

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
May 13, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Bishop Park Administration Building
6401 Boone Rd. Bryant, Arkansas

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Amanda Jolly at 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present - Amanda Jolly, Renee Curtis, Lynn Farmer, Drew Martin, Chera Moore, Jason Whittington and Jennifer Benning.

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Parks Assistant Director Matt Martin, IT Support Technician Philip Plouch, City Councilmen Jon Martin and Jack Mosely and Chrystal and Adam Baker with Salt County Lacrosse.

Approval of Minutes

1. March 11 Parks Committee Meeting

Motion to approve by D. Martin, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried.

Finance Reports

2. Parks Department Quarterly Finance Report

Cox gives the 1st Quarter Finance Report showing revenues and expenses for January through March 2025. Revenues have come in 2% less than the budgeted amount for 3 months, but Cox mentioned that the first quarter is usually the slowest quarter of the year. Expenses were right in line with what was budgeted for the first quarter.

Discussions took place regarding possible ways to increase memberships revenues.

Associations/Club Reports

3. Salt Country Lacrosse Annual Report

Chrystal and Adam Baker present on Salt County Lacrosse, founded in 2023 and currently practices and plays home games at Alcoa 40 Park. They started with a high school girls and boys program, which have both made the state playoffs the last two years, and they now include a youth program. They summarized the accomplishments of the program and the facilities since their inception and also discussed the immediate needs for field expansion and new lights on the game field. Salt County Lacrosse has contributed over \$30,000 and 800 volunteer hours in facility upgrades.

Discussion followed as it pertains to the immediate needs, mostly on upgraded lighting estimated at \$200,000. D. Martin asked if it was possible to move parts from the softball lights over to fix the lacrosse lights currently out; Cox and A. Baker both said they have been looking at the possibility of that with no solutions so far.

Director's Report

4. Parks Department Monthly Summary

Cox presents the summary of actions and activities since the last Committee meeting and highlights Aquatics Coordinator Compassion Moomey receiving the Adaptive Swim Whisperer Certification through Swim Angelfish and thanked the Tyler Dannaway foundation for sponsoring her through that process.

Farmer asked how registration was going on the new Summer programming; Cox said that pickleball has been very successful but some of the other programs are having a harder time gaining traction.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

Old Business

5. Bryant Parks Advertising Plan

Cox presents the Advertising Plan and discusses briefly the ways that the Department will be promoting that plan in the coming weeks. Cox reiterates to the Committee that this is not only opportunities for added revenues for the Department but also opportunities for local businesses to help get their name out.

New Business

6. Considering of Passing Credit Card Fees along to the Consumer

Cox asks for support to consider implementing policies to pass credit card fees along to the consumer. He also mentions that other city departments, including water billing, are planning to start passing those along as well. He said that the Department spent around \$12,500 last year on credit card fees. He said that if this passes this month, there would still be a process for that transition and at this time does not have a set timeline for when that would be implemented or what the fees would be.

Motion to recommend passing along credit card fees by Curtis, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

Committee Comments

D. Martin expressed his appreciation for the Parks Tour on May 7, including the handouts for future planning at each park from the Master Plan. Cox credited Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrano for creating the handouts and thanked the Bryant Youth Association for donating their van for the tour.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Farmer, seconded by D. Martin. Motion carried.