

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS FOR THE 2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**MAY 20, 2013**

The Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing was called to order by Vicki Stephens at 5:15 p.m., on May 20, 2013, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Commission Members Present:** Tom Davis, Chandra Martin, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones had to work and Mr. Bryant had another meeting. These were excused.

**Staff Members Present:** Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Willie Elizandro, Tina Worrell, Jennie Cunningham, Katrina Wilbon, Renee Henson, Glenda Parker, Jeff Caplinger, Jason Rhodes and Paula Jones.

**Others Present:** Aldermen Debi Ross and Beth White, Scott Gann, Cary Tyson, Terry Eslick, Deanna Garretson, Billy Lawson, Bernard Bracely, Daniel Haney, Ruby Stewart-Brown, Harlan Hunter, Nikki Killingsworth, Ron Brown and Jake Sandlin.

**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 2014 Capital Improvement Program. No action will be taken at this meeting and requests will be considered if money becomes available,

**Skate Parks** – Scott Gann – Resident of Sherwood

- Skate parks throughout the parks and neighborhoods. One proposed design would cost \$25,000 for each park.

**Crestview and Fearneyhough Parks** – Cary Tyson – Park Hill Neighborhood Association

- Fence along Crestview Park for safety: \$25,000  
- Master plan for Fearneyhough Park: \$2,000

**Rose City Park** – Terry Eslick – Rose City Neighborhood Association

- (2) Skate park board ramps – 23' x 32' ramps each, and two tents to go with them. All is less than \$10,000 total.

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

- Burns Park outdoor tennis center courts resurfaced: \$5,000 per court – four (4) courts \$20,000  
- Additional outdoor courts lighted: light (4) courts \$65,000

**Burns Park Baseball Complex** – Billy Lawson – First Vice-President of the Burns Park Baseball Complex

- Shade structure: \$90,000  
- Paved parking lot  
- Maintenance shed: \$80,000

**Sherman Park Baseball Field** – Bernard Bracely – President of the North Little Rock Wildcats Football

- Scoreboard  
- Lights  
- Fence  
- More parking

**Sherman Park Area** – Bernard Bracely – President of the North Little Rock Wildcats Football

- Better lighting on the walking trail
- Swimming pool improvements and water features
- Replace old wooden bleachers with lighter metal bleachers

Mr. Rhoads stated that a grant has been awarded for the scoreboard, better lighting and irrigation on the field at Sherman Park, as well as handicapped accessibility at Burns Park.

**Daniel Haney** – Owner of Enjoy Lifestyle Center and President of the Enjoy Life Non-Profit Organization

- More and better skate parks. A location example would be under the new Broadway Bridge in North Little Rock. He would help with this project.

Mrs. Stephens asked Mr. Rhoads to contact Mr. Haney and give him a staff person's name to talk to about his ideas.

**Ruby Stewart-Brown** – Young Community Advocate of Baring Park

- Basketball goals in the area.
- Place for the youth to go in Baring Cross.

Mrs. Stephens stated that Mr. Rhoads would contact her.

**Harlan Hunter** – President of the Young Community Advocates of Baring Park

- Wants to utilize part of the Vestal Park for youth with a gazebo and basketball goals.

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

The public hearing ended at 5:39 p.m.

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith, Secretary