



**PARKS + RECREATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 10, 2023 AT 4:30PM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 4TH FLOOR
MEETING MINUTES**

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

II. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Zacharias at 4:30 p.m. on January 10, 2023.

III. ANNOUNCE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councilperson Brian Zacharias
Councilperson Trisha Butler
Councilperson Travis Holleman
Councilperson Ambar Marquis

Councilperson Wanda Allen was absent.

IV. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

- December 13, 2022

Councilperson Holleman made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilperson Butler seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to adopt the minutes passed without objection.

V. COUNCIL ACTION

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- 2023 Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed and decided to keep the original meeting schedule. They will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of every month with the exception of February's meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Project Updates

Jennifer Letourneau noted that she would normally give an HR Update on the current vacancies within the Department but the only vacancy at this time is the Deputy Director of Operations position. They are in the process of doing a second round of interviews and expect to have the position filled soon.

Jennifer Letourneau briefly updated the Committee on the status and scope of the Department's current projects.

Exit 8 Athletic Complex: Bid plans are being prepared and hope to go to bid by the end of the year. Brian Taylor has a need for a location to do solar panels and she thinks that the Athletic Complex would be a good option that could possibly lead to free electricity. Jennifer has sent him the plans to review.

Red River Bridge: The Department received a \$1.2 million grant for this project. They are in the design stage now and are proceeding with the right-of-way clearance.

Burt-Cobb Recreation Center Improvements: They are executing the contract for the wall panels to be repaired, guttering, epoxy, bathroom partitions, and repairing a hole in the floor.

Red River Trailhead / Old Marina Dredging: Also a government grant through the United States Corp of Engineers. The City has secured a required property appraisal which will result in a project savings of \$72,000. This project will dredge the old marina to a depth between four (4) and five (5) feet creating a wetland area. The marina will be used by non-motorized vehicles only, such as paddleboats, canoes, and kayaks.

Wilma Rudolph Event Center LED Sign: The Department is working on a design for a highway-facing marquee, funded by CDE Lightband.

Dixon Park Basketball Court: The Department has signed the contract to resurface the basketball court. The contractors will not be able to do the work until the spring due to the weather.

Kleeman Recreation Center Improvement: The bathroom floors will be resurfaced and new partitions will be installed.

Freedom Point Improvements: Painting began in November. The rest of the work will be done between rentals and is estimated to be completed by the end of May.

Beacon Hills Greenway Acquisition: Mark Holleman has worked with Richard Tucker to donate land off of Beacon Hills. They ran into an issue when the land was being surveyed. A driveway was built onto the property and the Department can not accept the land until the problem has been resolved.

Edith Pettus Park Improvements: The Department is getting plans for an addition of a football field, a half-football field for practice, and a basketball court.

Beech St. Park: The Department is in the survey and design stage with a lot of the work being done in-house. They received a \$55,000 grant from TVA through CDE. The rest of the project funding was obtained from Neighborhood and Community Services and capital projects.

McGregor Park Pedestrian Bridge Improvements: A structural engineer prescribed the bridge repairs. The project is currently at a standstill after issues with the contractor.

Bel Aire Pool: A geological survey was conducted to determine the reason for the large amount of water loss during the summer and a sinkhole was discovered underneath the pool. The pool was built around 1980 with money from Land and Water Conservation funds. The pool is closed for the season and will not be reopened in the Spring. The Department is currently working with the State to see how to proceed.

Beachaven Pool: A new liner has been purchased. A new cover could not be purchased due to the price increase.

Councilperson Butler inquired about the location of the Red River bridge and the marina dredging project. Jennifer Letourneau explained that both were located behind Action Air off Kraft St.

Councilperson Butler asked if ad sales would be done on the marquee at Liberty Park. Jennifer Letourneau responded that they had not planned on that but it was something to consider.

Jennifer Letourneau mentioned that the little libraries given to the Department by Councilperson Marquis have been another successful project.

Councilperson Butler requested an update on the parking situation at Billy Dunlop Park. Jennifer Letourneau explained that every year there is an issue with people visiting the park to drink, specifically those who use innertubes. A marketing plan is being developed for the spring. They will not necessarily make more parking available but instead, they plan to close in the spots already there so that no one parks in the grass. If you park in the grass, you will get a ticket. Once the parking lot is full, patrons will have to park elsewhere. The Department is looking at a multi-pronged approach to the problem. Other options and ideas were discussed. Jennifer informed the Committee that they were also working on getting permission from the State to use the area under the bridge at 101st for parking to help take some of the pressure off of Billy Dunlop as well as Port Royal.

Councilperson Zacharias suggested the use of a shuttle instead of leaving a car parked at Billy Dunlop and another at Robert Clark Park. Councilperson Butler commented that the issue with that is it's a very short float for kayakers but perfect for a longer float on tubes. Jennifer Letourneau responded that they are always looking for alternative locations and went on to list a few.

Councilperson Zacharias recommended that the Committee review the Strategic Plan on the Department's website if they haven't already.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Holleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Meeting minutes were prepared by Leigh Harpel.
Minutes were approved on February 07, 2023.*