Bryant Parks Committee

Boswell Municipal Complex - City Hall Court Room

210 SW 3rd Street

Date: October 14, 2025 - **Time:** 6:30 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. September 9 Parks Committee Meeting

- Minutes-ParksCommittee-September2025.pdf

Presentations and Announcements

2. Bryant Comprehensive Street Improvement Plan

GarNat Engineering and Volkert - Presentation on Street Improvement Plan and Survey The City of Bryant is committed to providing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation for all residents, businesses, and visitors. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve streets, sidewalks, intersections, and other transportation infrastructure, we are seeking your input on areas within the city that need attention. This survey is designed to help us identify problem areas—such as traffic congestion, roadway conditions, pedestrian safety, bike accessibility, and other transportation challenges. Your feedback will guide city leaders and planners as we prioritize improvements and develop long-term solutions for Bryant's transportation network. We encourage all Bryant motorists to share their experiences and concerns. By participating, you are helping us build a safer, stronger, and more connected community.

- Bryant Streets Survey Postcard.png

Associations / Club Reports

3. Bryant Softball Association Annual Report - Presented by Kara White, President - Bryant Softball Association

Director's Report

4. Parks Department Monthly Summary

- Parks Directors Report - October25.pdf

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Committee Comments

Adjournments

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
September 9, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room
6401 Boone Rd. Bryant, AR 72022

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Amanda Jolly at 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present - Amanda Jolly, Renee Curtis, Tony Williams, Lynn Farmer, Chera Moore and Drew Martin

Others Present - Parks Director Keith Cox, Parks Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrono, Bryant Senior Adult Center Council Members Rhonda Sanders, Butch Higginbotham and Dale Johnson; Carelink representatives Deborah Wray and Lori Green; Lisa Bergren, City Council Members Jack Mosely and Jon Martin

Approval of Minutes

1. **July 8 Parks Committee Meeting**

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

Associations / Club Reports

2. **Bryant Senior Adult Center Annual Report**

Rhonda Sanders, Chair of the Senior Adult Center Council, opened by introducing the Council Board and Carelink staff. She highlighted the Center's role in providing meals and social engagement for seniors who might otherwise go without. Sanders outlined the collaborative partnership between the Council, Carelink, and the City of Bryant: the Council serves as an advisory group and raises funds for facility needs; Carelink manages daily operations and federal and state funding for meals and activities; and the City of Bryant supports operations through an annual contract, with the Parks Department providing the facility, maintenance, and utilities.

Senior Council treasurer Butch Higginbotham then gives an update on the state of the Council's funds; where those funds have come from and what they have used them for over the years. Center Coordinator Deborah Wray then gives a report of the services provided by Carelink at the Bryant Senior Adult Center and throughout the region, including the number of seniors impacted and meals served.

D. Martin and Moore followed up with questions regarding the number of regular participants and if the grant funding would increase if more individuals were regularly attending. Carelink

Program Administrator Lori Greene answers saying that there are approximately 500 active registered participants but that the grant money is a flat rate regardless of how many people are participating. Farmer asks how the seniors have been impacted by parking limitations behind the Center due to construction and the gates being added. Higginbotham and Sanders said that although it is a challenge they understand the reasons and offered suggestions that could help from their board.

Director's Report

3. **Parks Department Monthly Summary**

Cox provides the monthly summary of activities and highlights that the Seresco dehumidification system has been delivered and is currently being installed. He said that it should be up and running in the next couple of weeks and the fencing and gates will be installed behind the Center once that construction is complete. He then shared some things the Department is doing to try and alleviate the parking challenges for the seniors and says that handicapped members will still have access to the back parking.

Cox also highlighted Woofstock, staff training and current programming. He then gave an update on the Mills to Alcoa Connector Trail and the pool cover at Mills Pool before introducing Cassie Henry-Saorrono to give an update on upcoming community events; Movies in the Park, Fall Fest, Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree and It's a Wonderful Bryant Christmas Lighting.

D. Martin asked if we had an update on the grant applications for Bishop and Alcoa lighting. Cox answered that we are still waiting but did receive notice that due to a large amount of applications that an answer would take longer than anticipated.

Public Comments

Lisa Bergren proposes that we add shade structures to the inclusive playground at Mills Park. She said that although there is a shaded area provided, there are some children that do not get access to equipment because none of the actual play equipment is shaded. She also gives examples of other playgrounds in the community, specifically at Bishop Park and the park on Raymar Rd, that provide shade on playground equipment.

