



AGENDA

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting, Wednesday, June 13, 2018
12:00pm Creekmore Community Center

Approval of minutes from May 2018 meeting.

Items of Business:

1. Tree Planting in recognition of Arbor Day

Recess Park Commission
Convene Tree Committee

Recess Tree Committee
Convene Park Commission

2. Project Updates
3. Public Comments
4. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
May 9, 2018

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at the Creekmore Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Chris Raible, Lacey Jennen, Jim Rowland, Madeline Marquette, and Nancy Raney.

Park Commission members absent: Casey Millsbaugh

Staff members present: Jeff Dingman, Doug Reinert, Sara Deuster, Jim Mackey, Linda Woodruff, and Amber Plank

Others: David Harris, Teresa Hesselberth, Jay Richardson, Penny Packard, and Alex Golden.

Marquette called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m. Raney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Raible and unanimously approved.

1. Riverfront Drive Skate and Bike Park Final Design

Bobby Aldridge with Frontier Engineering, Inc. was present to update the Commission regarding the progress of the public-private project. The parking lot is currently under construction. He noted the contractor has been battling weather, a sinkhole, and drainage issues, adding the contract was currently at 47 calendar days, but 29 of those were deemed unworkable due to weather. As of today, the project is 21% complete.

A visual display of the final designs for the skate and bike park amenities was presented to the Commission. Aldridge went through the various amenities. The contract time for the construction is 70 calendar days. Aldridge noted, once completed this skate and bike park would become the only park in the United States that features a pump track, skating and biking elements, and a bicycle playground. In addition, two USB charging stations will be added at the park. Aldridge added the park will also have LED lighting.

Raible asked if security cameras would be part of the project. Reinert stated there are currently security cameras on the River Park Events Building but they would not cover the area around the skate and bike park. He added the Police Department would be moving into the office at the River Park in the near future, which would put a police presence at the park and along the trail. Aldridge added he had recently been approached by a private individual about installing security cameras. The lighting contractor has been asked to provide pricing to add conduits to the light poles to plan for future cameras.

Toliver asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the park. Aldridge noted it would fall under the Parks Department purview. However, the private donors and biking groups have

offered to volunteer their help with maintenance required during the first few years in order to educate the Parks Department as to what needs to be done to best accommodate the bikers and skaters.

Jennen asked if D*Face would be completing the arrow art feature. Aldridge stated Steve Clark has contacted D*Face to see if he would be willing to.

Jay Richardson was in the audience and asked about the impact to the Parks Department as a result of the added maintenance. Reinert stated there will absolutely be an increase, and we currently have fulltime staff at downtown during the week who will take on maintenance of the addition. He added that as the department continues growing, we will have a need to increase our workforce. Richardson asked if the public should expect to see an increase in jobs? Reinert stated there is potential, but we will have to evaluate how many are needed once we know what to expect in regard to maintenance.

2. Splash Pad Final Designs

Deuster stated staff went back into the schools to ask the students to participate in a Dotmocracy in which they would choose the main amenities to put at the splash pads at Tilles and Woodlawn Parks. The final designs were displayed for Commissioners and the audience to view. Aldridge stated the final designs were centered around the children's votes. He noted we have ran into a snag with being able to get the WhirlFlex in a timely manner. If it is not able to be delivered in time, we will divert to the children's second choice, the RipppleRun.

Aldridge added the final designs have been submitted to the Arkansas Department of Health for approval. The features at Tilles Park are mainly ground level features, and the spray features at Woodlawn are primarily above ground. Raible expressed that he was pleased the two designs were different from one another and the two current ones. The Commission asked about shade being installed at the splash pads. Deuster stated a volunteer group had reached out to Mackey about a service project. We will request they build shade structures similar to the one Maintenance Staff built at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Aldridge added there was not a need for shade at Woodlawn because it was already heavily shaded.

3. Project Updates

Tilles Park:

The portion of the trail that is being constructed in unison with a Utilities project has been completed.

Fort Smith Park:

The fishing pavilion is completed, and the contractors stated people began to utilize the pavilion as soon as the equipment was moved offsite. The final walkthrough for the parking lot will be completed next week, and then the final payment will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Reinert noted this project has a \$100,000 grant attached to it from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Mackey is meeting with the Fence Man to stake out the fencing for the dog park.

The contract for the inclusive playground is being taken to the Board for approval. The contract total is \$208,000.

Reinert noted sand volleyball courts would also be installed. Since this project will be completed in-house by the Maintenance Staff, this will most likely not take place until fall due to the heavy workload during the summer.

Raney suggested holding a ribbon cutting for these projects at the same time as the one for Phase III of the Greg Smith River Trail. This was met in favor by the other Commissioners.

Greg Smith River Trail Phase III:

The new completion date for the project is June 30th, which is due to significant weather delays. Forsgren is currently at the railroad tracks and has installed the majority of the cedar fencing.

Chaffee Crossing Trails:

We are still waiting on the acquisition of two easements. Once these are acquired, Segment One is ready to be advertised for bids.

Riverfront Drive Sports Fields:

We are currently working on getting an easement that will allow the waterline to be installed. Once this occurs, the maintenance building can be completed. Rowland asked if there had been any soccer activity at the park. Reinert stated the fields are mowed and ready for play, but he has not witnessed anyone playing on them.

Raible asked if there had been any discussion regarding the restrooms at Fort Smith Park. Reinert stated there has been discussion in-house and also with the Utilities Department. He reminded the Commission the park is a Corp of Engineers park so anything we do requires their prior approval, which can take some time. Reinert stated staff is in favor of taking out the restrooms and constructing one centrally located restroom.

Raney noted she had rode her bike down the river trail into Midland Boulevard. She stated the sidewalk ended before it came to Highway 55. Raney asked who she could contact to request this sidewalk be extended to Highway 50 in order to increase continuity. Dingman stated the Street Department oversees the sidewalk program and that he would communicate this request to them.

Jennen requested the Commission meet as the Tree Committee to discuss their role and talk about what similar cities do. This was met in favor by the Commission, and it was agreed they would meet as the Tree Committee during their June meeting.

4. Public Comments

Penny Packard was present and asked about the status on getting new soccer fields at the 51 acres, noting she believes there are over 200 teams in Fort Smith. Reinert stated there are currently two fields with soccer goals, but they are not being utilized. He added the County is also experiencing this same response for the new fields they recently built. Aldridge stated the plan for the 51 Acres was established several years ago, and suggested the Commission reevaluate the plan to update it for the current needs of the community.

5. Commission and Staff Comments

None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Madeline Marquette, Vice Chairman
Amber Plank, Records Coordinator