Bryant Parks Committee

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

Date: January 13, 2026 - **Time:** 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. December 9 Parks Committee Meeting

- Minutes-ParksCommittee-December2025 (1).pdf

Associations / Club Reports

Director's Report

2. Parks Department Monthly Summary

- Parks Directors Report - December2025.pdf

Public Comments

Old Business

Parks and Recreation

3. Request to Bid on RFP to Provide Aging Services - Approved by Bryant City Council on December 16

Currently CareLink is managing daily operations for the Bryant Senior Adult Center and has issued an RFP to contract those services out. The Parks Department is requesting support to bid on these services.

New Business

Parks and Recreation

4. Election of Parks Committee Chairperson

Committee Comments

Adjournments

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
Dec 9, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room
6401 Boone Rd

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Renee Curtis at 6:00

Committee Members Present - Renee Curtis, Jennifer Benning, Tony Williams, Jason Whittington, Chera Moore and Drew Martin

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Parks Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrono and City Council Members Jack Mosely and Butch Higginbotham.

Approval of Minutes

1. **October 14 Parks Committee Meeting**

Motion to approve by D. Martin, seconded by Benning. Motion carried.

Finance Reports

2. **3rd Quarter Finance Report**

Cox presented the finance report through September, noting that revenues were ahead of pace through three quarters of the year; although expenses were slightly over, but not as much as the revenues and still tracking well. He also highlighted that a large portion of equipment sales had been categorized as miscellaneous revenue, explaining the imbalances in those lines, and the receipt of $56,610 in FEMA reimbursement for flood damage.

Director's Report

3. **Parks Department Monthly Summary - October**

Cox presented the monthly summary of Parks and Recreation activities, highlighting the Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree trunk or treat and pickleball tournament, which attracted 1200 people to Mills Park but also exposed the need for added lighting at the park. He also gave a capital project update including the full operation of the Seresco Pool Dehumidification Unit at Bishop Aquatics Center and the installation of the pool cover at Mills Park Pool.

4. **Parks Department Monthly Summary - November**

Although technically the lighting was the first of December, Cox highlights the Trail of Lights at Mills Park for the month of December. He also informed the committee that the aquatics center

received upgrades with a UV disinfection system on the therapy pool and a new LED scoreboard and reiterated that the projects were funded with savings from the dehumidification unit project that was completed in October.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

Old Business

5. **Request to Submit Letter of Intent to Bid on RFP to Provide Aging Services**

Cox gives a summary of his presentation at the Council workshop from October 28, explaining that these operations are currently managed by CareLink but they are currently being bid out. He outlined several reasons why the Parks Department is a suitable candidate, including the center's location within Bishop Park, Parks' existing recreation programs for senior adults, current coverage by the Parks Department of utilities and maintenance and the current financial contributions coming from the City General Fund. The discussion also covered financial realities, potential for staff and other expense consolidations, increasing revenues through rentals and strategic benefits like improved coordination and fundraising opportunities. If awarded, the transition would occur on July 1, 2026, with a separate budget category (0460) created for Senior Adult Services to ensure clear financial tracking. This item was already approved by the City Council following the workshop on October 28.

D. Martin asked about specifics regarding the procedures going forward on the funds going from the City to the Senior Adult Council and what impact this would have on the current employees of the facility. Cox explained that the funds will no longer need to go to the Council, beginning in 2027, since those would just be transferred back to the Parks Department anyways and that the Center employees who are currently employed by Carelink, would transition to city employment. Whittington asked examples of other Parks Department operating senior centers and Cox mentioned multiple colleagues that he knows whose departments are running their centers; however he wasn't sure how many of those were accepting the grant funding.

New Business

6. **Request to Bid on RFP to Provide Aging Services**

Motion to approve by Moore, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

7. **Bryant Youth Association - 2026 Program Agreement**

Motion to approve by Moore, seconded by D. Martin. Motion passes.

8. **Bryant Senior Adult Council - 2026 Program Agreement**

Motion to approve by Moore, seconded by Benning. Motion passes.

9. **Bryant Historical Society - 2026 Program Agreement**

Motion to approve by D. Martin, seconded by Whittington. Motion passes.

Committee Comments

There were no Committee Comments

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by D. Martin, seconded by Moore. Motion carried.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
December 2025

Programming & Events

- The Center conference rooms hosted a total of 43 events in December, including Christmas parties, meetings, banquets and baby showers. 32 of these events were paying customers.
- The inaugural It's a Wonderful Bryant Tree and Trail lighting ceremony took place at Mills Park on December 4th. Santa made an appearance and took pictures while an ensemble from the Bryant High School band performed and Tacos Del Norte and Donut NV served delicious treats.
- The inaugural Ugly Christmas Sweater Spectacular Pickleball Tournament was held on December 11th with 24 teams participating. Over $2,000 worth of toys were collected and donated to the Festival of Stars Toy Drive for Arkansas Children's Hospital.
- Practices began for Youth Basketball. Games will begin in January.
- The Center hosted a holiday blood drive on December 30, receiving enough donations to save approximately 10 lives.
- Registration is currently open for Wednesday morning Adult Pickleball which will be starting in February.

Aquatics

- Hosted Bryant High School Swim Meet on December 4 which featured 13 divers and 150 swimmers from 12 teams. This was the first meet utilizing the new video board and swim meet program.
- The BASS Swim Team competed in the Santa Spring Invitational in El Dorado on December 6, where they finished in first place in all combined scores.
- Installed new screens on all sliding doors in the Aquatic Center.
- A lifeguard certification class was conducted on December 16, with 4 participants successfully being recertified.
- Swim Lessons concluded for the year, finishing with 5467 total lessons provided.
- Destination Swim 2025 program completed with 45 participants collectively swimming 87,831 laps, which is equal to 2,495 miles. Michelle Coats swam the furthest, totaling 19,056 laps, or 541 miles; the equivalent of swimming to San Antonio, Texas.
- Registration is currently open for the next session of swim lessons for youth and adults.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
December 2025

- Registration is currently open for the 8th annual Destination Swim program. The theme for this year is Arkansas Roots.

Parks Maintenance

- The gate system behind Bishop Center and Aquatics Center is fully operational; we are still phasing in the closures to ensure that everyone is fully trained and those that need access still have it.
- Continued maintenance at all parks by mulching and clearing leaves during mowing offseason and cleared the brush pile from behind the Bishop Park Softball Complex.
- Loop hoed winter weeds and any ryegrass that popped up on baseball and softball fields at Bishop Park.
- Provided daily maintenance to the Christmas lights display at Mills Park.
- Repaired outfield fences on fields A2 and A3 at Bishop Park.
- Reset home plate on top softball field at Alcoa Park.
- Leveled surfaces around all home plate and bases at Bishop Park and Ashley Park baseball and softball fields.
- Repaired washed out areas at maintenance entrance to Bishop Park ballfields and also vandalized areas from offroading at Bishop Park.
- All restrooms and facilities without heating systems have been winterized.