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.