

**2024 MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, July 2nd, 2024, 5:30 PM
OWENS MULTIPURPOSE CENTER
1405 S 11TH STREET, LAWTON, OK, 73501**

The Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024, at The Owens Multipurpose Center, 1405 S 11th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma, and called to order by Chairperson, Michael Scott, at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Jeshialix Sutherland, Mike Pollard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Linda Neal, Jason Wells, David Tyler, Melissa Beck

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

II. REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: Larry Parks reported.

1. All aquatics facilities are still open aside from Municipal Pool.
2. Three locations have been identified for the replacement of Municipal Pool. The current location, Verna Cooke, and Gray Warr.
3. The Aquatics center at Elmer Thomas Park is on the City Council agenda to be bid on.
4. Gray Warr park is complete with new tennis court, pickleball court, and play unit. Four pieces of the old play equipment have been identified for donation to the City of Walters.
5. George M Lee is 90% complete, just waiting on surfacing then will move onto restriping the tennis court, pickleball court and basketball court. The splash pad is due for upgrades on the spray features as well.
6. The old play units at Fred Bentley Park have been removed, also will be donated to the City of Walters. We are also putting in a climbing wall for \$93K
7. The maintenance fund will allow for new seating, grills, picnic tables and painting.

B. Commission Member Reports

1. None

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

A. None.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Aquatics season updates from staff

1. Larry Parks – As reported in staff reports the 3 splashpads and 2 wading pools are open. The Municipal Pool will remain closed and alternate locations have been decided as Grey Warr, Verna Cooke or its current location. The construction on aquatics facilities will begin as soon as the season ends. Elmer Thomas construction can begin as soon as council approves the facility.
 - i. Michael Scott questioned what the likelihood of the new Elmer Thomas aquatics center being managed by an Aquatics company instead of City staff.
 - a. LP – That is the plan but would still like an aquatics staff member for checks and balance purposes.
2. LP – The current Aquatics season is 92 days, but I would like to see that increased by about three weeks. Specifically, I would like to see it start roughly 2 days before school ends. The only challenge would be that we depend on those high school students for our staff.
 - i. Jeshialix Sutherland questioned if we can obtain lifeguard support from Fort Sill.
 - a. LP – I have tried, but we just need more manpower overall. We will continue to put that out there and I believe we will achieve it.
 - ii. Michael Scott questioned if the Aquatics company put in place for Elmer Thomas Park aquatic facility would be responsible for staffing it.
 - a. LP – Yes, and there is a high likelihood of that happening.

B. Park improvement plan updates from staff

1. Larry Parks – Cameras are up in 3 parks, and we are waiting on signage. We started with 6 parks with cameras, and we now have 13. With the maintenance fund we will also be able to increase lighting.
2. Liberty Lake is eroding badly, we have called in engineers for a cost estimate for repair, but we are currently 4 ft below the normal level. It's something that will take time to do correctly.
 - i. Terry Brierton brought up that the last time Liberty Lake was dredged was in the 1980's. Additionally that the extra foot traffic isn't helping because people have to walk further down to access the water.
 - a. LP – I will be in contact with you regarding the dredging.
3. LP – Liberty Lake is also in the next round of parks to be upgraded.
 - i. Terry Brierton suggested maybe a splash pad, or a pavilion would be useful in those upgrades.
 - ii. Mike Pollard suggested a disk golf location because it is low budget, keeps people entertained and is a growing sport.
 - a. LP – We do take snapshots of who is using the park before making decisions on exactly what will go into a specific park. Perhaps a tennis court, pickleball or even a small skate park would be beneficial.
 - iii. Terry Brierton questioned if anything would be done about the geese population at Liberty Lake and expressed concern for the damage that geese can cause.
 - a. Vince Cambron mentioned how aggressive geese are.
 - LP – Game, Fish and Wildlife will come and take over half of them. They will have to do the same thing at Elmer Thomas Park.

V. DISCUSSION NOT ON AGENDA

1. Michael Scott requested the record to show that commissioners Linda Neal and Anthony Cox missed the meeting due to being out of town, Jason Wells missed the meeting due to a knee injury, and the reason David Tyler and Jason Scott missed the meeting is unknown.
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VI. BUSINESS

- A. Consider approving minutes from the May 7th, 2024, Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Vince Cambron; SECOND by Mike Pollard

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Jeshialix Sutherland, Mike Pollard

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIES

*****Next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. *****

VII. ADJOURN

MOTION by Mike Pollard; SECOND by Dennis Clippinger

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Jeshialix Sutherland, Mike Pollard

NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIES

Meeting adjourned @ 6:00p.m.