Bryant Parks Committee

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

Date: February 10, 2026 - **Time:** 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. January 13 Parks Committee Meeting

- Minutes-ParksCommittee-January2026.pdf

Presentations and Announcements

2. Bryant Leap Forward Update - Presented by Jordan Reynolds, City of Bryant Communications Manager

Associations / Club Reports

Director's Report

3. Parks Department Monthly Summary

- Parks Directors Report - January2026.pdf

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Miscellaneous

Committee Comments

Adjournments

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting

Jan 13, 2026 6:00 PM

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

6401 Boone Rd

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Amanda Jolly at 6:00

Committee Members Present - Amanda Jolly, Renee Curtis, Jennifer Benning, Lynn Farmer, 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 Member Jack Mosely.

Motion to move **New Business Agenda Item 4** to the beginning of the meeting by Jolly, seconded by D. Martin. Motion passes.

New Business

1. **Election of Parks Committee Chairperson**

Motion to nominate Renee Curtis as Chairperson by D. Martin, seconded by Whittington. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes

2. **December 9 Parks Committee Meeting**

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

Director's Report

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

Cox presented the monthly report, highlighting the success of the Trail of Lights at Mills Park in December and expressing appreciation to the Parks grounds crew for maintaining the trail throughout the month. In response to Farmer's question regarding sponsor donations, Cox noted that the event ultimately paid for itself through sponsorship support.

Curtis requested an update on recent off-roading vandalism at Bishop Park. Cox reported that additional signage has been installed and enforcement efforts have increased. One individual responsible for damage was identified and required to complete community service to repair the area.

Cox informed the committee of necessary repairs to the entrance sign at Alcoa Park and to the Center's chiller. The Department is moving forward with repairs, though costs will likely require budget adjustments.

Finally, Cox reported that the Department was not awarded the grants for parking lot lighting at Bishop Park or field lighting at Alcoa Park. However, City Council approved funding for the Bishop Park parking lot lights using General Fund savings, and the Department is working to establish a project timeline for installation.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

Old Business

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

Cox followed up on last month's report by presenting the updated budget impact, which was approved by City Council in December. His presentation centered on two key questions: the cost to operate the Senior Adult Center and how the Parks Department intends to fund it. Cox reported that the estimated annual operating cost is $346,517, and the Department anticipates recovering approximately 93.3% of that amount. This leaves an estimated $23,241 to be generated through fundraising, facility rentals, or expense savings. He noted that the Department plans to submit the bid on Friday, January 16.

Curtis asked how CareLink would be involved if the Parks Department was awarded the bid. Cox explained that CareLink would resume its role in managing state and federal funds and reimbursing the City of Bryant accordingly. Whittington inquired about any potential cost increases not reflected in the presented figures, and Cox stated that no additional costs of any significance have been identified at this time.

Committee Comments

D. Martin asked whether the Department had any concerns related to the upcoming winter storms. M. Martin reported that the primary concern is extremely cold temperatures, which can lead to water line breaks—a problem the Department has experienced in previous years. He noted that, despite winterizing outdoor restrooms and concession stands, occasional damage can still occur during periods of severe cold. He also mentioned the potential for ice or snow to impact shade structures, though the Department has not encountered issues with those in the past.

Adjournment

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

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
January 2026

Programming & Events

- The Center and Aquatic Center at Bishop Park sold 48 new memberships in January.
- Youth Basketball started their game schedule with 40 games being played each Saturday at Bishop Park, Hurricane Creek Elementary and Salem Elementary combined. We have 682 boys and girls participating from Kindergarten through sixth grade.
- Winter Morning Pickleball League started on February 4 and will continue through March 11. We have 27 teams participating in 3 divisions that play on Wednesday mornings.
- The following spring programs are now open for registration:
    - Youth Volleyball Lessons
    - Youth Archery
    - Youth Kickball
    - Youth Pickleball Lessons
    - Adult Indoor Pickleball
    - Adult Outdoor Pickleball
    - Adult Men's Basketball
    - Adult Women's Basketball

Aquatics

- A Lifeguard in-service was held on January 10-14, with each lifeguard required to attend one of the days offered. The in-service covered surface and deep end rescue skills as well as swimming stamina.
- The Bishop Park Aquatic Center hosted the Saline County ShootOut Swim and Dive Meet on January 16th with 30 participants from Benton and Bryant HS Swim Teams.
- The Arkansas Aquatics Conference was canceled due to winter weather.
- Swim Lessons started on January 20th for Levels 1-5
- Adult Swim lessons are finishing on February 7th

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
January 2026

Parks Maintenance

- Installed french drains to problem areas that previously held water. This should alleviate standing water that comes up onto the sidewalks and entrances after heavy rain.
- Installed LED lighting in the Weight Room at the Center. Also purchased and installed a member requested large digital clock in the Weight Room.
- Cut out high spots of clay/dirt build up and got the Bishop Baseball pitching mounds back to proper size for the upcoming season. Added new sod where the high spots were cut out. Watered new sod daily for establishment.
- Used loop hoes to remove any winter weeds or rogue ryegrass seeds on the infield dirt. Shaped all grass edges on the infields.
- Began edging all sidewalks at Bishop Park
- Cleared snow and ice from entrances and Center Parking lot to prepare for reopening of Center and Aquatics Center after winter storm.
- Re-opened Bishop Baseball, Bishop Softball, and Midland Soccer Restrooms and turned water back on after emergency winterization. Baseball Restrooms had two pipes in the ceiling that required repairs with supplies we had on hand.
- Temporarily repaired torn shade structures with zip ties. Weather material ripped under the weight of the snow.