

NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 20, 2015

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Mrs. Vicki Stephens at 5:00 p.m., on April 20, 2015, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

Commission Members Present: Neil Bryant, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Tom Davis was sick. Randall Bradley and Charles Jones had to work.

Staff Members Present: Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Jason Rhodes, Tina Worrell, Jeff Caplinger, Steve Ralston, Renee Henson, Glenda Parker and Paula Jones.

Others Present: Alderman Beth White.

Disposition of Minutes: Mrs. Stephens presented minutes of the March 16, 2015, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

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

Vote for Excused or Unexcused Absentees: Mrs. Stephens asked that a motion be made to excuse Mr. Davis, Mr. Bradley and Mr. Jones from this meeting.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to excuse these members. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Central Arkansas Tennis-ball Cricketers Hub-CATCH Agreement: Mr. Rhoads said this item will be held until the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Requested 2015 Capital Changes: Mr. Rhoads stated that for 2015, the Parks Superintendent had requested a tractor with boom mower to use to mow river slopes and other inclines. Instead of adding a new piece of equipment for a new function, staff has reconsidered and feels other equipment with more mileage and hours of use are needed to be replaced before a new type of equipment is added.

Also, infield drainage at the youth baseball complex continues to be an issue. As a trial, one (1) infield's clay and soil was replaced prior to the season with a different clay and infield mixture. It has drained and dried up quicker than the other fields and staff is recommending doing a similar process on four (4) of the other fields, and to sod the infields on the two (2) smallest fields.

By sodding the two (2) smaller fields used mainly for tee-ball and coach pitch, more play could occur with rainy conditions. This will also save on daily maintenance time.

Also, staff has not ordered field covers at this time. The Burns Park Athletic Association indicated last year they would help with the purchase of field covers, but determined they could not afford them due to all of the rainouts. Staff is working on ordering two (2) covers to see how labor intensive they are to use. If successful, other field covers will be purchased up to the amount allocated.

To pay for the rework, sodding and equipment, it is requested that the \$79,000 for the tractor boom mower be used along with the \$35,000 set aside for additional canopies at the youth baseball complex. Canopies were added last year to all fields. The larger three (3) fields possibly could use additional canopies, but they are of no use if the fields cannot be used due to extensive wetness. These changes will take place immediately.

Requested 2015 Capital Changes (continued):

The 2015 approved capital budget and equipment list are also included.

Equipment and Material Needs Expenses:

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Vehicle/Equipment Item</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| (2) | 3/4 ton, 4 x 4, Crew Cab Pickup Trucks (\$24,752 each) Replaces (1) 1994 and (1) 1999 Pickup Trucks | \$ 49,504 |
| (1) | 1/2 ton Pickup Truck Replaces (1) 1998 Pickup Truck | \$ 19,100 |
| (1) | Utility Vehicle for Trash Pick Up Replaces (1) 2006 Golf Cart | <u>\$ 15,000</u> |
| | <i>Total Equipment</i> | <i>\$ 83,604</i> |

Infield Rebuilding:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Youth Baseball Fields 1 and 2 | Sod and Sand | \$ 4,000 |
| Youth Baseball Fields 3, 6 and 7 | Infield Mix, Laser Grading, and Equipment Rental | \$ 14,260 |
| Youth Baseball Fields 3-7 | Field Conditioner and SAF (crushed brick) Coat | <u>\$ 11,300</u> |
| | <i>Total Infield Rebuilding</i> | <i>\$ 29,560</i> |

Expense Grand Total **\$ 113,164**

Available Funds:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tractor with Boom Mower | \$ 79,000 |
| Canopies | <u>\$ 35,000</u> |
| | <i>Funds Grand Total</i> \$ 114,000 |

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to approve the changes as presented to take place immediately. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Footgolf Program and Fees: Mr. Rhoads reported that Footgolf is a sport where a player kicks a soccer ball into a 21" cup in as few shots as possible. Staff is proposing an 18-hole Footgolf course be set up on the back nine of the Burns Park tournament golf course. The cost would be about \$3,000 to set up, which would include holes, cups, flags and tee markers. This would be taken out of the golf operation budget. Hopefully fees will cover the cost in the first year.

At this time, play on the back nine of the tournament course would be available for Footgolf after 2:00 p.m. each day. Cost would be set at \$8.00 for each adult 18 years and older, and \$5.00 each for those players age 17 years and under. All other youth rules will apply.

Fees collected would be split as normal under the terms of the agreement with Ralston Pro Shop, Inc.:

- Footgolf green fees 100% to Parks and Recreation
- Cart rental 90% to Ralston Pro Shop, Inc. and 10% to city
- Soccer ball rental and fees 90% to Ralston Pro Shop, Inc. and 10% to Parks and Recreation

Steve Ralston stated that this program is designed for families to play together, and will possibly bring youth to the game of golf. This program is worth the investment and May 1, 2015, would be the projected opening day, if approved.

