

NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 17, 2014

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Mrs. Vicki Stephens, at 5:00 p.m., on March 17, 2014, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

Commission Members Present: Randall Bradley, Neil Bryant, Tom Davis, Charles Jones, Otistene Smith and Vicki Stephens. Bruce Waller was sick.

Staff Members Present: Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Jason Rhodes, Tina Worrell, Jeff Caplinger, Ian Hope, Shep and Paula Jones.

Others Present: Matt Williamson, Brandon Atkinson, Victoria Atkinson, Sterling Atkinson, Don Winton, Aaron Winton, Bernard Bracely, Robin West, Brian Colford, Deanna Garrettson, Andrea Richmond and Phil Duerr.

Vote for Excused or Unexcused Absentees: Randall Bradley was absent from the February 18, 2014, commission meeting, and Bruce Waller was absent due to illness at the March 17, 2014, meeting. Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to count these as excused absences. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Shep: Ian Hope introduced Shep, the department's dog that is chasing geese in Burns Park. He is a two-year old Catahoula and Blue Heeler mix. He is doing an excellent job as the geese population is decreasing. The commission welcomed him.

Financial Report – Fourth Quarter of 2013: Mr. Rhoads presented the fourth quarter financial report for 2013, and reported that the final figures showed a balanced year due to carry over from the previous year.

Disposition of Minutes: Mrs. Stephens presented minutes of the February 18, 2014, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to accept the minutes as presented. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Request to Reduce Fees for Tour De Rock Bicycling Ride: Mr. Rhoades reported that in 2013, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the reduction in fees for CARTI's Tour De Rock bicycle ride. CARTI staff is requesting the fees be reduced for the same consideration as was made in 2013. They would pay 50% of the fees to the department, which would be approximately \$2,750.

Mrs. Smith said she would want to make sure that the department's costs were covered.

Jason Rhodes stated that the direct maintenance cost for this event is \$1,200.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to reduce the fee by 50% and become a sponsor of this event. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Association Annual Reports for 2013: Mr. Caplinger presented 2013 annual reports for the athletic associations. As a part of their agreement, they are to provide a report at the beginning of each year, including selected copies of their bank statements.

Arkansas Waterski Club: Mrs. Smith asked why there was so much litter in the Victory Lake area.

Brandon Atkinson replied that some of it comes from people not walking to the trash can to dispose of the litter and a lot of it is Styrofoam.

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Approval of Association Annual Reports for 2013 (continued):

Arkansas Waterski Club (continued): Ian Hope stated that wild animals also get into the trash cans.

Jason Rhodes said he will work on getting a solution to this. They have new trash containers ready to install.

Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept and file this report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

North Little Rock Wildcats Youth Football: Bernard Bracely said they have 100 youth playing ball and the program is growing. Their association appreciates the field improvements and scoreboards. They would like to get new fencing to prevent people from coming without paying the gate fee.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to accept and file this report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stephens thanked him for his work.

North Little Rock Optimist Club: Mrs. Stephens asked what expenditures were included in the \$17,000 expense.

Robin West stated that it paid for uniforms, baseballs, and traveling expenses for tournaments.

Mrs. Smith asked if the field maintenance issues were resolved.

Mr. Rhodes said their crew is working on them now.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to accept and file this report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Burns Park Tennis Center: Deanna Garrettson said the Arkansas Tennis Association spent \$8,000 in 2013 for windscreens and tarps for overhangs at Burns Park. She reported that 32 teams have signed up for a tournament this coming weekend, with 15 of these from out of town.

Mr. Bryant commended them on their progress.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to accept and file this report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Smith asked if the water leak under the tennis walkway was repaired.

Mr. Rhodes replied that the water problem is ground water and they are re-routing it.

Ms. Garrettson said the Tennis Advisory Committee will start meeting again soon.

Approval of Association Agreements for 2014: Mr. Caplinger presented proposed association agreements for 2014. Each of these new agreements reflect changes to dates needed for scheduling purposes. Department staff met with the associations and discussed the proposed agreements.

North Little Rock Optimist Club: Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to execute this agreement for 2014. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

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Approval of Association Agreements for 2014 (continued):

North Little Rock Wildcats Youth Football: Mr. Bracely asked the commission if he could hang a *Stamp Out Smoking* banner on the Sherman Park fence during games that would encourage people to stop smoking and make a donation.

Mrs. Stephens told Mr. Bracely to get with Mr. Caplinger on this.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to execute this agreement for 2014. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Request to Waive Fees for Kick for Cure Soccer Tournament: Mr. Rhoads said that a request has been made by the Arkansas Central Soccer Association to waive the fees estimated at \$1,230 for use of the soccer complex for Kick for the Cure soccer tournament. It is a cure for a cancer research fundraiser conducted by the adult soccer league participants. The adult tournament will be held April 12-13, 2014. It will include 35-40 college teams and 30-35 adult teams participating in a small-sided (7 vs. 7 players) games on Quad 4 of the complex.

Mr. Rhodes reported that painting and getting the fields ready for the event cost \$253.00. If an additional staff member is needed, it will cost an additional \$100.00.

Mrs. Smith said the department needs something to cover the maintenance cost.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bradley, to charge \$300 for maintenance and approve waiving other fees for this tournament. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Andrea Richmond said their teams will not need the lights.

