

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKS AND RECREATION**

**NEEDS FOR THE 2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**APRIL 21, 2014**

The Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing was called to order by Vicki Stephens at 5:22 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 due 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:** Aldermen Debi Ross and Beth White, Cary Tyson, Deanna Garretson, Brian Colford, Alan New, Brenda Hampton, Anita Carter, Karen Alford, Lorraine Chism, Jim Caton, Joe Ralston, Daniel Haney, Scott Gann, Nikki Killingsworth, Jan Scholl, Emma Purifoy, Bill Trousdale, Preston Cowan, David Key, J. Gromg McCuin, Bruce Johnson, John Peterson, Wes Parson, Michael Likehart, Judy Collier, Ron Gray, Zachary Baxla and Jennifer Askea.

**Reason for the Public Hearing:** Mrs. Stephens stated that the reason for the Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing is to get input on Parks and Recreation Department needs for the 2015 Capital Improvement Program. No action will be taken at this meeting and requests will be considered if money becomes available.

**Crestview Park** - Cary Tyson, Park Hill Neighborhood Association

- First Priority - Install a fence at the south end of Crestview Park for safety: \$20,000 or less
- Implement the Crestview Park master plan

**Burns Park Tennis Center** - Deanna Garretson, Executive Director of the Arkansas Tennis Association

- Lighting for two (2) banks of outdoor tennis courts - four (4) courts total: \$64,000 to \$70,000 total
- Resurfacing four (4) outdoor courts: \$20,000 total

**Military Heights Park** - Alan New, Architect with Taggart Architects  
Estimate will be prepared and sent to the department

- Landscaping borders for park definition
- Pavilion
- Expand playground equipment including an additional swing set
- Wrought iron or aluminum railing fence to limit point of entry
- Sidewalk

- Focused lighting
- Make handicapped accessible

### **Burns Park Golf Course** - Jim Caton

- Maintenance work on Burns Park golf course including cart paths, fairways and roughs

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### **Skate Parks** - Daniel Haney, Owner of Enjoy Lifestyle Center and President of the Enjoy Life Non-Profit Organization

- Build new skate parks or improve current one by expanding the size

Mrs. Stephens asked Mr. Haney to find volunteers and funds for this project, then contact either Jason Rhodes or Jeff Caplinger to work together. Plans will need to be in small increments. After this is done, he can bring a report back to the commission in several months.

Mr. Haney agreed.

Mrs. Smith suggested he get a core group together from North Little Rock to work on this project.

Mr. Haney said most of those that were skating there have left.

### **Skate Parks** - Scott Gann, Parent and Advocate

- Build skate parks throughout the parks and neighborhoods. Two (2) possible locations would be North Shore

Park in Rose City and Lorene Joshua Park.

Mrs. Smith told Mr. Gann to get an interested and organized group together to raise funds or get items donated from businesses. Someone from the community or neighborhood associations could write a grant but the skate park group would need to reach out to find these people. An outline of needs and a detailed plan are required. This plan needs action by their group to get it to materialize.

### **All-Access Park in Burns Park** - Jan Scholl and Emma Purifoy

- Build an all-access park that would accommodate handicapped as well as non-handicapped children. It can

built in conjunction with the rocket slide in Burns Park. Mrs. Scholl said she would help look for the funds.

### **Disc Golf Course** - Bill Trousdale

- Upgrade the current (2) 18-hole disc golf courses at Burns Park (including equipment, design, tee pads, tee

signs and miscellaneous expenditures): \$30,000 total, top end, turn key. Some of these items can be negotiated to lower the cost.

Mrs. Stephens stated that some of these items are in the budget and asked Mr. Trousdale to work with Mr. Rhoads and the staff.

Mr. Trousdale agreed.

**Burns Park Baseball Complex** – Ron Gray, President of the Burns Park Athletic Association

- Continued work and consideration on the ball fields
- Awnings
- Other attractive items to keep the youth coming

There were no more comments. Mrs. Stephens stated that the commission would look at the capital expenditures regarding these requests, and if there were any questions to please call Mr. Rhoads.

The public hearing ended at 6:16 p.m.

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith, Secretary