BRYANT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA MINUTES
January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Call-to-Order
In attendance: Renee Curtis, Amanda Jolly, Lynn Farmer, Richard McKeown, Jason Whittington, Cody Crist

Others: Chris Treat, Keith Cox, Jordan O'Rourke, Jack Mosley, Butch Higginbotham, Mayor Allen Scott

Director's Report
Treat reported the following: Alcoa 40 pavilion should be completed with a grand opening when weather permits.

The Mills Park tennis/pickleball courts post tension slab will be poured as weather permits. Mills Park Pavilion 1 renovations are complete and power will be restored after the Tennis/pickleball courts are done.

Basketball is going well 780 kids in the league. Special appreciation to the Bryant School District for allowing the Department to use elementary school gyms.

Baseball and softball start next week. This is the beginning of parks' busiest period of the year.

Treat will bring a list of capital improvement list for 2023 to the committee next month.

Parks received 160K grant to complete the Mills Park inclusive playground. The goal is to have the construction done by the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Richard McKeown thanked the Department for the installation of a safety sign at Mills Park and installing a security fence on the north side of Springhill Park.

Richard McKeown asked how the basketball participation numbers compare to past years. Cox said the numbers have gone up from approximately 500 participants pre-Covid to almost 800 now.

Public Comments: None

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chairperson
Renee Curtis nominated Amanda Jolly to serve as committee chair. Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2023 Meeting Dates

Jason Whittington made a motion to meet the second Tuesday of each month in 2023 in the Parks Admin Building Conference Room.Farmer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Concessions Contract

Due to circumstances out of the Department's control a new concessionaire was needed for basketball and baseball. Due to the timing the contract needed to be in place before the year started, thus the need to waive competitive bidding. Cox explained the concessionaire does concessions for Benton Parks and manages the Bryant Chik-fil-A. The contract is the same as the one the Department had with the previous concessionaire.

Richard McKeown had a few points of clarification and additions designed to protect the city, including:

- Is there a provision for contractors to require background checks for their employees.
- McKeown also asked about fees specifically adding language about fines and sanctions. Renee Curtis pointed out the contract does not currently have language about background checks and noted a few places a provision could be put in the contract. The Department will seek the City Attorney's opinion on these questions before the contract goes to the City Council.
- Richard McKeown asked if the concessionaire does business as a Limited Liability Corporation an LLC or not. The contract as currently written does not indicate the concessionaire does business as an LLC.
- McKeown noted the code food truck concession on the city website. He suggested the section of the code be added to the contract.

Curtis made a motion to approve the contract with amendments suggested by the City Attorney. Jason Whittington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joyce Boswell Emeritus Status

McKeown made a motion that Joyce Boswell be granted Emeritus status. Farmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wi-Fi Service for Bishop Park

McKeown asked that the Department explore providing Wi-fi service for the entire Bishop Park complex. McKeown said he had made an informal inquiry to someone familiar with and experienced in installing wi-fi service to parks facilities in Central Arkansas. Based on his preliminary discussions, it was estimated installation of wi-fi throughout Bishop Park could be done for $10 -15,000 subject to confirmation of a scope of work. After discussion it was agreed Parks management will report back to the committee with more information.

Restroom Availability at Bishop Park During Pre-Season Practices

McKeown also asked about the restrooms being closed when baseball and softball practices start. Sometimes due to cold weather the Department keeps the restrooms closed after practice starts. The Department communicates these closures to the leadership of the athletic associations. McKeown also asked about the fence on the west side of the A complex. Cox explained it was put there to discourage parking on the road during league practice and games.

Aquatic Center Roof Repair Status
Farmer asked for an update on the aquatic center's roof repairs. Treat will report back as soon as he has a firm date on when the repairs will be completed.

Adjournment
Curtis made a motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by ~~Lynn~~ Farmer and was passed unanimously.