Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
February 13, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Bishop Park Administration Building
6401 Boone Rd. Bryant, Arkansas

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Richard McKeown at 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present - Cody Crist, Lynn Farmer, Amanda Jolly, Drew Martin, Richard McKeown and Jason Whittington

Committee Members Absent - Renee Curtis

Others Present - Parks Assistant Director Keith Cox, Systems Administrator Brandon Fontenot, Bryant Boys & Girls Club CEO Suzanne Passmore and Council Members Jack Moseley and Rob Roedel

McKeown and Parks Committee welcomes Drew Martin, new Parks Committee member representing Ward 4.

Approval of Minutes - January 9th Parks Committee Meeting

Motion to approve by Crist, seconded by Farmer. Motion carried.

Associations/Club Reports

Bryant Boys and Girls Club Report presented by CEO Suzanne Passmore. In 2023, Bryant BGC served 1,210 Youth in the community; including 15,050 hot meals and 51,550 free snacks. Multiple programs were offered, including Art, Gardening, Music and STEM. Also free swim lessons were provided to every attendee in the Summer program in partnership with Bryant Parks.

Director's Report

Cox presented the Spring/Summer schedule of sporting events scheduled to be hosted at Bishop Park including Baseball, Basketball, Softball and Swimming. Schedule is very full with only 3 free weekends through Spring and Summer (Eclipse weekend and weekend after Memorial Day). Focus on more multi-day events to increase economic impact.

Maintenance Updates - "A Complex" Backstop netting has been completed. Roof over the Splash Pad Pump has been completed. Drainage project behind the Center has been completed.

All restrooms have been de-winterized and opened since there are not excessively cold temperatures in the forecast. Approximate cost for supplies to install heaters in ballpark restrooms is $1200 ($800 at Bishop and $400 at Midland). We would like to monitor the budget and if it allows, install those before next winter. If another cold front comes through and it is necessary then we will consider installing heat rather than winterizing and closing again.

During the grant application for the National Fitness Campaign outdoor fitness area, it was recommended to have assurances from the City to match the amount received in the grant. Due to current resource limitations and top priority being on lighting at Bishop Park, we will not continue to pursue the grant at this time. The City is continuing to look for grant opportunities for lighting Bishop Park parking lots.

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Committee Comments

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Whittington, seconded by Martin. Motion carried.