

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting

Jan 13, 2026 6:00 PM

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room
6401 Boone Rd

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Amanda Jolly at 6:00

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

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Parks Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrone and City Council Member Jack Mosely.

Motion to move **New Business Agenda Item 4** to the beginning of the meeting by Jolly, seconded by D. Martin. Motion passes.

New Business

1. Election of Parks Committee Chairperson

Motion to nominate Renee Curtis as Chairperson by D. Martin, seconded by Whittington. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes

2. December 9 Parks Committee Meeting

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

Director's Report

3. Parks Department Monthly Summary - December

Cox presented the monthly report, highlighting the success of the Trail of Lights at Mills Park in December and expressing appreciation to the Parks grounds crew for maintaining the trail throughout the month. In response to Farmer's question regarding sponsor donations, Cox noted that the event ultimately paid for itself through sponsorship support.

Curtis requested an update on recent off-roading vandalism at Bishop Park. Cox reported that additional signage has been installed and enforcement efforts have increased. One individual responsible for damage was identified and required to complete community service to repair the area.

Cox informed the committee of necessary repairs to the entrance sign at Alcoa Park and to the Center's chiller. The Department is moving forward with repairs, though costs will likely require budget adjustments.

Finally, Cox reported that the Department was not awarded the grants for parking lot lighting at Bishop Park or field lighting at Alcoa Park. However, City Council approved funding for the Bishop Park parking lot lights using General Fund savings, and the Department is working to establish a project timeline for installation.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

Old Business

4. Request to Bid on RFP to Provide Aging Services

Cox followed up on last month's report by presenting the updated budget impact, which was approved by City Council in December. His presentation centered on two key questions: the cost to operate the Senior Adult Center and how the Parks Department intends to fund it. Cox reported that the estimated annual operating cost is \$346,517, and the Department anticipates recovering approximately 93.3% of that amount. This leaves an estimated \$23,241 to be generated through fundraising, facility rentals, or expense savings. He noted that the Department plans to submit the bid on Friday, January 16.

Curtis asked how CareLink would be involved if the Parks Department was awarded the bid. Cox explained that CareLink would resume its role in managing state and federal funds and reimbursing the City of Bryant accordingly. Whittington inquired about any potential cost increases not reflected in the presented figures, and Cox stated that no additional costs of any significance have been identified at this time.

Committee Comments

D. Martin asked whether the Department had any concerns related to the upcoming winter storms. M. Martin reported that the primary concern is extremely cold temperatures, which can lead to water line breaks—a problem the Department has experienced in previous years. He noted that, despite winterizing outdoor restrooms and concession stands, occasional damage can still occur during periods of severe cold. He also mentioned the potential for ice or snow to impact shade structures, though the Department has not encountered issues with those in the past.

Adjournment

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