Mr. Waller asked if people have asked for this game.

Mr. Ralston said the public has asked for this game.

Mrs. Smith asked what the plan is to advertise. She also stated she is glad he (Mr. Ralston) is thinking of ways to get the youth out to play.

Mr. Ralston said the course will be set up and he will ask the press to come.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve Footgolf at the Burns Park tournament golf course at the fees recommended, and for the revised terms mentioned with Ralston Golf Shop, Inc. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Holiday Lights: Mr. Rhoads stated that as a part of the Mayor's directive over the last few years, staff has been asked to analyze the need for all programs/services and the cost/value to provide those activities. The holiday lights program has been under such review with it being in question as to whether it is an activity that should be continued.

The project was started by the Fraternal Order of Police who leased the light displays and provided some manpower to put up the displays and collect the money. After the first year, the Fraternal Order of Police did not want to continue the project, but the Mayor at that time wanted it to be continued. Some funds were provided for displays.

The program was continued by Parks and Recreation staff, with some help the first few years from Advertising and Promotion and service clubs. Intentions were to seek donations and sponsorships for the purchase and up keep of displays, which never really materialized. Parks and Recreation was involved by providing a location and to help get electricity to the displays.

Holiday Lights (continued): Even though some money was available to carry over each year (\$6,000 to \$8,000) to help with displays, the need for manpower to set up and carry on the project has become extensive. The estimated cost for the labor involved is over \$30,000 per year. The lack of manpower to sell sponsorships for displays and the small amount of carryover has been made it impossible to have a dynamic holiday display. \$35,000 to \$50,000 would need to be spent each year to continue and develop a dynamic display.

Tina Worrell reported that the holiday lights program began in 2003 as a project developed by the Fraternal Order of Police as a fundraiser. At that time, no one else had a display like this. Funds were provided by the City to start the program. Any surplus funds were put back into the purchase of the displays or their repair each year to improve the light displays. However, the department was not able to get past that.

Mrs. Stephens agreed with discontinuing the light display and suggested investing this money into Funland to keep it running.

Mr. Rhoads reported that staff has talked to the Mayor and recommended to him as it is recommending to the commission, to no longer do the holiday lights. The current displays can be used at other city facilities and functions during the holiday season or sold for others to use. The Mayor has asked the commission to review and make their recommendation.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to terminate having the Holiday Lights program. Mr. Waller seconded the motion.

Mr. Waller then made an amendment to the motion to terminate having the Holiday Lights program and have anyone that may take over a light display, take it over completely with no involvement from the Parks and Recreation Department. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stephens stated that it was 5:15 p.m. and time for the public hearing. She requested a motion to adjourn the commission meeting at this time, then reconvene after the public hearing.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to adjourn the commission meeting, then reconvene after the public hearing. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stephens reconvened the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 5:54 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Bryant, and seconded by Mr. Waller. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Director Reports: Mr. Rhoads presented director reports for March 2015 and reported:

- The North Little Rock School District's land that has department playground equipment (being used as School Street Park) has been sold. Mr. Rhoads does not know if the park will be relocated in the area.

Mrs. Stephens asked if playground equipment could remain or go to the **North Heights park property** when that land (the school) is sold.

Mr. Rhoads stated that the equipment is old and may not be worth saving. He does not know at this time what may be left but he will look at it when the time comes.

Director Reports (continued):

- **KaBoom Grant:** The Baring Cross Neighborhood Association now has an insurance policy that will allow them to be covered for \$1,000,000, as part of the grant stipulation.
- The Exit 150 proposed **lodge** specifications will be reviewed by Bob Rhoads and Bruce Waller.
- The department is ready for the **regional soccer meet**.

Mr. Bryant asked if the organization that were supposed to have contributed to purchasing a baseball **field tarp**, had done so.

Jason Rhodes reported that the Wildcat Foundation had committed to spend \$4,000 for the Dejanis field tarp. The department was ready to contribute \$2,000 to this cost. This action has now been delayed due to the Wildcat Foundation members wanting to have a different color of tarp with a logo on the tarp. Mr. Rhodes told them that the department cannot pay extra for the logo to be printed on it. The Wildcat Foundation will have a meeting to get the tarp use designated and an agreement will be done. Mr. Rhodes is waiting for the meeting to be set up.

Mr. Waller stated that if public money is invested in these tarps, they will be used for the public, where the department wants to use it, with no restrictions.

Calendar of Events: Mrs. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 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 18, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in the North Little Rock Community Center.

Adjournment: Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waller, to adjourn at 6:08 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