**Bryant Parks Committee Meeting**
Jul 14, 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, Lynn Farmer, Drew Martin, Chera Moore and Lisa Bergren
Others Present – Parks Director Keith Cox, Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrono, Bryant Mayor Chris Treat, Kathy Lewallen with Bryant Historical Society and City Council Members Butch Higginbotham and Jack Mosely.

**Approval of Minutes**

1. **May 12 Parks Committee Meeting**

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

**Presentations and Announcements**

2. **Bryant Leap Forward Update**

Mayor Chris Treat provided an update on the City of Bryant Comprehensive Plan. He reported that initial survey results and community feedback indicate that residents desire top-tier amenities but do not support an increase in taxes. As a result, the current focus of the study is on identifying opportunities for intentional growth that strengthen the local economy while minimizing impacts on city infrastructure. This includes prioritizing development in market centers with smaller footprints and exploring mixed-use zoning that combines residential and commercial districts. Mayor Treat concluded by encouraging Committee members to remain engaged in the initiative by completing the second survey, now available, and helping to promote participation within their communities.

Higginbotham asked how this effort differs from previous attempts to pursue similar concepts in Bryant. Mayor Treat responded that lessons learned from earlier unsuccessful initiatives have informed a more intentional approach, including development of a comprehensive plan supported by both the community and elected officials, which may lead to necessary zoning policy changes. Cox reiterated that this process is distinct because the Comprehensive Plan would be completed prior to initiating new development.

Moore asked about the process for enabling mixed-use zoning and whether sales tax revenue could be retained within the ward in which it is generated. Mayor Treat stated that any zoning changes would require Council action and noted that statewide ballot initiatives scheduled for this Fall may provide additional local authority to allocate funds within specific districts.

D. Martin asked if these mixed-use communities would have the abilities to rent and buy, feeling there is a need to be diverse but not oversaturate the market on any specific type of housing option. Treat said that specifics like that would be dependent on each development, but he would expect to see both options available.

**Associations / Club Reports**

3. **Bryant Historical Society Annual Report**

Kathy Lewallen presented the annual report for the Bryant Museum, highlighting key activities and community engagement over the past year. She noted that the museum welcomed multiple visiting groups, provided guided tours, and received donations from several local individuals and organizations, reflecting continued community interest in preserving Bryant's history. Lewallen reported that 37 individuals attended Museum Day in September and shared that the museum plans to host the event again this coming September. She also noted that 25 visitors toured the museum during the Bless Bryant event at Ashley Park. The museum remains open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

**Director's Report**

4. **Parks Department May Summary**

Cox presented the monthly Parks Department summary, noting the City's transition from Google to Microsoft and early success of the Barracudas Swim Team in its first season under Parks. He reported that parking lot lining at Bishop Park is complete and construction has begun on the Mills Basketball Court. Cox also shared that the Senior Adult Center has been operating for a couple of weeks and that construction on the Mills to Alcoa Connector Trail is expected to begin soon.

**Public Comments**

*There were no Public Comments*

**Old Business**

*There was no Old Business*

**New Business**

*There was no New Business*

**Committee Comments**

*There were no Committee Comments*

**Adjournment**

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