

NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2010

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Ms. Vicki Stephens at 5:00 p.m., January 19, 2010, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

Commission Members Present: Tom Davis, Jeanne Hyde, Chandra Martin, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones was excused, sadly due to a death in his family.

Staff Members Present: Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Willie Elizandro, Jeff Caplinger and John Crow.

Others Present: Brad Shock, Jeral Howard, Jimmy Settles, Jr., Stephanie Thompson, Mona Lawson, Jerry Cooper, Bernard Bracely, Paula Jones and Shannon Harris.

Minutes: Ms. Stephens presented the November 16, 2009, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. No commission meeting was held in December 2009.

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

Arkansas Boathouse Club Agreement Extension: Bob Rhoads stated that per the Arkansas Boathouse Club Agreement, the Club has to send a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission each year, requesting a one-year extension of their 10-year agreement. Their annual report for 2009 will be presented in March 2010 to the commission. Everything is going well with this club.

Mrs. Hyde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to give the Arkansas Boathouse Club a one-year extension to their agreement. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

2009 Association Annual Reports: John Crow stated that each year, associations are required to send the previous year's annual report to the commission. All association reports due in January 2010 were submitted except for the Central Arkansas BMX Youth Development. Their report will be presented next month.

Mr. Waller asked Brad Shock with the Arkansas Soccer Club why their club financial statement shows a beginning balance of \$600.00, and the bank statement shows a beginning balance of \$6,000.00. The financial statement shows no income on the line items, but total revenue of \$47,000.00. Mr. Waller said the commission has been asking for complete reports every year.

Mr. Shock said he would correct and complete the report.

Mr. Waller said he would not be opposed to renewing their (Arkansas Soccer Club) agreement for 2010, but asked Mr. Crow to get a more complete report to keep on file at the Parks and Recreation office. Mr. Crow agreed.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to accept all of the annual reports, with the Arkansas Soccer Association to provide a complete report to Mr. Crow. These 2009 association reports include Arkansas Soccer Club, AR Central Soccer Association, North Little Rock Optimist Club/DeJanis Baseball Field, Burns Park Athletic Association, North Little Rock Softball Association and Sherman Park Wildcats. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2010 Association Agreements: Mr. Crow recommended executing the following agreements for 2010: Arkansas Soccer Club, AR Central Soccer Association, North Little Rock Optimist Club/DeJanis Baseball Field, Burns Park Athletic Association, North Little Rock Softball Association and Sherman Park Wildcats.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to execute these listed association agreements for 2010. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Waller thanked the representatives for supplying this information in January 2010.

Grant Request for Recreation Centers After-School and Summer Programs: Mr. Rhoads presented details for final review by the commission, for the 87th Session Arkansas Legislature's General Improvement Fund Healthier Lifestyles Grant opportunity. Funds would be used for the following:

BUDGET SUMMARY
AFTER-SCHOOL/SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT REQUEST
NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION

Computer Labs	\$ 21,342
(1) 15-Passenger Van	\$ 22,680
Portable Libraries/Resource Centers	\$ 5,670
Physical Education Type Equipment	\$ 11,134
Tables and Chairs	<u>\$ 9,261</u>
Total	\$ 70,087

Mr. Waller asked Mr. Rhoads if he knew what the department's chances might be to be granted the award.

Mr. Rhoads said Representative Barry Hyde was sponsoring this legislation. There might be a good chance, depending on how many other entities apply for it. Representative Hyde is still actively seeking support from the group that gives out the funds. This general improvement money will come from the State Legislature.

Mrs. Smith commented that this grant is to be used for healthier lifestyles programs, and the grant to be submitted by the department needs to tie in better with that title.

Mr. Rhoads said there might be a cutback in some of the funds.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to approve this grant request as presented and submit to the Arkansas Outdoor Grants committee. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Director Reports:

Mr. Rhoads submitted written director reports.

Budget: Mr. Rhoads stated that the last two (2) months showed a strong comeback in restaurant tax (Hamburger Tax) revenues paid to the city, which helped the department attain only a \$360.00 deficit for year ending 2009.

Several job positions were not filled in 2009, and some of these may not be filled in 2010.

Sales Tax Bond: At the January 25, 2010, City Council meeting, Mayor Hays will ask the council members to approve a sales tax bond. There may be some funds available in this for Parks and Recreation. Also, in approximately six (6) months the Mayor may ask the department to do another tax bond.

Mr. Waller asked if the last bond issue had been completely repaid.

Mr. Rhoads replied that the 2002 bond had been repaid, and the 2005 bond will be repaid in early 2012.

Utility: Mr. Waller asked if the department received any credit on the natural gas leak charge.

Mr. Elizandro said no, but the credit had been requested.

Athletics: Ms. Stephens asked if the department was awarded the High School State Soccer Tournament bid.

Mr. Rhoads said the department was awarded one (1) of the two (2) high school tournament bids.

Mr. Crow said the department got all four (4) State Cup Tournaments, Scholastic Cup Tournament, Arkansas State Championships Tournament, Kohl's Cup Tournament, President's Cup Tournament, AAAA High School Tournament, Kick for the Cure Tournament, Little Rock Spring Tournament and Showcase of the South Tournament. The North Little Rock Optimist Club got the High School Baseball Tournament bid. The park is going to be busy this spring.

Mr. Rhoads stated that North Little Rock has bid on the 2011 National State Soccer Tournament. The City should know possibly in April 2010, to whom it was awarded.

Ms. Stephens asked Shannon Harris how fundraising was going for lights at the Burns Park Soccer Fields.

Mr. Harris said at this time, the Arkansas River City Sports Commission is waiting on Centennial Bank to respond.

Mr. Rhoads reported that the Burns Park Baseball Complex would not be opening this spring. Excessive rain has been a problem and structural soil compaction issues are trying to be worked out.

Director Reports (continued):

Burns Park Ball Complex: Paula Jones said there is a dispute about the compaction with the first construction company. The first construction company said they compacted the soil according to specifications, and the City is saying they did not. The City's Legal Department is talking with the contractor's attorney to see what the construction company is willing to do, if anything, to cure it.

Mrs. Jones said that the Mayor might give some money toward the complex construction to help get it finished. She said it was built in a low area and there has been a lot of rain.

Appreciation: Ms. Stephens thanked Willie Elizandro for getting gates installed at Burns Park, and she appreciates all that the staff does.

School Street Park: Mr. Davis said he saw a news report about School Street Park, but did not get to hear all of the report.

Mr. Rhoads said he did not see the report, but the playground has been completed.

Calendar of Events: Ms. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 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 Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 5:00 p.m., in the North Little Rock Community Center.

Adjournment: Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hyde, to adjourn at 5:21 p.m. All voted aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith
Secretary