



AGENDA

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting, December 9, 2020
12:00pm Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 956 6768 0029

<https://zoom.us/j/95667680029>

Approval of minutes from November 12th meeting.

1. Presentation Regarding Historical Plaque at Harley A. Wilson Park
2. Project Updates
3. Public Comments
4. Commission and Staff Comments

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Park Commission members present: Madeline Marquette, Chris Raible, Andrew Deal, Jim Rowland and David Roberts.

Park Commission members absent: John McIntosh and Nancy Raney

Staff members present: Doug Reinert, Sara Deuster, Linda Woodruff, Amber Plank, and Dakota Kelley.

Others: None.

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

Reinert announced the retirement of Maintenance Supervisor, Jim Mackey, Reservationist, Ann Foster, and Sexton, Richard Lewis. Reinert noted Dakota Kelley assumed Foster's position following her retirement.

1. Discuss 2020 Holiday Express Plan:

Reinert stated that following discussions, it is recommended for the Holiday Express to not take place this year. However, the holiday displays have been installed and will be turned on. Roberts, Marquette, Deal, Raible and Rowland supported this recommendation. Staff will install directional signs to encourage citizens to walk one way throughout the park. Marquette made a motion to not operate the train this year and make it clear this will only be temporary and to not have any official social gathering events. The motion was seconded by Rowland and unanimously approved.

2. Project Updates

Oak Cemetery - The Board of Directors approved emergency repairs to a retaining wall that was near collapse.

Wilson Park - Basketball resurfacing improvements designs are out for bid. Following the opening and certifying of bids, a contract will be taken to the Board for approval.

Maybranch Trail - Drawings for trail should be in for submission to the Commission and the State for applying for the Maybranch Grant. Still trying to figure out possible ways to have a public meeting.

Kelley Ballfields – The turf is currently being installed on the final field and should be completed by the end of December.

51 Acres – Work on Phase II is progressing but has been delayed by weather.

River Park – Matlock Electric is currently working on repairing the electric damaged by the flood.

3. Commission and Staff Comments

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Chris Raible, Chairman

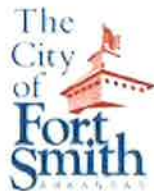
Amber Plank, Records Coordinator

Deuster, Sara

From: Miller, Perry
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Reinert, Doug; Deuster, Sara
Cc: Andrews, Brenda; Rice, Maggie
Subject: FW: [EXT]Old State House Museum + Votes for Women Trail

This organization is wanting to put a sign/marker at the Harley Wilson Park. Will she need to reach out to the Parks Department?

Thank you,



Tyler Miller
Planner City of Fort Smith
623 Garrison Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72901
479-784-2241
[Like us on Facebook!](#)

From: Latonya Wilson [mailto:latonya.wilson@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Miller, Perry <PMiller@FortSmithAR.gov>
Cc: Georganne Sisco <Georganne.Sisco@arkansas.gov>
Subject: [EXT]Old State House Museum + Votes for Women Trail

CAUTION: EXTERNAL-EMAIL This message originated from outside the organization. Please do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Tyler,

This is Latonya Wilson with the Old State House Museum in Little Rock. Thank you for taking my call earlier today regarding the [Votes for Women Trail](#), an initiative of the [National Collaborative of Women's History Sites](#). The goals of the project are to list sites related to the women's suffrage movement on a [web based map](#) and to erect historic markers (see attached example) at up to five significant sites in each state. The Pomeroy Foundation is funding the markers. It's up to each state coordinator to identify sites, complete nomination forms, obtain permission to place markers, and find sponsors to cover the cost of installation.

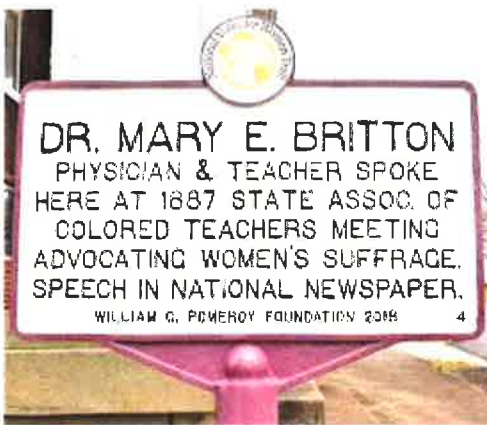
One of the nominees submitted to represent the state of Arkansas is Mame Stewart Josenberger, a Fort Smith resident for 74 years (1890-1964), business and land owner, community activist, and suffragist (<https://ualrexbits.org/suffrage/mame-stewart-josenberger-ca-1868-1964/>).

Here are the articles submitted to illustrate her contributions to the suffrage movement:

- The following newspaper clip, "Negro Women to Meet in Brooklyn To-Morrow," entails the 6th Biennial National Association of Colored Women's Club meeting in 1908. Featured and pictured as one of the delegates is Mame Stewart Josenberger. The article mentions a suffrage department within the organization (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/59665613/negro-women-to-meet-in-brooklyn-to-morro/>).
- In this clip, "Convention Call for Nat'l Assoc for Colored Women to Women of Arkansas," Mrs. Josenberger is listed as the state president of the NACWC (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/59666466/convention-call-for-natl-assoc-of-color/>).
- This newspaper clip, "21st Annual Commencement Speech," mentions a "Mary Stewart" who gave an address entitled "Women in Public Life." "Mary Stewart" is believed to be Mame Stewart as there are several typos in this article. I have reached out to Fisk University's Special Collections/Archives per email to get clarity. Below is a picture of the graduating class of 1888. The man to the left is W.E.B. DuBois; I believe the woman in the center is Mame Stewart (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/59669199/21st-annual-commencement-speech/>).



Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, The New York Public Library. (1888). *W. E. B. Du Bois with the Fisk University class of 1888* Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/8e0981a2-4acc-a10a-e040-e00a18063089>



An image of the style of marker; color and text would vary.

I respectfully request the City of Fort Smith to grant permission for the Arkansas VFWT committee to place a marker at the Harley Wilson Park should the nomination be accepted.

I can be reached at (501) 517-7223. Thanks again for your consideration of this proposal. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Latonya Wilson
Old State House Museum