

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Mrs. Vicki Stephens at 5:00 p.m., on February 19, 2013, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Commission Members Present:** Neil Bryant, Tom Davis, Charles Jones, Chandra Martin, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller.

**Staff Members Present:** Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, John Crow, Tina Worrell, Steve Ralston, Jeff Caplinger and Assistant City Attorney Paula Jones.

**Others Present:** Rebekah Howe, Gary Rogers, Carol Rogers, Belinda Burney, Ryan Osbourn, Logan Campbell, Cindy Doramus, Recco Bennett, Deanna Powell, Brian Hardin, Don Winton, Phil Duerr and Jeff Foster.

**Financial Report – Fourth Quarter of 2012:** Mr. Rhoads reported that the 2012 Hamburger Tax was 24% more than the year before, and the year ended well. January 2013 revenues have been slow coming in.

**Utility Cost Report – Fourth Quarter of 2012:** Mr. Rhoads reported that there had been a 7% increase in utility usages, primarily in parks. This was due to the hot and dry conditions last summer.

**Disposition of Minutes:** Mrs. Stephens presented minutes of the January 22, 2013, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the minutes as presented. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Authorize Director to Approve Recurring Alcohol Consumption Requests in Parks:** Mr. Rhoads stated that giving authorization to the Director to approve recurring alcohol consumption requests in parks was discussed and tabled at the January 22, 2013, commission meeting. Staff is asking the commission to give authority to the Director to approve such requests after an applicant has received the commission's approval for two (2) consecutive years, and has demonstrated the ability to properly and responsibility distribute alcohol at their event.

Mr. Bryant stated that this policy could be reviewed every four (4) years or whatever time the commission determines. If something changes during that four (4) years, this could always be brought back to the commission for consideration.

Mr. Waller stated that he would like to see the commission review this policy every January.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to accept this policy to allow the Director to approve recurring alcohol consumption requests, made after the commission's approval for two (2) consecutive years. Mr. Waller seconded the motion.

The vote was:	Mr. Bryant:	Aye	Mrs. Smith:	No
	Mr. Davis:	Aye	Mrs. Stephens:	Aye
	Mr. Jones:	Aye	Mr. Waller:	Aye
	Mrs. Martin:	No		

The motion passed.

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**Authorize Director to Approve Recurring Alcohol Consumption Requests in Parks (continued):** Mr. Waller made a motion to amend the previous motion to make this policy effective for 12-months, ending December 31 each year, and have the commission review it every January. Mr. Bryant seconded this motion to amend.

The vote was: Mr. Bryant: Aye Mrs. Smith: No  
Mr. Davis: Aye Mrs. Stephens: Aye  
Mr. Jones: Aye Mr. Waller: Aye  
Mrs. Martin: No

The motion passed.

**Association Annual Reports for 2012:** Jeff Caplinger presented 2012 association reports from Bonzai BMX, Dark Hollow Memorial Project, Police Athletic League, Central Arkansas Boys and Girls Club, Argenta Community Development Cooperation, Arkansas Boathouse Club, Arkansas Water Ski Club and Arkansas State Soccer Association as part of their agreements.

Gary Rogers with the **Bonzai BMX** stated that the new fence around the Burns Park track is working great. There is a large tree near the front turn that is leaning and needs to be removed. There has been no vandalism.

Belinda Burney with the **Dark Hollow Memorial Project** said her organization has finished Phase I of the Curtis Sykes Memorial Park. Phase II will include putting in a wall and flower bed.

Mrs. Stephens said the area is looking very nice.

Login Campbell stated that Ryan Osbourn is the new program director for the **Police Athletic League**. There has been a lot of new participation and many plans are being made.

Mr. Bryant stated that this is a great program.

Cindy Doramus with the **Central Arkansas Boys and Girls Club** thanked the commission for their opportunity to serve the children in the Rose City community. In Little Rock and North Little Rock combined, they have a membership of 330 youth and 734 were served.

Comcast has been working with this group to help with the club programs.

Mrs. Stephens said they have done an excellent job.

Jeff Caplinger said the **Argenta Community Development Cooperation** will soon have a fence installed around one (1) of their community gardens. The corporation paid for the fence.

Brian Hardin with the **Arkansas Boathouse Club** thanked the commission for the commission's help with their boating program. They are having regattas, training sessions and other events. They have been renovating their building and adding more storage. Youth membership has increased. They are hoping to cover their boat yard this year.

Don Winton with the **Arkansas Water Ski Club** said their organization really appreciated having a park ranger at Burns Park. They feel that having her presence made a difference in the safety of their area. They are working on the boat ramp and may need additional signage regarding the ramp depth. One of the groups they worked with was the Boy Scouts.

**Association Annual Reports for 2012 (continued):** Phil Duerr said that the **Arkansas State Soccer Association** has tentatively received the 2015 Southern Regional Tournament bid, which will be held in North Little Rock. This tournament will bring 280 teams to the area for seven (7) days. They have also hosted several large leagues and events. They will continue working with Bob Rhoads, John Crow and Jeff Caplinger on this event to get work and items required to make the bid definite.

Mrs. Stephens said she appreciated all those that attended this meeting.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to accept and file these reports. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of 2013 Association Agreement:** Mr. Caplinger stated that the Bonzai BMX association agreement for 2013 need to be approved. This agreement includes a section about sponsor signage that meets the signage guidelines and allows the commission/department to modify signage location. The representatives with this association are in agreement.

Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to approve the Bonzai BMX agreement. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stephens thanked them for all they do.

**2013 Arkansas Water Ski Club Usage Dates and Agreement Amendment:** Mr. Caplinger reported that in response to increasing requests for special events in Burns Park, department staff reviewed available areas of the park which may be restricted by management agreements. There is a current management agreement with the Arkansas Water Ski Club for Victory Lake. Upon review of the agreement, a map outlining jurisdiction of the Arkansas Water Ski Club had not been revised since 1999. The area around Victory Lake has seen significant change since then and the map needed to be updated. Department staff met with a representative of the Arkansas Water Ski Club and an amendment has been prepared to the Arkansas Water Ski Club agreement clarifying their use area.

In addition to the revised map, amended wording regarding "Designated Weekends" is being recommended to clarify and change use date language and wording for weekend dates. The current wording designates a certain number of weekends allowed in a given month (an overall total of 11). The revised wording allows some additional leeway but does not allow for more than two (2) back-to-back weekends.

**Current wording:**

"...The Designated Weekends shall include two (2) weekends each in May, June, August and September and three (3) weekends in July..."

**Recommended revision:**

"... There shall be no more than eleven (11) Designated Weekends between the first full weekend in May and the second full weekend in October. There shall be no more than two (2) sets of consecutive weekends and no sets consisting of more than two weekends..."

2013 requested use dates are: May 25 and 26, June 8 and 9, June 22 and 23, July 6 and 7, July 20 and 21, August 3 and 4, August 17 and 18, August 31 and September 1, September 21 and 22, September 28 and 29 and October 5 and 6.

Mrs. Smith asked if these changes and clarifications impeded on the fishermen's territory.

**2013 Arkansas Water Ski Club Usage Dates and Agreement Amendment (continued):** Mr. Caplinger said the fishermen still have their same area and times to fish. These usage dates will be posted at the site.

Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to approve the agreement amendment and approve the 2013 requested dates as presented. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**CARTI Request for Alcohol at Tour de Rock Event:** Mr. Rhoads said that CARTI's request for alcohol at the Tour de Rock event has been pulled from the agenda.

**Girls Youth Softball Proposal:** Travis Young reported that Request for Proposals were requested for the Burns Park Softball Complex Youth Softball Program. Proposals were received from the Lakewood Property Owners Association and Ultimate Sports Connection. Both programs are non-profit and meet all requirements. However, the Lakewood Property Owners Association withdrew their proposal due to low participation and fee charges.

Mr. Rhoads said that staff is recommending that the commission accept Ultimate Sports Connection's proposal and give the Director authority to execute an agreement with them.

Mrs. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to accept this recommendation. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rhoads asked Mr. Young to notify the Lakewood Property Owners Association in writing of this action by February 20, 2013. Mr. Young said he would.

Mr. Waller asked that the legal department review the agreement before execution.

Mr. Rhoads stated this would be a boiler plate agreement.

**Director Reports:** Mr. Rhoads presented written director reports.

Mr. Rhoads reported:

- **Vandalism:** Copper and wiring was stolen from the Rose City Boys and Girls Club building air conditioners and also from the Burns Park Baseball Complex. Police is doing an investigation. Several all-terrain vehicles were seen sliding on the Burns Park Athletic Association field parking lot, which disturbed the neighbors.
- **Glenview Drainage Plan:** The City engineer is working on a plan for this park area next to the Glenview Recreation Center
- **Fishing Piers Construction:** Work has started south of the soccer fields as a result of a grant award in 2010
- **Public Hearing Involving the Lodge at Burns Park and Quarry:** A public hearing will be held on February 21, 2013, at the North Little Rock Community, at 7:00 p.m. Information on the proposed lodge at Burns Park will be shared.

Mrs. Stephens stated that this lodge is on the Burns Park master plan, and the proposed 65 acre location is northeast of Interstate 40 in Burns Park. The quarry will also be discussed as possibly being made into a park, which could be used as the lodge land conversion. Mr. Waller has been selected to serve as a representative for the Parks and Recreation Commission as discussion continues on the proposed lodge. A public opinion poll was taken among the athletic associations and these groups definitely want to have a host hotel where registration and an awards banquet could be held, as well as a place for the participants and their families to stay. A lodge type design would fit into the look of the park.  
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**Director Reports (continued):** Mrs. Stephens stated that there is an undeveloped strip of land on Pike Avenue that is being discussed as community garden use with a fence in a park like setting.

Mr. Rhoads invited the Parks and Recreation Commission members to the North Little Rock Public Land Development Task Force public hearing to make comments and listen to citizen remarks.

Mrs. Stephens stated that the task force has a goal to have a recommendation ready for the commission and City Council in April 2013.

Mrs. Smith reported that one of the aldermen told her that Mrs. Stephens is doing a great job in educating the public while on the task force, and this has helped him explain the proposed lodge concept to constituents in his ward. He is very appreciative of the information she has shared.

Mr. Rhoads stated that if the quarry is made into a park, money will need to be generated to help with the development and maintenance. The land conversion and task force recommendations will go to the commission before going to the City Council.

**Calendar of Events:** Mrs. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 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, March 18, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., in the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Martin, to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. All voted aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Mrs. Stephens opened the meeting for public comments but there were none.

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith, Secretary