Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
June 11, 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 - Richard McKeown, Cody Crist, Renee Curtis, Lynn Farmer, Amanda Jolly, Drew Martin, Jason Whittington

Committee Members Absent - Jennifer Benning

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Systems Administrator Brendan Fontenot, Grounds & Maintenance Superintendent Matt Martin, Community Development Interim Director Colton Leonard and Jeff Hall with Central Arkansas Soccer Club.

Approval of Minutes

1. **March 14 Regular Parks Committee Meeting**

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

Associations/Club Reports

2. **Central Arkansas Soccer Club**

Jeff Hall, President of Central Arkansas Soccer Club, gives the club's annual report. The Club offers three levels of programming and has seen substantial growth the last two years, increasing by over 20% since 2021. Jeff showed appreciation for the Parks Department for the quality of the fields at Midland Park and also Everett Buick GMC for allowing them the ability to offer $10,000 in financial aid for participants this past year. Spacing is their biggest challenge currently as they have outgrown the four fields at Midland Park.

Director's Report

3. **Parks May Summary**

Cox presents the May Summary of actions and accomplishments for the Parks Department and highlights a few items from that list. Cox specifically highlights the baseball tournament that was held Memorial Day weekend. In the days leading up to that event, Bishop Park faced a significant amount of rainfall that led to the baseball complex being flooded in the early morning of Saturday, May 25. Starting at Noon that same day, tournament games began play under exceptional field conditions. Bryant Parks has had a reputation in the past for not holding up under wet conditions due to the flooding of the Park, but this year Bishop Park has been able to play on multiple occasions when other neighboring parks have had to cancel due to weather.

Cox, as well as multiple members of the Committee and Jeff Hall with CAS, credits Grounds & Maintenance Superintendent Matt Martin and his crew for the incredible work they have done to make Bishop Park among the best natural surface parks in the state.

Public Comments

Old Business

4. **Basketball Sub-Committee Update**

Cody Crist updated the Committee that the sub-committee had an initial meeting on Monday, June 3 with all members present and would be meeting again the first Tuesday in July.

5. **Cover for Mills Park Pool**

Cox says that a quote to install a cover for Mills Park pool has been received but they are still waiting on other quotes. It is decided to not make a motion this month and to bring it back with other quotes in July.

New Business

6. **Sponsorship/Advertising**

McKeown leads a discussion over Parks current sponsorship/advertising opportunities and potential growth opportunities. There is an interest in finding more revenue generating opportunities in the Parks and discussions will be continuing.

7. **Master Transportation Plan**

Colton Leonard presents the Bryant Master Transportation Plan, named the Walk, Bike, Drive Plan, with a focus on the long-term bike/pedestrian plan for the city. The plan was adopted in 2017 and at the time the city had 2.7 miles of trails and 1.8 miles of bike lanes. Currently the city has 7.4 miles of trails, 3 miles of bike lanes and another 8.2 miles under engineering and design. Trails were a high priority on the Parks Master Plan surveys and currently there are conversations happening with the Planning Commission on potential changes to the way these trails are funded.

Committee Comments

Crist asks for a status update on the ARDot grant for the sidewalk lighting at Bishop Park. Cox informs that the application has been submitted but it will be the end of the year before we know if we have received the grant.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Curtis, seconded by Crist. Motion carried.