

**2025 MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 PM  
OWENS MULTIPURPOSE CENTER  
1405 S 11TH STREET, LAWTON, OK, 73501**

The Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at The Owens Multipurpose Center, 1405 S 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawton, Oklahoma, and called to order by Chairperson, Michael Scott, at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Scott, Linda Neal, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Terry Brierton, Mike Pollard, David Tyler, Jeshialix Sutherland, Melissa Shelton.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jason Scott, Jason Wells.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Larry Parks (P&R Director) and Dylan Dunavin (Recording Administrator)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim McConnell w/ Lawton Constitution, Mike Ray w/ Southwest Ledger.

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**II. REPORTS**

**A. Staff Reports:**

1. Larry Parks reports that we are on track to finish round one of the park improvement plans on time, as well as begin round two on time. Union Park is roughly 60% complete and is the final park on phase one, the temperatures have slowed progress down, if the temps fall below 35 degrees, the contractors stop due to OSHA requirements. I am still confident that it will be completed on time. We are already ahead of schedule for phase two, because we already have equipment on the ground and ready to begin work. The deconstruction of Skyline and Willow Creek is happening, surfacing has already begun at Skyline. All the parks included in round one of Park Improvements will begin getting their lighting on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. Larry Parks reports the Aquatics Facility is also on track to open on time, they are delivering dirt to do some leveling on the outside of it, but if we get any of the predicted precipitation, construction will stop. The lazy river is in place, they have also began surfacing and the foundation for the building, unfortunately the power had to be cut off to the playground area, restroom, and splash pad while they finish their work with the electrical line, it is scheduled to be finished within a week so we can get that power back on.
  - i. We are also looking at the municipal pool again, we sent out a request for some information, we are looking into a soil analysis because when that waterway flows that area floods and that pool gets off level. We want to see if we can maybe pull it back to get it out of that zone and maintain it that way before we start final phases. We hope to bring a plan back to you all, and then present it to council.
3. Larry Parks reports that we are still making good progress on the relocation efforts of the prairie dogs, we have an area in Salt Plains Refuge that we would like to relocate 100 prairie dogs to, but the temperature must be above 50 degrees to do so. You will see them moving around a lot in the park right now due to the construction.
  - i. Linda Neal asks where 38<sup>th</sup> Street Park (Greer Park) is on the Park Improvement list.
    - a. LP – Greer Park is in round 2 of the Park Improvement. Kidzone will be getting the largest play unit plus a splash pad, I spoke with Ambucks about obtaining some funding for the parking lot updates. We don't want to put in a large expensive structure yet leaving the parking lot and restrooms still needing updates. We will add that to the CIP initiative, we're hoping to get the restrooms approved with that. I already have three designs for the

parking lot, we want to put the maximum amount of parking spaces possible while ensuring it's safe. We are hoping to be complete around the same time we are opening the aquatics facility.

- Dennis Clippinger states that he always felt that parking lot would be a great location for a Leadership Lawton Class.
  - LP – It was on the CIP 2019, there was issues with the drainage. Now that we have information from the engineers and the streets division on what they plan to do with it, we can plan accordingly for how to construct the new parking lot.
- Dennis Clippinger asks about the results of the conversation with Ambucks.
  - LP – I spoke with Mark Glenn and explained that while council gave us the funds for the play structure and landscaping, we still needed funding for a parking lot. He suggests bringing it to the Ambucks committee. He is confident that they can help us out with the parking lot funds. Again, the only thing being removed at Kidzone is the play unit itself.

**B. Commission Members:**

1. David Tyler refers to a question by Terry Brierton “what are we going to do about the geese” in the December 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes. David Tyler explains that he has gotten geese to relocate away from the Lawton High School softball fields by using rubber snakes. He explains that he started that three years ago and they still haven't returned.
  - i. LP reports that he has spoken with the Oklahoma Wildlife about the geese relocation, they are still doing some research on the relocation effort. Our contact is regional, but he took the issue back to state to obtain more information.

**III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

A. None.

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**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Aquatics season updates from staff  
Covered under Staff Reports

B. Park improvement plan updates from staff

1. Larry Parks – I do have a CIP plan; it is currently in Finance. There will probably be some stuff moved around on it, so I will bring that back to you all once we see what changes happen in Finance.
  - i. LP – I do want to mention one more item related to Aquatics. We are actively looking for staff, we have three open positions (Superintendent, Facility Manager, and Maintenance Technician) open. We have a lot of résumés to go through, we expect to have staff selected in 30 - 40 days.
    - a. Michael Scott says that at one point in time there was discussion of possibly having the staffing or management of the facility contracted out. He asks if that is still a possibility.

- LP – Not that I am aware of. Those positions were approved by the City Managers office before posting.
- b. Jeshialix Sutherland asks if there is a relationship between these positions and the Lawton Workforce.
  - LP – These positions have been posted everywhere; they are public so if you know of anybody that meets the qualifications please send them our way.
    - JS – I ask because they recently came to my nutrition center, they mentioned that they will pay the salary for the first six months and then the city could make the ultimate decision whether to retain the individual or not. Just suggesting it as a possible avenue to consider.

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**V. DISCUSSION NOT ON AGENDA**

1. Michael Scott requested the record show that Jason Scott and Jason Wells did not indicate that they would be absent prior to this meeting, so he is considering it a “no-call, no-show”.

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**VI. BUSINESS**

- A. Consider approving minutes from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Special Meeting

**MOTION by Dennis Clippinger; SECOND by Jeshialix Sutherland**  
**AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard, Jeshialix Sutherland, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton.**  
**NAYS: None.**  
**MOTION CARRIES**

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**\*\*\*Next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. \*\*\***

**VII. ADJOURN**

**MOTION by Mike Pollard; SECOND by Linda Neal**  
**AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard, Jeshialix Sutherland, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton.**  
**NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIES**

**Meeting adjourned @ 5:50p.m.**