Bryant Parks Committee

Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room

Date: September 08, 2026 - **Time:** 9:00 AM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. July 14 Parks Committee Minutes

- July_minutes.pdf

Finance Reports

2. Parks Mid-Year Finance Report

- Parks_Committee_Finance_Report.pdf

Associations / Club Reports

Director's Report

3. Bryant Aquatics Annual Report

4. Parks Department July Summary

- Parks Directors Report - July2026 (1).pdf

5. Parks Department August Summary

- Parks_Directors_Report.pdf

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

Reports

Miscellaneous

Committee Comments

Adjournments

Bryant Parks Committee Meeting
Jul 14, 2026 6:00 PM
Bishop Park Administration Building - Conference Room
6401 Boone Rd

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order - Renee Curtis at 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present - Amanda Jolly, Renee Curtis, Lynn Farmer, Drew Martin, Chera Moore and Lisa Bergren
Others Present – Parks Director Keith Cox, Assistant Director Matt Martin, Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Cassie Henry-Saorrono, Bryant Mayor Chris Treat, Kathy Lewallen with Bryant Historical Society and City Council Members Butch Higginbotham and Jack Mosely.

Approval of Minutes

1. **May 12 Parks Committee Meeting**

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

Presentations and Announcements

2. **Bryant Leap Forward Update**

Mayor Chris Treat provided an update on the City of Bryant Comprehensive Plan. He reported that initial survey results and community feedback indicate that residents desire top-tier amenities but do not support an increase in taxes. As a result, the current focus of the study is on identifying opportunities for intentional growth that strengthen the local economy while minimizing impacts on city infrastructure. This includes prioritizing development in market centers with smaller footprints and exploring mixed-use zoning that combines residential and commercial districts. Mayor Treat concluded by encouraging Committee members to remain engaged in the initiative by completing the second survey, now available, and helping to promote participation within their communities.

Higginbotham asked how this effort differs from previous attempts to pursue similar concepts in Bryant. Mayor Treat responded that lessons learned from earlier unsuccessful initiatives have informed a more intentional approach, including development of a comprehensive plan supported by both the community and elected officials, which may lead to necessary zoning policy changes. Cox reiterated that this process is distinct because the Comprehensive Plan would be completed prior to initiating new development.

Moore asked about the process for enabling mixed-use zoning and whether sales tax revenue could be retained within the ward in which it is generated. Mayor Treat stated that any zoning changes would require Council action and noted that statewide ballot initiatives scheduled for this Fall may provide additional local authority to allocate funds within specific districts.

D. Martin asked if these mixed-use communities would have the abilities to rent and buy, feeling there is a need to be diverse but not oversaturate the market on any specific type of housing option. Treat said that specifics like that would be dependent on each development, but he would expect to see both options available.

Associations / Club Reports

3. **Bryant Historical Society Annual Report**

Kathy Lewallen presented the annual report for the Bryant Museum, highlighting key activities and community engagement over the past year. She noted that the museum welcomed multiple visiting groups, provided guided tours, and received donations from several local individuals and organizations, reflecting continued community interest in preserving Bryant's history. Lewallen reported that 37 individuals attended Museum Day in September and shared that the museum plans to host the event again this coming September. She also noted that 25 visitors toured the museum during the Bless Bryant event at Ashley Park. The museum remains open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Director's Report

4. **Parks Department May Summary**

Cox presented the monthly Parks Department summary, noting the City's transition from Google to Microsoft and early success of the Barracudas Swim Team in its first season under Parks. He reported that parking lot lining at Bishop Park is complete and construction has begun on the Mills Basketball Court. Cox also shared that the Senior Adult Center has been operating for a couple of weeks and that construction on the Mills to Alcoa Connector Trail is expected to begin soon.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

Old Business

There was no Old Business

New Business

There was no New Business

Committee Comments

There were no Committee Comments

Adjournment

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

Parks Finance Report

2nd Quarter - 2026

Revenues

Park	Account	Account Description	Budget	Actual	Available
General	R60	Miscellaneous Revenue	$0	$10,413	#DIV/0!
	R62	Sales Tax Transfer	$1,541,621	$779,951	49.41%
Mills	R50	Sale of Services	$90,500	$54,968	39.26%
Midland	R74	Use Agreement Fees	$37,500	$19,425	48.20%
Bishop	R30	Memberships	$277,475	$118,855	57.17%
	R33	Rentals/Participation Fees	$156,450	$91,557	41.48%
	R36	Programming	$154,000	$133,045	13.61%
	R50	Sale of Services	$130,250	$55,463	57.42%
	R60	Miscellaneous Revenue	$2,000	$6,158	-207.90%
	R74	Sponsorships	$113,700	$64,244	43.50%
Alcoa	R36	Parks Rental	$1,200	$330	72.50%
	R74	Use Agreement Fees	$3,500	$1,866	46.69%
Ashley	R36	Parks Rental	$7,000	$3,037	56.61%
		Total	**$2,515,196**	**$1,328,899**	**47.17%**

