



## AGENDA

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 9, 2019  
12:00pm Creekmore Community Center

Approval of minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Recess Parks Commission  
Convene Tree Committee

- A. Tree Inventory/Plan Overview
- B. Potential Grants
- C. Discuss Landmark Tree Program

Recess Tree Committee  
Convene Parks Commission

- 1. Project Updates
- 2. Public Comments
- 3. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
December 12, 2018

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at the Creekmore Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Casey Millspaugh, Madeline Marquette, Chris Raible, Lacey Jennen, Susan Pruitt, and Nancy Raney.

Park Commission members absent: Jim Rowland

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

Others: David Harris, Teresa Hesselberth, Jaydn Watson-Fisher, and Andy Deal.

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

**1. Discuss Tree Ordinance as Related to Parks**

Reinert provided an overview the Tree Ordinance (Ordinance No. 83-06). Reinert stated the purpose of the ordinance is to preserve the natural beauty of Fort Smith, to protect the health and safety of the residents of Fort Smith, and to protect the environment by providing regulations for the planting, maintenance, and removal of public trees within the Fort Smith city parks. The ordinance outlines these specific objectives. Section 3 of the ordinance states the Parks and Recreation Commission serves as the Tree Commission for the city. Noting, its responsibility shall be to recommend, study, investigate, counsel, and develop and or update annually, and recommend a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal of trees on public grounds. The Commission, when requested by the Board of Directors, shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon any special matter of question coming within the scope of this work.

Marquette inquired about the written plan mentioned in the ordinance. Jennen noted it would be a great student project if the plan needed to be revised. Raney questioned if the type of tree removed by the maintenance staff is recorded. Mackey replied this is not recorded because in some cases they are hard to identify. Raible asked if it is a standard practice to plant two or three trees for every tree removed. Reinert replied this is typically the case. Mackey added the Parks Department receives a large amount of tree donations.

Raney provided information regarding a "Landmark Tree Program" she found in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Jennen noted Arkansas has a similar program known as the "Arkansas Champion Tree Program", adding there are numerous trees on private property currently on the list.

Jennen stated the Commission can apply for grants through the Arkansas Urban Forestry by being part of the Tree City USA program. She also added she feels the Commission should pick a more appropriate date to plant a tree for Arbor Day, and to use this celebration as an educational tool for the public. Pruitt asked for the inventory of the Maintenance Staff's tree removals for the year. Deuster stated she has all of this information, including data from Sanitation and Street Department, organized in a spreadsheet. Millspaugh recommended the Commission continue to have tree discussion, possibly quarterly. He requested it be added to next month's agenda.

## **2. Project Updates**

### **Splash Pads**

Both splash pads have reached substantial completion. A final walkthrough will be completed before winterizing them.

### **Chaffee Crossing Trails-Phase I**

Bids for the project were opened on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the engineers are in the process of reviewing all submitted bids. Once their review is completed, the contract will be taken to the Board for approval.

### **51 Acres**

The final easement for the waterline has been acquired. This will allow work to begin and the maintenance building be completed.

### **Fort Smith Park**

Following the breakdown of the Christmas displays, Maintenance Staff will be working on the sand volleyball courts.

### **May Branch Grant**

A National Parks Services grant in the amount of \$700,000 has been applied for. Recipients are expected to be announced at the end of January 2019.

### **Landfill Loop**

Morrison Shipley is still preparing the final design and necessary permits. Once this is completed, they will submit an updated cost estimate.

## **3. Public Comments**

Teresa Hesselberth was present in the audience and expressed her appreciation of the Parks Staff for all the hard work they put into Holiday Express 2018.

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

Raible inquired if there have been any issues reported at the new skate park. Reinert stated there has not been any vandalism to his knowledge. He added the only issue he is aware of is a bike station being removed.

Raney stated she had received a suggestion that the Parks Department should have the group that painted the sewer inlets to do the same around the concrete bases on the light fixtures. Pruitt added the group who performed that work was the art classes at Northside and Southside's. She stated she could reach out to them to see if they would be interested in painting the concrete bases at the skate park. Marquette asked if it would need to be approved by the Board of Directors. Dingman stated their approval was not necessary but preview of the concept would need to be submitted to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Casey Millspaugh, Chairman  
Amber Plank, Records Coordinator