Bryant Parks Committee

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

Date: April 14, 2026 - **Time:** 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. March 10 Parks Committee Meeting

- Minutes-ParksCommittee-March2026.pdf

Associations / Club Reports

Director's Report

2. Parks Department Monthly Summary

- Parks Directors Report - March2026.pdf

3. Parks Department Programming Annual Report

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Parks and Recreation

4. Request for Sale of Equipment

- Agenda Item History Sheet - Backhoe Auction.pdf

Committee Comments

Adjournments

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting

Mar 10, 2026 6:00 PM

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

6401 Boone Rd

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Renee Curtis at 6:02 PM

Committee Members Present - Amanda Jolly, Renee Curtis, Jennifer Benning, Lynn Farmer and Tony Williams

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Parks Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrono, Aquatics Superintendent Kristin Robinson and Bryant Youth Association CEO Suzanne Passmore.

Approval of Minutes

1. **January 13 Parks Committee Meeting**

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

Associations / Club Reports

2. **Bryant Youth Association Annual Report**

Suzanne Passmore presented the annual report for the Bryant Youth Association, outlining the number of youth served through complimentary meals, snacks, and swim lessons. She reported a re-enrollment rate of 94% and noted that 91 cents of every dollar is reinvested directly into program services. She also provided an overview of the organization's board and volunteer base, shared participant testimonials, and highlighted upcoming programs.She concluded by expressing appreciation to the City of Bryant and the Parks Department for their continued support and partnership.

Director's Report

3. **Parks Department Monthly Summary**

Cox presented the monthly summary and noted that the youth basketball season was extended by one week to accommodate the two weekends of games postponed due to January's inclement weather. He also provided updates on several capital projects, including the installation of parking lot lighting at Bishop Park, progress on the connector trail between Alcoa and Mills Parks, and the final projects of aquatics upgrades initiated in 2025. Cox further informed the Committee that the Parks Department has been officially selected as the provider of Senior Services for the City of Bryant beginning in July.

4. **Update on Barracudas Swim Team**

Cox informed the Committee that, due to an ongoing legal investigation involving the former leadership of the Barracudas Swim Team, the Central Arkansas Swim League (CASL) has suspended the team. This action would leave many local youth swimmers without a team for the upcoming summer season. Cox explained that, with the assistance of Aquatics Superintendent Kristin Robinson, the Parks Department is moving forward with assuming operational responsibility for the Barracudas in order to lift the suspension and ensure continued opportunities for participating swimmers. CASL has stated that the team will be reinstated only if it is operated by the Bryant Parks Department.

Robinson highlighted the potential benefits of integrating the Barracudas with the Department's existing year-round BASS swim program, noting that collaboration between the two teams could strengthen both programs and support long-term development.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

Old Business

5. **Request to apply for ARDOT RTP Grant**

Cox requested approval to apply for an 80/20 matching grant to overlay the existing paved trails at Mills Park. If awarded, the grant would require an estimated $40,000 contribution from the City of Bryant toward the total project cost of approximately $200,000.

Motion to recommend to Council by Jolly, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

New Business

6. **Request to add Aquatics Specialist Position**

Cox stated that with the upcoming addition of the Barracudas swim along with the other responsibilities during Summer months, that it is necessary to add another full-time position to the Aquatics Division. He states that the Aquatics Specialist would be designed to act more as the assistant to the Aquatics Superintendent, especially in the months when the Aquatics Coordinator is pulled away with more swim team and other programming responsibilities; times that also fall during the same months as the additional operation of Mills Pool. This position will also be able to assist with programming and In the "offseason" offset some of the responsibilities currently incurred by part-time shift leaders.

Cox said that this will not be a budget neutral request; however the goal is to fundraise through the Barracudas swim team and be able to offset the additional cost of the position.

Motion to recommend to Council by Farmer, seconded by Curtis. Motion passes.

Committee Comments

Williams reminded the Committee of the Bryant Leap Forward Comprehensive Plan and the importance of continued participation in the community surveys. Farmer requested an update on how the Code of Conduct, implemented last year, was received during its first full season in the youth basketball program. Cox reported that while some issues persisted, the policy provided clearer guidance for departmental decision-making and appears to have reduced the number of repeat offenders.

