

NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 18, 2011

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Ms. Vicki Stephens at 5:00 p.m., on April 18, 2011, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

Commission Members Present: Tom Davis, Jeanne Hyde, Chandra Martin, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones had to work and Otistene Smith had another meeting. They were excused.

Staff Members Present: Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, John Crow and Assistant City Attorney Paula Jones.

Others Present: Leslie Pfeiffer, Cindy Doramus and Recco Bennett.

Minutes: Ms. Stephens presented the February 22, 2011, Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. There was no meeting in March 2011.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to accept the February 22, 2011, Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Arkansas Tennis Association: Leslie Pfeiffer, Executive Director of the Arkansas Tennis Association, stated that she would retire on December 31, 2011. She reported that the Burns Park Tennis Center expansion is finished that includes twelve (12) 36' tennis courts for eight (8) and nine (9) years olds, and events have expanded to 80 per year. The National Site Meeting group is visiting the Burns Park Tennis Center, looking for a location to have the national league championship in 2013.

She thanked the commission and said it had been a great year.

Mrs. Hyde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to accept and file this report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stephens thanked her for their work and coming to the meeting.

Boys and Girls Club Annual Report for 2010: Cindy Doramus, Executive Director of the Central Arkansas Boys and Girls Club, submitted their annual report and thanked the commission for their interest and support. She said their program at Rose City continues to grow. In 2009, they provided service to 7,300 youth and 10,400 in 2010. There are 30 youth that participate in their Supplemental Education Services program. They also received tennis funds which helped their membership grow.

They have a partnership with the United Parcel Service for a teen driving program. They are one (1) of ten (10) chosen sites in the United States. To date, ten (10) to 15 youth have gone through the course. They have received a mentoring grant through the Boys and Girls Club of America, which has allowed them to have ten (10) young mentors at Rose City.

Recco Bennett introduced three young members that participate at Rose City. They assist with education, sports and dance activities.

Mrs. Doramus gave the commission members a CD that contained music written and performed by youth participants.

Mr. Bennett also thanked the commission for their support and all the commission does for the Rose City Boys and Girls Club center.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hyde, to accept and file their report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stephens thanked them for coming to the meeting and their hard work.

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Arkansas Boathouse Club Annual Report for 2010: Mr. Rhoads presented the Arkansas Boathouse Club annual report without financial information for 2010 and stated that no representative was present from that organization. There have been no issues with this club and will check on the financial report.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Martin, to accept and file this report without the financial information. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Arkansas Boathouse Club Request for One-Year (2012) Extension: Mr. Rhoads stated that the long-term Arkansas Boathouse Club agreement expires each year on December 31.

Mr. Waller made a motion to table this extension request until a representative from the Arkansas Boathouse is present. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Police Athletic League Annual Report for 2010: Mr. Rhoads presented the Police Athletic League annual report for 2010, but no representative from that organization was present.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, that due to a good working relationship with the Police Athletic League, this report be accepted and filed. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Reappointment of Commission Members: Ms. Stephens stated that she and Charles Jones' terms on the commission would be expiring April 26, 2011, and they have been asked to serve another term. She reported that she and Mr. Jones have agreed.

Mr. Davis made a motion stating that on behalf of the commission, Ms. Stephens and Mr. Jones be reappointed to serve another term. Mrs. Hyde seconded the motion. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stephens said she and Mr. Jones appreciated the reappointment, and it would now go to the mayor and city council for the final determination.

Director Reports: Mr. Rhoads presented the director reports.

Parks Superintendent Position: Mr. Rhoads stated that John Crow has been selected for the Parks Superintendent position. The Project Coordinator and Park Ranger positions are open and will close April 22, 2011.

Storm Damage: Mr. Rhoads reported that there was storm damage at the Emerald Park golf course, trails, Crestview Park, Old Mill and skatepark. There are up to 40 trees down at the Emerald Park golf course and the course is closed while being cleaned up.

YMCA Building: Mr. Rhoads reported that the Johnny Heflin YMCA location on John F. Kennedy Boulevard has been closed. Aldermen Charlie Hight and Murry Witcher in Ward 4 have asked the Mayor to consider purchasing the building for operation by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Mayor is checking on details. Annual estimated cost for operation is \$350,000, with subsidizing \$150,000 to \$200,000. The Mayor may want to have some public hearings and will let Mr. Rhoads know if the commission is to be involved.

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Director Reports (continued):

The Mayor is aware that Parks and Recreation does not have the money to pick up that operation. The facility has an outdoor pool that is in good shape. The building roof and air conditioner have some problems and there are other general items like painting that would need to be done.

Mr. Waller asked if there were usage figures available.

Mr. Rhoads said Tina Worrell is working on getting this information. The Mayor may talk with Lakewood, Overbrook and Indian Hills associations to see if jointly they may be interested in doing something with this. He will keep the commission updated as there is more news.

Safety Repairs: Mr. Waller asked about safety repairs being done at the recreation centers.

Mr. Crow stated that the safety director is going to all of the city departments noting current and preventative repairs and changes that need to be made. They are working to get these repairs and changes done.

Mr. Rhoads said that the safety director will also be checking on city vehicle inspections.

Increased Golf Revenue: Mr. Waller noted that the golf revenue has increased.

Calendar of Events: Ms. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Monday, May 3, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. Any items need to be called in by that date and time to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office.

The next regularly scheduled commission meeting is Monday, May 16, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., in the North Little Rock Community Center.

There will be a public hearing on May 16, 2011 at 5:15 p.m. directly after the commission meeting, for parks and recreation capital improvement needs and priorities, at the same location as the meeting.

Adjournment: Mrs. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hyde, to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. All voted aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Ms. Stephens opened the meeting for public comments, but there were none.

Submitted by,

Jan Eberle-Wilkins for Otistene Smith,

Secretary