



Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
Council Chambers  
5:00PM

Those in attendance were:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Judd Hart, Chair                           | Tom Farmer, Mayor |
| Frank Baptist                              | Shane Knight      |
| Evelyn Reed                                | Steve Lee         |
| Ann Spencer-Cole                           | Jeff Hamm         |
| Stephanie Jones, Parks Director            | Jeff Morrow       |
| Junior Rodemeyer, Assistant Parks Director |                   |

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the Council Chambers and agreed to the following.

Chairman Hart moved on to the approval of the November 15, 2022, minutes. Alderman Morrow made a motion to accept the minutes. Alderman Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hart moved on to Project Update – Junior Rodemeyer stated that we plan to do the final walkthrough at Lyle Park next week. Rodemeyer stated that we were able to secure an additional 3.5 acres on the north side of the Mountain Bike Park. This gives the ability to expand the landing area. The design team is finishing the design so we hope to go out to bid in the next couple of months. Rodemeyer stated that the security system vendor has been able to manually reprogram the existing cameras at River Center. There are four exterior cameras that need to be installed. IT is still working to get the cameras setup on the network. We are working to setup placement of security cameras at Tyndall Park. We will begin work on security cameras at Ralph Bunche Park once River Center and Tyndall Park are complete.

Chairman Hart moved to the next item on the agenda, Arkansas CommuniTree Partnership – Tabled.

Chairman Hart moved on to Annual Report – Chairman Hart mentioned the growth in Special Events, and discussed how the Department continues to go above and beyond. Jones referred to the annual report in the packet. As Alderman Hart mentioned, there was a 34% increase in Special Events and Recreation Programs increased by 56% since 2019. There is also an increase in participation by 62% since 2019, and swim lessons have increased. Jones stated that a great team

is in place within the Department and have done a great job as the numbers reflect. Jones said that another highlight to mention to the grant funding for a bike park, a few trails, and additional Metroplan Grant that came in at the end of the year. Chairman Hart stated that with the vision of trails and connectivity, these grants help us move forward with that along with the relationships that Stephanie and the Department has. Jones commented that we did not see a drop in revenue with the new day pass policy.

Chairman Hart moved on to Other – Jones stated that we would like to move forward with the purchase of the previous-mentioned property by Junior in the project update for the property located on the north side of the Mountain Bike Park. The purchase price is \$20,000 and closing costs along with the stipulation that we would help locate an additional piece of property that would work for their business. Jones stated that Junior was able to assist with this. There was a discussion regarding the location of this property in relation to the new Animal Control building. Alderman Knight made a motion to approve the purchase of the property. Alderwoman Reed seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hart moved on the acquisition of property from Jim Tucker. This is the property that houses the trailer park directly across from Sunset Lake. This property will connect Sunset Lake and the Saline River. The purchase price is \$1.6 million for 8.17 acres of land. Mayor Farmer stated that there are 80 slots for mobile homes. Mr. Tucker wants to get out of the mobile home business so he came to the City stating that he would like to sell the property. Mayor Farmer reported that as Mr. Tucker clears out eight or more pieces then he will sell us those plots. He currently has 25 empty slots at this time and would sell that as the initial payment. Mayor Farmer stated that Mr. Tucker would like a year to move all the trailers off the property. Alderman Knight said that he understands the direction of this acquisition, but as we are growing our parks by tremendous leaps and bounds, he is asking that we make certain our acquisitions do not outpace our financial abilities to continue maintenance and operation for the things we are acquiring and building. There was a brief discussion regarding self-sustaining projects, specifically anything from A&P. Alderman Morrow made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the property. Alderman Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.