

AGENDA

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting, September 9, 2020 12:00pm Fort Smith Convention Center Exhibit Hall A

Approval of minutes from August 12th meeting.

- 1. Review FY2021 FY2025 Capital Improvement Plan
- 2. Project Updates
- 3. Public Comments
- 4. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of Meeting August 12, 2020

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

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

Park Commission members absent:

Staff members present: Doug Reinert and Amber Plank.

Others: None.

Chris Raible called the meeting to order at 12:01p.m. Raney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Rowland and unanimously approved.

1. Eagle Scout Project:

Christopher Rhomberg, a local Life Scout, submitted a proposed Eagle Schout project to the Parks Commission for review. The proposed project is to provide a permanent, supportive slab for the existing bleachers to rest on in addition to pouring a sidewalk that connects the parking lot to the bleacher area. Mr. Rhomberg plans to seek donations for the project from local pickleball players and hardware stores.

In addition to Mr. Rhomberg's project, the Western Arkansas Pickleball Association (WAPA) is also planning for future improvements by currently raising money to build restrooms, refurbish the lights, and add water fountains.

Raible made a motion to approve Mr. Rhomberg's project. The motion was seconded by Rowland and unanimously approved.

2. Project Updates

<u>Wilson Park Basketball Improvements</u> – Plans are being prepared by McClelland Engineers. The project is expected to be complete by early 2021.

<u>Riverfront Drive Sports Fields</u> – Crafton Tull has begun preliminary work for the design of the inclusive playground and amenities.

<u>Chaffee Crossing Trail</u> – Segment One is complete and will be taken to the Board of Directors for final approval.

<u>Riverfront Electrical</u> – The contract for the repair of the electric along the Greg Smith River Trail, River Park, and Fort Smith Park will be executed soon. Once the contract is executed and approval is given from FEMA, work will begin. Following the date of the Notice to Proceed, the contractor will have 120 days to complete the work.

<u>Fort Smith Park</u>- FEMA has approved for the demolition and replacement of the restroom. However, progress cannot be made until approval is given by the US Army Corp of Engineers. Additionally, the boat ramp had become covered with silt from the flood, creating issues for citizens launching from the boat ramp. Parks Staff members and the Street Department members addressed this issue, hauling off eight dump truck loads of silt and sand.

<u>Kelley Park Ballfields</u>- There is one field left to be turfed, which was initially delayed due to the Southside fastpitch team considering it making it their home field. Southside has since abandoned this idea.

<u>Park Website</u>- The IT Department has contracted with a company to completely redo the City's website, including incorporating the Parks website into the City's site. This is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year.

3. Commission and Staff Comments

Raney questioned if the new parks website will have Park Partners on there for others to donate to projects. Reinert replied that per our city attorney, the City must keep itself separate from directly promoting a 501(c)3 organization such as Park Partners.

Raney asked about the status of the \$750,000 grant for the Maybranch Trail. Reinert noted the engineers are currently working on the design to submit to the State and then forwarded for federal review. Following both parties review and acceptance, the project will be advertised for bids.

Marquette inquired about when the community center buildings will reopen. Reinert noted citizens can still rent rooms but there are limitations. Additionally, the window outside of the reservation office has been modified into a service window, all bathrooms remain closed, and individuals must have an appointment to enter the building. Reinert added we are still planning for Holiday Express in December. Marquette asked if we have a sponsor for Holiday Express and the display light. Reinert noted we do not have a sponsor at this time.

Marquette asked about the recent Peacemaker Festival held at the River Park. Reinert noted the Peacemaker Festival followed all guidelines with the large event application, received approval from the Arkansas Department of Health, were issued a permit to sell alcoholic beverages, submitted proof of insurance, and provided a deposit for the event. All of these documents were included with their event application required by the Parks Department. This is then sent to Administration for final approval. Raible asked about the status of Creekmore Park Putter. Reinert stated the new lessee has worked diligently with cleanup, pressure washing turf, and replacing carpet on the southside. They are also planning on making improvements and painting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Chris Raible, Chairman Amber Plank, Records Coordinator

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	TOTAL GRANTS/CONTRIBUTIONS	1,659,488	750,000	0	0	0	0	500,000

^{*}The estimated SUT revenue for Fiscal Year 2022 has been updated to reflect revenue through September 30, 2022, which is the final day this earmarked tax will be collected should the voters not approve its renewal.

Note 1: These funds are what is remaining from the original \$1.6M allocation after all legal fees, utilities costs, site security, etc. These are being used to pay legal fees regarding RVSC.

 $Note\ 2: These\ costs\ include\ general\ maintenance, legal\ fees, property\ insurance, and\ personnel\ expenses.$

Note 3: The City has been awarded this grant. However, the exact net grant funding is not known at this time, as there are grant administration fees.

Note 4: Estimated revenue for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 has not been estimated by Finance at this time.