Old Business

There was no Old Business

New Business

4. **Request to Change Location and Time for October Parks Committee Meeting**

Cox requests to host the October Parks Committee Meeting after the conclusion of the Council budget workshop, which will also include Parks budget. The meeting would be held on the same date, October 14, but at 6:30 PM at the Boswell Municipal Complex.

Motion to approve location and time change by Moore, seconded by D. Martin. Motion passes.

5. **Request to Change Date for November Parks Committee Meeting**

Due to our regularly scheduled November Parks Committee meeting falling on Veteran's Day, Cox is requesting to move that meeting to November 3rd. He said that day had the most positive responses from the poll he sent out to committee members. The meeting would still take place at the regular time and location.

Motion to approve date change by Farmer, seconded by Williams. Motion passes.

Committee Comments

Moore asks the Committee about her desire to create a fundraising group to help raise money for the Parks Department similar to what the Senior Adult Council does.

Adjournment

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

YOUR TURN, BRYANT MOTORISTS:
INFLUENCE WITH A CLICK!

CITY OF BRYANT
Est. 1892
ARKANSAS

Share your vision of progress
for the streets of Bryant
by completing our survey.



Comment Period:
September 15 - November 16, 2025

cityofbryant.com

GNE
GarNat Engineering
www.garnatengineering.com

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
September 2025

- The BASS Swim Team has officially kicked off the 2025-2026 season. We currently have 30 swimmers actively participating.
- Youth Volleyball started practicing in September. We have 89 total participants in 3rd-6th grade, up from 72 last year.
- Youth Tennis lessons ran throughout the month of September with 15 kids participating.
- There are 3 separate pickleball leagues that began in September:
    - Tuesday Night Ladder League at Mills Park with an upper and lower division - 40 participants total
    - Wednesday Morning Ladder League at Bishop Park with an upper and lower division - 40 participants total
    - Thursday Night King of the Court Roulette League at Mills Park - 16 participants
- Bishop Park Center hosted the Bryant Senior Adult Health Fair on September 4. 50 vendors were in attendance providing information for seniors in the city and neighboring areas.
- Bishop Park Softball Complex hosted a USA Softball tournament on September 6.
- The Men's Basketball League started on September 7 at the Bishop Park Gymnasium with 18 teams participating.
- Bishop Park Softball Complex hosted a BASE Softball tournament on September 13.
- Parks Director Keith Cox attended the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Annual Conference, held in Orlando from September 16-18. He was honored to present a session focused on resourceful recreation in a small department, showcasing innovative strategies for maximizing impact with limited resources. The NRPA Annual Conference is the premier gathering for the U.S. parks and recreation community, bringing together over 8,000 professionals, students, advocates and industry partners. Attendees engage in dynamic educational sessions, build connections through networking events and explore the latest products and services in an expansive interactive exhibit hall.
- Lifeguard in-service training was conducted the week of September 15-20. Four sessions were offered, focusing on two-person adult and pediatric CPR/AED.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
September 2025

- Bishop Park Center hosted the John Reid technique advanced interview and interrogation training on September 16-19 in partnership with the Bryant Police Department. More than a dozen other police agencies attended, some from out of state.
- Bishop Park Gymnasium hosted the Bryant Athletic Association's Night of Champions on September 19.
- The Saline County Library hosted Movies in the Park on September 20th at Mills Park.
- Bishop Park Baseball Complex hosted a 2D Baseball tournament on September 21.
- Bishop Park Softball Complex hosted a BASE Softball tournament on September 27.
- Bishop Park Baseball Complex hosted a USSSA Baseball tournament on September 28.
- Bishop Park Center hosted a Life Line Stroke Prevention screening on September 29.
- Electrical outlets were added at Mills Park in preparation for the It's a Wonderful Bryant Christmas lighting festival on December 4.
- Completed surface repairs to Joyce Boswell Courts at Mills Park by patching areas where surfacing had chipped.
- The new Seresco Dehumidification system has been successfully installed and operational. We are still working through the final punch list before the project is completed.
- The fencing and gate behind The Center and Aquatics Center at Bishop Park has been installed. We are still waiting for electricity and internet to be connected before the gate can be fully operational.
- The pool cover for Mills Park Pool is scheduled for installation in early October.
- Started preparing Bishop Park for Fall Fest, hosted by the Greater Bryant Chamber of Commerce.
- Youth Basketball registration is now open and will close on November 3.