

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

**MAY 20, 2013**

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Mrs. Vicki Stephens at 5:00 p.m., on May 20, 2013, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Commission Members Present:** Tom Davis, Chandra Martin, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones had to work and Mr. Bryant had another meeting. These were excused.

**Staff Members Present:** Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Willie Elizandro, Tina Worrell, Jennie Cunningham, Katrina Wilbon, Renee Henson, Jeff Caplinger, Jason Rhodes and Paula Jones.

**Others Present:** Aldermen Debi Ross and Beth White, Terry Eslick, Bernard Bracely and Jake Sandlin.

**Financial Report – First Quarter of 2013:** Mr. Waller reported that both expenditures and revenues are running lower than anticipated and the Hamburger Tax is fluctuating, but figures look good overall.

Mrs. Stephens said the report will be filed.

**Utility Cost Report – First Quarter of 2013:** Mr. Rhoads reported that overall, utility usage is 12% below this time last year. The golf course and Funland divisions were up slightly in usage.

**Disposition of Minutes:** Mrs. Stephens presented minutes of the April 15, 2013, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

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

**Batting Cage Proposal:** Mr. Rhoads stated that Rob Fisher will not be renewing his agreement with the city for operation of the Burns Park Batting Cage. Mr. Fisher would like for the commission to allow him to leave the improvements, which consist of the concession/restroom building, concrete surface and parking lot (which is used by the ball association), instead of tearing them down. He already has a significant financial hardship since he is still paying off the debt incurred for the construction of the batting cage, parking lot and concession/restroom building. Tearing out the improvements would increase his debt significantly. Also, it seems that he no longer has a buyer for the batting equipment and cages as previously thought.

In the future, a use may be found for the restroom/concession building, as the restroom could be opened if needed. The concrete surface could possibly be used as a skate park. As stated in the agreement, he has 60 calendar days to remove all that he and the department agree to. He has already started taking his items out of the area. The 60-calendar day deadline for completion to vacate would start when the commission takes action to either grant or deny this proposal.

Mrs. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to grant his proposal to leave the concession/restroom building, concrete surface and parking lot, and have the rest of his items moved by the end of the 60-day deadline, starting today. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Wildcats Football 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Agreement:** Mr. Caplinger presented the 2012 annual report for the North Little Rock Wildcats football team. Currently, they owe the department \$1,000 for delinquent program fees, but will have this money paid before the 2013 season starts.

Mr. Bracely stated that he has many fundraisers planned and wants to have a great program.

**Wildcats Football 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Agreement (continued):** Mrs. Smith asked when the board members are elected.

Mr. Bracey replied that the members are elected every year in December after the season.

Mrs. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to accept the financial report. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caplinger presented the proposed 2013 North Little Rock Wildcats football program agreement. He stated the agreement is basically the same as in the past with the format of the agreement being changed.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Mr. Bracely for this 2013 program. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Lodge Concept and Land Conversion:** Mr. Rhoads stated that staff is seeking permission to continue making the lodge a possibility by proceeding on a land conversion to replace the Burns Park property with the property known as the Big Rock Quarry. All needed action including City Council involvement and request for proposals, will be coordinated with appropriate departments including legal and planning. As may be necessary in the future, items will be brought to the commission for approval.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the lodge concept, and have staff proceed on the land conversion to subsequently pursue a lodge in Burns Park. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**Director Reports:**

Mr. Rhoads introduced Jason Rhodes, the new Park Ranger, and said the staff is glad to have him.

The commission welcomed him.

Mr. Rhoads stated that the season has been very busy so far and includes the summer programs and swimming pool openings. This past weekend in Burns Park, there were tournaments including disc golf, soccer, baseball, softball, tennis and the dragon boat race.

**Calendar of Events:** Mrs. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, June 4, 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, June 17, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., in the North Little Rock Community Center.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Martin, to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. All voted aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith, Secretary