



AGENDA

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting, November 13, 2019
12:00pm Creekmore Community Center

Approval of minutes from October 9th meeting.

1. Trails and Greenways Update (*Drew Linder*)
2. Project Updates
3. Public Comments
4. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
October 9, 2019

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, in the Rose Room at the Creekmore Community Center.

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

Park Commission members absent: Susan Pruitt

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

Others: David Harris, Paula Linder, Teresa Hesselberth, and Dawn Stovall.

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

1. Discuss Events at Neighborhood Parks (*requested by Jennen*)

Jennen stated she had a citizen contact her about the rules regarding events hosted in neighborhood parks. Reinert referenced City Ordinances Section 18-81, which outlines the definitions and regulations regarding public assemblies and special events in city parks. It was noted the most prominent determinants of whether or not an event is considered to meet these definitions is 1) public advertisement in which the event is open to everyone, 2) any exchange of funds, and 3) events that will reasonably attract more than fifty (50) individuals. Jennen inquired about Riley Farm park block party for residents. Deuster stated as long as the event is open to neighborhood only and more than fifty people are not anticipated, this type of gathering would not require a special permit. All parks are open to the public on a first come, first serve basis unless reserved through the Parks Department for a special event.

2. Project Updates

Christmas Lights- Maintenance Staff have begun working on them while still performing turf maintenance as needed.

51 Acres- Advertisement for Bid for Phase II has been published. This phase includes paving the existing asphalt parking lot, waterline, and dirt work for other structures such as the all-inclusive playground, bathrooms, and miracle league field.

Chaffee Crossing- Construction on Phase I is continuing. The estimated completion date was pushed to February 2020 due to the wet summer.

Greg Smith River Trail/River Park/Harry E Kelley/Fort Smith Park- Continuing work with the City's consulting firm for FEMA and an electrical engineer on damage assessment with drainage areas, electrical components, trees, landscaping, and irrigations. The parks are still useable.

Martin Luther King Jr. Park – Installation of the shade structures over splash pad and playground equipment will begin as soon as the contractor's schedule allows. These will be up prior to spring.

Wilson Park – The request for proposals has been sent to the attorney for review. Morrison Shipley Engineers performed a ground penetrating radar of the hill area. It was determined some of the brickwork from the old school building was still present. During a neighborhood meeting, residents stated they would like to see it exposed and incorporated in new design.

Bike shares are up and operational down the Greg Smith River Trail. These are located next to the West Room of the River Park Events Building. Reinert added we will be posting signs regarding the city ordinance prohibiting the use of bikes on sidewalks, within the Central Business Improvement District. There are currently ten bikes available, which were privately donated by First National Bank and Coca Cola for the first year of operation.

Parking Lots- The notice to proceed has been issued for the parking lots in front of the swimming pool and tennis center. Work will begin on October 12th. This is a thirty-day contract.

3. Public Comments

Paula Linder of Park Partners was present to give an update. Linder noted Keep Fort Smith Beautiful received a \$10,000 grant to replace the trees along the Greg Smith River Trail. Parks Partners have discussed starting a \$30 annual membership fee to help raise more funds for park projects. Linder added she would like to see more marketing on trails in local hotels, adding this information could also be added to the way-finding signs. Keep Fort Smith is hosting a litter pick up on October 26th and OG&E will donate a tree to all the volunteers.

Teresa Hesselberth was present and encouraged the Commissioners to volunteer their time for opening night of the 20th Anniversary of Holiday Express on Monday, December 2nd.

Marquette mentioned the Halloween Hoopla is October 26th at the River Park Events Building from 2pm-4pm.

Dawn Stovall with the Western Arkansas Tennis Association (WATA) was present to provide an update. The annual Red Shoe Spooktacular will be held on October 19th for the upper level players from all over the state. WATA is still hosting clinics every week for beginning adults and beginning kids. Northside matches will be held all this fall still after school.

4. Commission and Staff Comments

Raney commented on the tabled issue of the existing Pagoda at Tilles Park. She would like to see the walls knocked down to make into a pavilion or gazebo to ensure it stays in place. Deal agreed with Raney's recommendation. Raney inquired about the possibility of repurposing the lights at the River Valley Sports Complex. Reinert stated removing the lights and placing them in storage is currently in progress. He added these lights will be placed at the 51 acres. The chain-link fence will also be placed around the maintenance shed at the 51 Acres.

Jennen wanted to know about what the Parks Department does when there are knocked over headstones in Oak Cemetery. Reinert stated fallen stones are maintained on a list. As time allows, staff levels the ground and resets the headstones.

Deal mentioned he would be absent for the November meeting. Raney also mentioned she would absent for the November meeting as well.

Jennen made a motion to excuse Pruitt from October meeting. The motion was seconded by Raney and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Chris Raible, Chairman

Amber Plank, Records Coordinator