Adjournment

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

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
March 2026

Programming & Events

- Youth Basketball ended on March 14th. 682 boys and girls participating from Kindergarten through sixth grade all played tournament games the final week of the season, 69 games from Monday to Saturday.
- Youth Volleyball Lessons are running in March, April and May. We currently have 25 girls signed up.
- Adult Pickleball had 2 leagues starting in March. Both an Indoor and Outdoor League. We have 18 teams in the Indoor League and 24 teams in the Outdoor League.
- The Center at Bishop Park hosted the annual First Electric Cooperative stakeholders luncheon and meeting on March 5.
- The Center at Bishop Park hosted the Saline County Sheriff's Debate on March 10.
- The Center Gymnasium at Bishop Park hosted a LifeLine Screening for Stroke Prevention on March 11.
- The Center at Bishop Park hosted a Bryant Leap Forward Town Hall on March 19.
- The Center at Bishop Park also hosted 26 paid events for the month of March.
- The Bishop Park baseball complex hosted a 2D baseball tournament on February 28 - March 1.
- The Bishop Park baseball complex hosted a 2D baseball tournament on March 14 and 15.
- The Bishop Park softball complex hosted the BSA Preseason tournament on March 14.
- Youth Baseball and Softball League seasons started up at Bishop Park.
- Youth Soccer League season started up at Midland Park.
- The following spring programs are now open for registration:
    - Youth Volleyball Lessons
    - Youth Archery-*begins May 12th*
    - Youth Kickball-*begins April 20th*
    - Youth Pickleball Lessons
    - Adult Co-Ed Volleyball-*begins June 2nd*
    - Adult Men's Basketball-*begins April 9th*
    - Adult Women's Basketball-*begins June 4th*

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
March 2026

Aquatics

- Opened the pre-season sale of Mills Pool Summer passes.
- The BASS Swim Meet scheduled for March 7th, was cancelled due to forms in the area. It has been rescheduled for May 2nd.
- Held an AFO class on March 11th with 5 participants from Bryant, Clarksville and Russellville.
- Held a lifeguarding certification class during Spring Break week 5 participants.
- Began taking registrations for the Bryant Barracudas Swim Team.
- Required in-service hours included swimming laps and reviewing the first 3 chapters of the lifeguarding manual on being a professional lifeguard as well as scanning and rotations.

Parks Maintenance

- Added two new lights on the playground at Mills Park.
- Opened older restrooms at Mills Park, between the large Pavilion and the Swimming Pool.
- Turned water back on to Mills Pool from winterizing during colder months.
- Removed the old pool table for the Bryant Youth Association so that it could be replaced with a new pool table that was donated.
- Prepped garden beds for the Bryant Youth Association in the Community Garden after removing the beds behind the BYA.
- The mowing season began in all parks and the ditch area next to Best Value Inn.
- Made repairs to Storywalk at Mills Park including replacing plexiglass covers on five of the story pedestals.
- Install of Bishop Park parking and sidewalk lights began at the Softball Complex.

Parks Administration

- Parks Director Keith Cox attended the Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference and Tradeshow March 23-26. Keith was invited as a featured speaker and presented two sessions on parks resource development and the impact that smaller parks agencies can make on their communities. He had the opportunity to make valuable connections with professionals in another region of the country and be exposed to new ideas and creative problem-solving approaches. All expenses were covered by MRPA and completely free to the City of Bryant.

AGENDA ITEM HISTORY SHEET

ITEM TITLE	**AGENDA NO.**
Auctioning of Parks Equipment	**AGENDA DATE:** 4/28/26

FUNDING CERTIFICATION (Finance Director) (Signature, if applicable)

MANAGEMENT STAFF REVIEW (Signature)

MAYOR (Signature)

ITEM HISTORY (Previous Council reviews, action related to this item, and other pertinent history)

ITEM COMMENTARY (Background discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.) Please identify any or all impacts this proposed action would have on the City budget, personnel resources, and/or residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department has a 2004 John Deere Backhoe that is no longer operable. It is cost prohibitive at this point to repair it in it's currently heavily used condition. Parks would like to auction this items off through GovDeals and the funds to be earmarked towards future equipment needs.

(This section to be completed by the Mayor)

ACTION PROPOSED (Motion for Consideration)