Expenses

Park	Account	Account Description	Budget	Actual	Available
General	E01	Personnel Expense	$911,671	$434,135	52.38%
	E10	Insurance & Tools	$8,637	$300	96.53%
	E20	Vehicle Expense	$23,616	$14,983	36.56%
	E30	Postage Expense	$500	$210	58.00%
	E40	Sales Tax Expense	$500	$0	100.00%
	E55	Professional Services	$39,750	$16,856	57.59%
	E60	IT Expense	$20,600	$19,475	5.46%
	E72	Bond Expense	$273,393	$135,274	50.52%
	E85	Interest Expense	$39,965	$21,404	46.44%
Mills	E01	Personnel Expense	$34,474	$6,537	81.04%
	E10	Building & Grounds Exp.	$39,807	$21,071	47.07%
	E30	Pool Supplies	$18,100	$8,934	50.64%
Midland	E10	Building & Grounds Exp.	$43,552	$22,737	47.79%
Bishop	E01	Personnel Expense	$1,005,097	$493,826	50.87%
	E10	Building & Grounds Exp.	$666,397	$309,135	53.61%
	E20	Service & Repair	$19,000	$14,916	21.49%
	E30	Supply Expense	$79,700	$33,037	58.55%
	E40	Operations Expense	$45,558	$33,701	26.03%
	E55	Professional Services	$119,300	$113,566	4.81%
Alcoa	E10	Building & Grounds Exp.	$24,112	$10,425	56.76%
Ashley	E80	Building & Grounds Exp.	$8,501	$162	98.09%
		Total	**$3,422,230**	**$1,710,684**	**50.01%**

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
July 2026

Programming & Events

- Youth Pickleball Lessons finished in early July with 19 participants, marking our first youth pickleball offering. Planning is underway to grow this into a full league in Fall or Spring.
- Youth Tennis Lessons continued for the second time this summer with 19 participants; the session concludes August 6, with additional lessons planned for Fall.
- Youth Archery Lessons completed their third session in July with 10 participants, the second-highest enrollment to date. Due to strong interest, Archery will continue into the Fall.
- Upcoming Youth Programs include Youth Flag Football, Youth Archery Lessons, and a free Volleyball Skills Clinic in August.
- Adult Summer Pickleball Ladder League concluded in early July with 48 players across two divisions, the highest participation in a single league to date.
- Adult Morning Pickleball Ladder League at Mills Park continued with 15 players participating at 8:30 AM.
- Upcoming Adult Programs for Fall include additional Pickleball Leagues, Men's Basketball, 1-on-1 Basketball, and Adult Co-Ed Volleyball.
- Center Gymnasium hosted Slammin' Buckets Basketball Tournaments on July 18 and July 25.

Aquatics

- Provided a complimentary Mills Park Pool Party to Lisowe Lights for foster families in Saline County on July 14.
- Held a lifeguard in-service on July 19 at Mills Park Pool. The training focused on active rescues, passive rescues, deep water rescues and spinal injuries at the surface of the pool. The lifeguards completed the training through a competition format.
- New ADA lifts were installed at both Bishop Park Aquatic Center and Mills Park Pool.
- New timing control installed on the splash pad to control the length of time it will run.
- Free swim lessons provided to BYA at both Mills Park Pool and Bishop Aquatic Center.
- Summer swim lessons finished their final session at Mills Park Pool.
- New motor/pump was installed on Mills Park Pool after motor failure.
- Barracudas ended the season at the Meet of Champs with 38 swimmers competing in the event.
- BASS Swim Team took 9 swimmers to Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
July 2026

Senior Services

- Began operating under the City of Bryant; strong participation with 294 congregate clients and 1,242 meals served.
- Launched Home Delivered Meals Program serving 30 clients with 460 meals delivered.
- Socialization programs engaged 465 participants with 2,549 units of service.
- Senior Advisory Council purchased new Mahjong equipment to support growing interest.
- Senior Advisory Council purchased new flooring for the pool room and it is installed.
- Donated laptop added to support Karaoke and other social programs.
- Telephone Reassurance Program launched, providing daily calls to seven clients.
- New Facebook page reached 268 followers in its first month.
- Planning underway for September 3 Health Fair with a goal of 50 vendors.
- Evidence-based wellness programs expanding, including upcoming Walk with Ease and Drums Alive offerings.

