now, the bathrooms are open to the general public. The Department is currently looking into heating elements for the following winter to allow them to remain open year round.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Chris Raible, Chairman

Amber Plank, Records Coordinator



City of  
**Fort Smith** Memorandum  
Parks & Recreation

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**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Parks Staff  
**DATE:** April 5, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 Creekmore Park Pool Operations

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The Board of Directors unanimously approved to proceed with the demolition and construction of a new bathhouse and diving well enclosure at Creekmore Park Pool at their March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The projected date of completion for this project is May 26, 2025. As with any construction project, it is necessary to make temporary modifications to the operating schedule for Creekmore Park Pool this summer. Through coordination with Beshears Construction, Inc. Parks Staff have prepared the attached recommended operating procedures for this summer.

**Creekmore Park Pool  
Recommended Operation for 2024**

Temporary Facility Needs (Budgeted)

- Restrooms
  - Two (2) Standard Portable Toilets
  - Two (2) ADA Portable Toilets
  
- Handwashing Stations
  - Two (2) Handwash Stations (total of six (6) basins).
  
- Changing Stations
  - The Sebastian County Aquatics Association has agreed to allow us to utilize existing supplies they have to build temporary changing rooms. These will have a metal frame with tarp-line sides and roof. There will be separate changing stations for men and women.
  
- Water Station
  - With no facility, it is not possible to operate a concession this summer. Instead, we will provide a free water station for patrons.

Public Access to Pool

Layout attached.

Operating Schedule

- Opening Day: Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Last Day of School – May 31<sup>st</sup>
  
- Closing Day: July 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Due to the heat, attendance is very low after the first week of July.
  - Given the limited number of lifeguards to be hired for this season, it will be difficult to schedule around school-related activities that typically begin in mid-July.
  
- Days of Operation: Tuesday – Saturday
  - No change from previous year.
  
- Hours of Operation
  - Senior/Adult Lap Swimming: 11:00am – 12:00pm
  - General Public: 12:00pm – 5:30pm
    - No change from previous year.

### Modifications to Standard Operating Procedures

- Restrict Patronage to 150 at one time.
  - With active construction being completed around the pool, safety of patrons is critical. Keeping patronage to a minimum will create a safer environment for citizens.
  - A counter will be displayed at the pool entrance displaying the patronage.
  - Accommodations will be made for large groups/extenuating circumstances.
  
- Private Parties
  - Food is prohibited from being consumed on the deck and there is no place within a reasonable distance for citizens to setup for cake, ice cream, pizza, etc.
  - Private parties will not be offered this season.
  
- Season Passes
  - Given the limited operating schedule, it would not be cost-effective to purchase a season pass. Therefore, it is recommended to not offer season passes.
  - However, if citizens want to purchase one after being made aware of the changes to this summer's operations, we will allow them to purchase one.

### Staffing Needs (Budgeted)

<b>Position</b>	<b># to Hire</b>
Pool Manager	1
Assistant Pool Manager	1
Head Lifeguard	2
Lifeguard	8
Cashier	2

# 2024 Creekmore Park Pool Layout