Parks and Recreation Vision and Mission Statements: Mr. Rhoads stated that as was mentioned at the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, a cross section of parks and recreation staff have been meeting on vision and mission statements. A lot of great input was submitted by all levels of staff to come up with vision and mission statements. These will be posted in each facility

Currently, staff is working on short, intermediate and long-term goals for the department and each division in the department.

Proposed Vision Statement

To create positive memorable moments through forward thinking, outreach and partnering with the community, providing exceptional parks and recreation facilities and outstanding programs that appeal to every citizen and visitor of North Little Rock.

Proposed Mission Statement

We are dedicated to inspire and enhance our public by providing affordable, safe, and diverse recreational opportunities. We are committed to build a strong healthy community by offering a variety of exceptional programs, parks and facilities. We strive to preserve our unique park legacy and environment for future generations.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bradley, to accept the Parks and Recreation vision and mission statements for the department. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

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Approval of Disc Golf Teeboxx Placement: Mr. Caplinger stated that since the last commission meeting, agreement for the Disc Golf Teeboxx has been reviewed by the legal department and wording/conditions for termination were changed.

Disc golf is a popular sport in Burns Park with (2) 18-hole courses. Specialized discs are recommended but not needed to play and are available at certain retailers in the area. This vending machine will allow those users wanting to play disc golf to purchase a disc or discs on-site.

TeeBoxx Disc Sports has a machine that will carry a variety of golf discs for sale. This unit will accept credit cards only so no cash will be in the machine. TeeBoxx will be responsible for the maintenance of the unit and the merchandise offered.

TeeBoxx desires to place one of their machines in Burns Park for the sale of discs and disc golf related merchandise. TeeBoxx will pay 5% of the adjusted gross sales to the department each month for the exclusive right to sell disc golf related items in the park for a period of five (5) years. A sample report of what TeeBoxx has paid out in other areas is attached. The cost to the department for providing this opportunity is to provide a space for and electricity to the unit. Staff has spoken with a few of the major disc golf players/groups and they are in favor of the machine.

Mr. Davis asked how much this installation would cost the department.

Mr. Caplinger said the department will provide a concrete pad and power to the pad.

Mr. Rhodes said there is power at the pavilion close by and will possibly cost \$200 to \$300 for a short run and receptacle.

Mr. Bryant said he wants to hold this until a response to the proposed agreement is accepted by Teeboxx, LLC. The commission agreed.

Emerald Park Golf Course Lease: Mr. Rhoads stated that it has been mentioned at various times by staff, that the Emerald Park golf course has had a decrease in golf play but continued costing the department. Staff feels that the commission should consider getting out of the lease with the Veterans Administration. Also shared with the commission in the last few months, the Arkansas Veteran's Affairs Commission has indicated the desire to use Emerald Park golf course as the site for the Arkansas Veterans Housing. This site has now been confirmed to be the best location for such housing.

To make this possible, the lease agreement between the city Parks and Recreation Department and the National Department of Veterans Affairs will need to be dissolved. Staff is seeking the commission's permission for staff to work to dissolve the agreement with the Ft. Roots Office of Veteran Affairs.

The golf course will probably remain as a golf course until the lease is dissolved and construction begins on the housing project. It is anticipated that this will take at least a minimum of five (5) or six (6) months to happen, but could take longer. This will result in no longer operating the golf course by September or October of this year. The Mayor and staff have been working with the Veteran's Administration.

Steve Ralston said the department does not plan to have any responsibilities regarding this location once the lease is voided.

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Emerald Park Golf Course Lease (continued): Older department owned maintenance equipment could be donated to the Veterans Administration. If the Veteran's Department decides to keep any of the holes on the course, they (Veteran's Department) will totally maintain these.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to dissolve the lease with the Veteran's Administration. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Director Reports:

Ian Hope stated that an explosive device was found on the river trail at Catfish and Goalie intersection. It was detonated by the police.

Mr. Rhoads reported the following:

In January of this year, the Burns Park rocket slide playground was vandalized and burned. The main structure of the playground needs to be replaced, which represents about 75% of the play

area. To be able to tie in with the structure that was salvageable, purchase of the replacement section from Miracle Playground, Inc., is required. This is where the equipment was originally purchased in 2006.

Total cost to replace the play structure and remove the vandalized area would be \$111,482.69. With insurance funds and current pledges in donations raised by Jeanne Hyde, an additional \$43,493.41 will be needed. Plans are to continue to raise donations, possibly do a fund raising event, and to seek some possible grant funds to help pay for the loss.

A letter was sent to the Mayor and City Council requesting approval to waive formal bidding for acquisition of the rocket slide section, to proceed with the purchase and that the insurance payment amount of \$111,482.69 be accepted. A \$20,000 grant may be available and fundraising could possibly be done to help with the remaining balance. The balance due will be charged to the park maintenance line item, as funds are available due to vacant job positions. Restitution charges will be filed. Paula Jones said she will talk to the judge about restitution or the vandals performing community service. She will let the commission know at the next regularly scheduled meeting what she found out.

Calendar of Events: Mrs. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. Any items need to be called in by that date and time to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office.

The next regularly scheduled commission meeting is Monday, April 21, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the North Little Rock Community Center.

A public hearing for parks and recreation priorities will be Monday, April 21, 2014, at 5:15 p.m. or directly following the commission meeting.

Adjournment: Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Mrs. Stephens opened the meeting for public comments but there were none.

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith, Secretary