

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting

June 10, 2025 - 6:00 PM

Bishop Park Administration Building

6401 Boone Rd. Bryant, Arkansas

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Renee Curtis at 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present - Renee Curtis, Tony Williams, Lynn Farmer, Chera Moore, Jennifer Benning and Drew Martin.

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Parks Assistant Director Matt Martin, Grants Coordinator Rebecca Kidder, IT Support Technician Philip Plouch, CASC President Jim Anderson, City Councilman Jack Mosely and Gabrielle Harvey.

Approval of Minutes

1. March 11 Parks Committee Meeting

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

Associations/Club Reports

2. Central Arkansas Soccer Club Annual Report

Central Arkansas Soccer Club President Jim Anderson gives their annual report highlighting the history of the club as well as some of their current successes. The program currently includes 829 participants and continues to grow every year. He also addressed some of the challenges they are currently facing, predominantly spacing issues and the need for the long-term expansion at Midland Park.

Farmer asked about the long-term plans for Midland expansion; Cox explained that it is in the Master Plan to double the amount of fields at Midland, however currently there is no funding source for the capital project. D. Martin asked how close the Club is to reaching capacity, to which Anderson said they are very close. M. Martin also explained that the constraints are not just due to how many kids can be squeezed onto a field, but also the long-term damage that it does to the fields. Williams asked about the feasibility of turfing the fields to accommodate for the increased usage or if there are any other areas or projects in the city going on that could assist short-term with expanding soccer facilities. Cox addressed those questions and said that the Department and Club are always looking for ways to continue to provide space for CASC's continued growth.

Director's Report

3. Parks Department Monthly Summary

Cox presents the summary of actions and activities since the last Committee meeting and did give an update on the Splash Pad closure, explaining the issue has been resolved and the Splash Pad will open by the weekend.

Public Comments

Gabrielle Harvey expressed her enjoyment playing pickleball at The Center and commended Parks Program Coordinator Hunter Bolin for the league.

Old Business

There was no Old Business

New Business

4. Energy Savings Performance Contracting Grant

Grants Coordinator Rebecca Kidder introduces a plan to apply for a 50-50 matching grant for building efficiency improvements, including HVAC and LED lighting. She said that we are currently waiting on pricing and will come back to the Parks Committee once there is an actual dollar amount tied to these projects. Cox also informed the committee that the equipment we are looking at replacing with this grant is equipment that is expected to reach its lifespan in the next couple of years and have to be replaced regardless.

5. Arkansas Community Assistance Grant Program

Kidder asks for support in applying for two projects with the Arkansas Community Assistance Grant Program. The first project would be for parking lot lighting at Bishop Park. The second would be to ask for field lighting at Alcoa 40 Park on the Lacrosse Field and both softball fields. Both projects are independent of one another and they are 80-20 matches so at the most the city would only be responsible for 20% of the cost of both projects. Cox assures the committee that both of these projects are high priority in the Parks Master Plan.

Motion to recommend both grant applications by D. Martin, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

6. Request to change the location for the July Parks Committee Meeting

Cox asks for a motion to suspend the bylaws for the July Parks Committee Meeting to the Bryant Museum. The Bryant Historical Society will be giving their annual report to the committee at that meeting and would like to open the museum beforehand for anyone that would like to come and tour the facility.

Motion to suspend the bylaws and host the July Parks Committee Meeting at the Bryant Museum by Moore, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

Committee Comments

There were no Committee Comments

Adjournment

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