Parks Maintenance

- Cleared overgrown grass and downed trees at property on Parkview Dr.
- Cut and cleared grass around the Bishop Park ponds (front and back).
- Delivered and installed signage for Bryant Summer Nights on July 23.
- Completed mowing and trimming across multiple park areas and parks properties.
- Performed routine grounds cleanup and debris removal throughout the month.
- Restored picnic table from City Hall to be repurposed for Parks use.
- Removed storm damaged shade fabrics from Bishop Park fields. Insurance claim has been filed.
- Construction began on Alcoa to Mills Park Connector Trail and will continue through the month of August.
- Construction began on the new basketball court at Mills Park and should be completed by the end of August.

Parks Administration

- Parks Director Keith Cox graduated from Community Development Institute on July 31 after completing the three-year program broadening knowledge of community development and strengthening the ability to connect parks initiatives into long-term economic growth for the City of Bryant.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
August 2026

Programming & Events

- Youth Flag Football began the season with 102 participants, with games scheduled to begin in September.
- Youth Volleyball Clinic hosted a free skills clinic that drew 27 girls to support Fall league recruitment.
- Youth Archery held its fourth session of the year with 8 participants, bringing the year-to-date total to 37.
- Youth Tennis concluded late-summer lessons with 19 participants; Fall lessons will begin in October.
- Adult Singles Pickleball launched its first 1-on-1 league with 16 players, receiving strong positive feedback and consideration for a Spring return.
- Upcoming Adult Sports include Men's Basketball, two additional Pickleball Leagues, and a new 1-on-1 Basketball League beginning in September.
- Annual Indoor Community Sale on August 1 brought in 30 sellers, with 10 purchasing multiple spots.
- Membership Drive on August 5 resulted in 3 new members.
- Salt Bowl Blood Drive was held August 25 on Basketball Court 1.
- Community Reservations included 12 additional unique events throughout the month.

Aquatics

- AFO Certification was held on August 4 with 10 participants from Bryant, Mountain Home, and Pine Bluff.
- Bathhouse Cleaning is now performed twice weekly through a newly contracted cleaning service.
- Bathhouse Floor Refinishing was completed, improving safety and appearance.

Senior Services

- Congregate Nutrition served 313 unduplicated clients with 1,131 meals provided.
- Home Delivered Meals supported 36 clients with 715 meals delivered.
- Socialization & Recreation reached 460 participants, delivering 2,248 units of service across programs including Ageless Grace, Line Dancing, Chair Volleyball, Mahjong, BINGO, and Karaoke.

Bryant Parks and Recreation
Director's Report
August 2026

- Evidence-Based Programs launched Walk with Ease on August 18 in partnership with UAMS; additional programs (A Matter of Balance, Drums Alive, Intro to Computers) begin in September.
- CareLink Funding approved $8,400 for FY2027 evidence-based programming.
- Health Fair Preparation continued for the September 3 event, with 50+ vendors expected.
- Community Partnerships supported BINGO, wellness activities, and special events through local sponsors.
- Social Media Growth increased Facebook followers from ~200 to 400+ in August.
- Operational Improvements included updated nutrition procedures, food handling processes, and continued transition work for billing, documentation, and reporting.
- Volunteers assisted with daily operations, meal service, and recreational programming.

Parks Maintenance

- Tree Removal & Storm Cleanup included cutting down a dead tree at Mills Park and clearing multiple fallen trees at Bishop Park following recent storms.
- Trail Maintenance crews cleaned the walking trails at Mills Park and culverts, improving safety and accessibility.
- Provided picnic tables to Bryant High School for the Salt Bowl and retrieved them after the event.
- Additional Cleanup included removing a fallen tree near the trail and general grounds upkeep throughout the month.
- Construction is still underway for the Alcoa to Mills Park Connector Trail. Currently the project is scheduled to finish in late September to early October.
- Construction is still underway for the Mills Park Basketball Court. Currently the project is scheduled to finish in mid to late September.

Parks Administration

- At the request of the Greater Bryant Chamber of Commerce, the Parks Department will take the lead on running the 39th Annual Fall Festival at Bishop Park. The event will be held from 9AM – 1PM on October 31st.