

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**APRIL 21, 2014**

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Mrs. Vicki Stephens, at 5:00 p.m., on April 21, 2014, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Commission Members Present:** Randall Bradley, Neil Bryant, Tom Davis, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones was absent do to a work related meeting.

**Staff Members Present:** Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Jason Rhodes, Tina Worrell, Jeff Caplinger, Steve Ralston, Jennie Cunningham, Renee Henson, Glenda Parker, Matthew Peterson and Paula Jones.

**Others Present:** Zachary Baxla and Jennifer Askea.

**Vote for Excused or Unexcused Absentees:** Charles Jones was absent due attending a work related meeting. Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to count this as an excused absence. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Disposition of Minutes:** Mrs. Stephens presented minutes of the March 17, 2014, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

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

**General Improvement Fund Grant for Rocket Slide:** Mr. Rhoads reported that the Mayor has been working with State Representative Pattie Julian to procure a General Improvement Fund Grant to help pay for replacement of the rocket slide. Staff was asked on April 4, 2014, to submit a grant for \$25,000 to the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to endorse the \$25,000 grant request for the rocket slide. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Disc Golf Teeboxx Placement:** Mr. Caplinger reported that 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 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. The cost to the department for providing this opportunity is to provide a space for and electricity to the unit. TeeBoxx will be responsible for the maintenance of the unit and the merchandise offered.

Since the March 2014, meeting, TeeBoxx has reviewed changes to the agreement and accepted it. The City legal department and wording/conditions were added for termination of the agreement by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Regarding the five-year exclusive agreement, Mr. Bryant asked if other vendors could set up and sell at tournaments.

Mr. Caplinger said that occasional vendors attending tournaments would be able to set up and sell. The last sentence in Section 3 states: Said grant of exclusivity shall not, however, prevent an affiliate disc golf social club's occasional sale of merchandise as a normal part of club activity.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the agreement with TeeBoxx. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

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**School Street and Other Neighborhood Park Hours:** Mr. Rhoads reported that recently staff has had some concerns voiced to them by citizens and Alderman Maurice Taylor about the use of the basketball courts at School Street Park late at night. Also, it has been indicated that the courts are attracting a somewhat bad element of users after dark.

Some consideration was given to remove the basketball goals, but those parties involved want to try closing the park earlier first. In 2010, park hours were discussed by commission and hours were set for closure at 9:00 p.m. from April through September, and at 7:00 p.m. from October through March for some neighborhood parks - Conley, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Military Heights and Lorene Joshua.

Closure and signage has had some success when the police are able to check for violators and the neighbors call in with complaints. Some problems have arisen when signs get vandalized and stolen. By city ordinance, the commission can set hours which are enforceable by the police as criminal trespassers.

Staff is recommending the park hours for School Street Park to be 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. This one time set for year round is for ease of enforcement and to alleviate confusion. The staff would also like the Conley, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Military Heights and Lorene Joshua parks, which are approved for different times, all be set for 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. open time year round as well.

Mrs. Stephens stated she would like Riverview Park (including the skate park area) also included in these hours. She asked if park signs were ever vandalized.

Jason Rhodes stated that they are vandalized and replaced as needed.

After discussion, Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to set opening and closing times for Conley Park, 17<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Military Heights Park, Lorene Joshua Park, Riverview Park (including the skate park area) and School Street Park from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. the year around. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Director Reports:**

Tina Worrell reported:

- **Jennie Cunningham**, Program Supervisor, passed the National Recreation and Park Association test and is now a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional.
- Ms. Cunningham said that Matthew Peterson had applied for and received a **fitness grant** in the amount of \$31,200 from the National Recreation and Park Association and the Walmart Foundation. The grant will help fund the summer feeding program and After School program. In addition, it will allow for purchase of other related items such as refrigerators, coolers, tables, chairs, nutrition education and training classes. The program can now be expanded to sites other than the current seven (7). This program will start in the summer.

Mrs. Smith and the commission commended Ms. Cunningham on passing her exam and Mr. Peterson for his work to get this grant.

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### Director Reports (continued):

Jeff Caplinger reported:

- Three (3) Eagle Scout projects are underway in Burns Park:
  - **Updating trail markers** for the red trail
  - **Replacing a walkway** on the green trail
  - **Construction of two (2) pavilions** at the soccer complex near the fishing pier. Boy Scout Zachary Baxla had labor and materials donated to build these 10' x 20' (each) pavilions in Burns Park. They are being built to honor the Wounded Warriors of Arkansas and Native Americans of Arkansas. He started work on these plans two (2) years ago.

Mr. Caplinger said there will be a grand opening for these pavilions on National Trails Day.

Mr. Bryant stated that a list of the pavilion contributors needs to be recognized by the Mayor and City Council.

The commission commended Mr. Baxla.

Mr. Caplinger also reported:

- **A boat, motor and trailer** was donated to the department by the Game and Fish Commission to help with goose egg addling.
- **28 goose nests** and approximately **128 eggs** were **addled** this year.

Mr. Rhoads reported that two (2) **rabid skunks** were found in Burns Park. Traps have been set by the animal control.

**Calendar of Events:** Mrs. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, May 6, 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, May 19, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to adjourn at 5:22 p.m. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith  
Secretary