Bryant Parks Committee

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

Date: October 13, 2026 - **Time:** 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. September 8 Parks Committee Minutes

- Minutes-ParksCommittee-September2026.pdf

Associations / Club Reports

2. Bryant Softball Association Annual Report

Director's Report

3. Bryant Parks September Summary

- Parks Directors Report - September2026.pdf

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Parks and Recreation

4. Parks Department 2027 Budget Proposals - Budget Workshop with City Council - 5:30 PM October 27

Committee Comments

Adjournments

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
September 8, 2026 6:00 PM
Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room
6401 Boone Rd

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Renee Curtis at 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present - Amanda Jolly, Renee Curtis, Tony Williams, Lynn Farmer, Chera Moore, Jennifer Benning, Drew Martin
Others Present – Parks Director Keith Cox, Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrono, Aquatics Superintendent Kristin Robinson, Aquatics Specialist Hunter Heatley, City Councilman Jack Mosely.

Approval of Minutes

1. **May 12 Parks Committee Meeting**

Motion to approve by Moore, seconded by Jolly. Motion carried.

Finance Reports

2. **Parks Mid-Year Finance Report**

Cox presented the Finance Report and explained that it covered activity through June. He briefly reviewed actual revenues and expenses compared to the budget and noted a few outliers. He informed the committee that some amounts would need to be reclassified, which will balance out the budget. He reported that the Department was 3% ahead of schedule on revenues for the year and that expenses were exactly on pace.

Curtis asked about the higher-than-normal professional services expenses. Cox explained that the increase was directly tied to programming revenues being ahead of schedule, as those expenses include payments to instructors for private programming, which remains profitable for the Department.

Associations / Club Reports

Director's Report

3. **Bryant Aquatics Annual Report**

Aquatics Superintendent Kristin Robinson introduced Aquatics Specialist Hunter Heatley, who began with a brief explanation of his role, a new position created earlier in the year. Heatley then reported on the Barracuda Swim season, the first season operated by the Parks Department. He noted that the program had not been left in good condition, which led the Department to absorb it earlier in the year; however, under Heatley and coach Garrett Sullivan, the program expanded significantly throughout the season and received very positive feedback.

Heatley also provided an update on the BASS swim team, which is continuing to grow and is expected to benefit from the Barracudas now serving as an in-house feeder program. He shared that BASS had a successful showing at Junior Olympics, with eleven swimmers competing and one swimmer, Jagger Mercing, earning two national championships, along with additional medal finishes from other athletes.

Robinson then reviewed facility upgrades completed over the past year, including the new dehumidification unit and fans at the Bishop Aquatic Center, ADA lifts at both pools, and the new pool cover at Mills Pool. She also discussed the conversion of the splash pad to a flow-through system, which has improved water safety. Robinson noted that all upgrades have been beneficial for operations and have enhanced user comfort and safety at aquatics facilities.

4. **Parks Department July Summary**
5. **Parks Department August Summary**

Cox presented the summary for July and August and highlighted the new flag football league that the Department absorbed in-house this year. He also provided an update on repairs following the heavy windstorms in mid-August.

He then reviewed the capital projects currently under construction, informing the committee that the basketball court at Mills Park was expected to be completed and open by the end of September, with lights scheduled for installation in late October. He also noted that the Alcoa/Mills Connector Trail was scheduled to open in early October.

Cox concluded by informing the committee that, at the request of the Greater Bryant Chamber of Commerce, the Parks Department would take the lead on coordinating Fall Fest this year, the 39th annual event. He added that the Chamber board and its ambassadors have been very supportive and plan to continue providing volunteers for the event. Fall Fest is scheduled for October 31 from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Committee Comments

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Moore, Seconded by Farmer. Motion carried.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
September 2026

Programming & Events

- Men's Basketball League is underway with 12 teams participating in the league.
- Adult Pickleball has two leagues currently underway that will finish in October.
- Registration is open for a charity Pickleball tournament on October 24. It will be Halloween themed raising money for polio vaccinations in partnership with the Bryant Rotary Club.
- Youth Flag Football will finish in October. We had 103 kids participating in our first year since taking over that program.
- Youth Volleyball closed registration with 127 participants, the highest number in years.
- Youth Tennis lessons start back on October 8 and run for the entire month.
- Registration is still open for Youth Basketball through the month of October.
- Bishop Park Softball Complex hosted a USA Softball Tournament on September 5.
- Bishop Park Baseball Complex hosted a 2D Baseball Tournament on September 12-13.
- Provided the Purple Room to Bryant Animal Control for a training session on September 21.
- There were 9 other unique rentals and 5 recurring rentals during the month of September.

Aquatics

- Closed Mills Pool for the season.
- Conducted a lifeguard in-service training focused on CPR/AED skills and response to a choking person.
- Entered into a maintenance agreement with Gibbs Service Company for the Aquatic Seresco dehumidification unit.

Senior Services

- The Center hosted its annual Health Fair and Dessert Contest, featuring nearly 50 booths and raising approximately $1,300 for the Center.
- Evidence-based health programs expanded significantly, including the launch of *A Matter of Balance*, *Drums Alive*, and continued *Walk With Ease* sessions with UAMS.
- Completion of the CareLink/Area Agency on Aging site assessment on September 14, covering compliance, nutrition programs, emergency procedures, and documentation review.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
September 2026

- Participation in the Age Well, Live Well Forum, where staff presented on Center programs and fall-prevention initiatives.
- Social media presence exceeded 500 followers, improving community outreach and engagement.

Parks Maintenance

- Continued cleanup following the windstorm that impacted Bishop Park in August, including removing the destroyed scoreboard on A1.
- Weedeated and cleared the rain garden are on Mills Park Playground.
- Filled holes at the Alcoa 40 Dog Park.
- Worked with Leadership Saline County to prepare Mills Park for the Woofstock event that took place on September 26. Provided staff day of to assist with setup and cleanup, along with monitoring trash throughout the event.
- Construction is still underway for the Alcoa to Mills Park Connector Trail. Currently the project is scheduled to finish mid to late October.
- Construction is still underway for the Mills Park Basketball Court. Currently the project is scheduled to finish in mid October.

Parks Administration

- Parks Director Keith Cox had the opportunity to attend the NRPA Annual Conference in Philadelphia September 28 – October 1. At the event, which this year had nearly 9,000 professionals from around the world, he presented two educational sessions focused on small-agency challenges and leadership. The Small Agency Network, of which Cox co-founded earlier this year, was highlighted during both morning General Sessions in front of more than 5,000 professionals each day, including recognition from NRPA President & CEO Kristine Stratton. Cox also helped facilitate the first-ever in-person Small Agency Network meeting, which reached room capacity, providing valuable opportunities for networking, shared learning, and professional connection.