Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
September 10, 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, Renee Curtis, Jennifer Benning, Lynn Farmer, Amanda Jolly, Drew Martin, Joyce Boswell

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Assistant Director Matt Martin, Assistant Aquatics Coordinator Compassion Moomey, Marc White with Batson Engineering, Grants Coordinator Rebecca Kidder, Mayor Chris Treat, Community Development Director Ted Taylor, Communications Coordinator Jordan Reynolds, Councilman Jack Mosely and Rene Mosely.

Cox opened the meeting by asking to add an item number 8 to the agenda for Kidder to present a grant opportunity.
Motion to add Great Strides Grant to the agenda by Martin, seconded by Jolly. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

1. **July 9 Regular Parks Committee Meeting**

Motion to approve by Curtis, seconded by Benning. Motion carried.

Finance Reports

2. **Parks 2nd Quarter Finance Report**

Cox gives the 2nd Quarter Finance Report showing that revenues and expenses were both on track at the halfway point for the year.

Associations/Club Reports

There were no Associations/Club Reports

Director's Report

3. **Bryant Aquatics Swim School Report**

Cox introduces Compassion Moomey, Assistant Aquatics Coordinator and Head Coach for the BASS Swim Team. Moomey gives an explanation of services offered in swim lessons and the amount of participants signed up this Summer. This included group lessons, swim babies, private lessons and the lessons provided to the Bryant Youth Association enrollees. She also

discussed the success that our BASS team had at AAU Junior Olympics in Greensboro, NC in July, bringing home numerous medals.

4. **Parks July-August Summary**

Cox presents the July-August Summary of actions and accomplishments for the Parks Department and highlights a few items from that list. Cox specifically highlights two personnel additions made during that time, first re-introducing Matt Martin as the new Assistant Director. Matt's previous position of Grounds & Maintenance Superintendent will go before Council this month to request approval to unfreeze that position. Also, Hunter Bolin has been hired as Program Coordinator, filling a position to focus on internal programming for the Department.

Public Comments

There were no public Comments

Old Business

5. **Basketball Sub-Committee Report**

Farmer gave the report for the basketball sub-committee and mentioned that a proposed code of conduct would be on the agenda for later in the meeting. He also stated that during the Summer they had some difficulty in communicating with the schools for gym space but were going to continue to try and do that as the school year was back in session.

New Business

6. **Aquatic Center Study**

Cox introduces Marc White with Batson Engineering to give his report from the study conducted on the Bishop Park Aquatic Center to look for possible ways to cool the facility. White explains that he had two goals; one to provide support in the necessary replacement of the PoolPak dehumidification system which had reached its full lifespan, and also to look at other upgrades to help with cooling the facility in the Summer months. White reviews his findings and provides two recommendations for moving forward. Cox addresses the two options and recommends continuing to operate as an outdoor pool during the Summer months with roof panels and doors open and says that Council will be asked to approve funding for the PoolPak replacement in October.

7. **Programming Code of Conduct**

Jolly addresses the research that she did as a part of the sub-committee and the reasons for the proposed code of conduct. Cox explains that if endorsed by the Committee this would be a requirement at registration for all Parks Programming. It is also discussed that this could lead to some additional signage around the Parks reminding participants of the expectations.

Motion to approve the code of conduct by Jolly, seconded by Curtis. Motion passes.

8. **Great Strides Trail Grant**

Kidder gives an explanation of the Great Strides Trails for Life grant offered by the Arkansas Department of Outdoor Recreation. She explains that the grant is for up to $250,000 and does not require any match. If awarded, the funds would be used for repair and overlay of the paved walking trails at Mills Park.

Motion to recommend to Council application for the Great Strides Trail Grant by Martin, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

Committee Comments

Boswell requests a park sign be added to Plum Park. She gives a brief summary of the history of Plum Park and proposes the park being used to plant and cultivate trees before transferring to other parks. McKeown asks the Department to look into that further and bring recommendations back to the Committee.

McKeown mentions being out at the softball complex and commends the Department for the upgrades being made there, including the trash cans, signage and concrete batting practice pads.

Adjournment

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