

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Owens Multipurpose Center Stanley Haywood Room
July 27, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.

Sherene Williams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in Owens Multipurpose Center in the E. Doris Fuller Room. Meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board as required by State Law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mike Scott, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott.

ABSENT: Terry Brierton, Jason Wells, Angela Rivera, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry, Bill Stamps.

OTHERS PRESENT: Christine James, Parks & Recreation Director, Keith Neitzke, Leisure Services Administrator, Antonio Hopson, Superintendent for Parks & Grounds, and Katisha Wiley, Recording Administrative Assistant II, Katy Jackson.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Anyone Having an item of business to present to the board that does not appear on the agenda please come forward.

Audience Participation: None

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consider approving the minutes for the July 27, 2022 meeting.

Motion by, Jacobi Crowley Second by, Jason Scott to approve the minutes of July 27, 2022.

AYE: Mike Scott, Linda Neal,, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott. **+NAY:** None.

Motion Passed. Abstained: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Welcome back Bill Stamps as the new Mayoral Appointed Commission Member for Parks and Recreation.

2. Considering recommending the drive that leads to the Eastside Park be named "Keith Jackson Parkway" after former Council member Keith Jackson to honor his work with the youth sports and his years serving on the City Council.

3. Consider discussing ways for the commission members can assist with advocating for the Parks & Recreation department and bring more attention to the programs, events and activities offered.

4. Consider receiving the wading pool evaluation conducted by the Water Technology Inc (WTI) and discussing recommendations to the staff on the next steps.

Motion by Jacobi Crowley Second, Mike Scott To consider recommending the drive that leads to the Eastside Park and that it be named “Keith Jackson Parkway” after the former Council member Keith Jackson to honor his work with youth sports and his years serving on the City Council and make a recommendation to the City Council. AYE: Mike Scott, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott NAY: None. Motion Passed.

1. *Antonio Hopson (Parks Superintendent)* handed out an agenda packet that is ready to take to City Council. There was a template that was attached to the agenda.

Former Council Member Keith Jackson, who was born and raised lawtonian and local business owner, he is the longest serving council member that has served for a total of 22 years, he was first in ward 4 and then moved to ward 2. Former Council Member Keith Jackson is passionate about youth sports, and during his time on the city council was active in the creation of the eastside park and the sports complex is located on the eastside and Grandview park. Mr. Jackson has further demonstrated his dedication to both adult and youth sports, with having 10yrs as a deputy state commission for the amateur softball association. Keith Jackson is also being inducted into the softball hall of fame for his total of service. Former Council Member Keith Jackson’s accomplishments happened in 2015 when he played a major role and spearheaded the Freedom Festival. With a lifetime invested in the Lawton Ft. Sill community and his dedication to youth sports, the city would like to honor former Council Member Keith Jackson by naming the drive that leads to the Eastside Park be named “Keith Jackson Parkway”.

2. The park is not being renamed, only the entrance going into the park.

Item #3 Consider discussing ways the commission members can help advocate for the Parks & Recreation department and bring more attention to the programs, events and activities offered. (Discussion Only)

1. *Jacobi Crowley (Ward 5)* Stated, that he thinks that it is a good idea. He suggested that there be a seasonal deal, where they do monthly recurring of segments that highlight the departments or the organizations, for example the Animal Welfare Director on every Friday they do Furry Fridays where he discusses things that he has in his programs and it really highlighted different things that are going on in their department. If we do something monthly or bi-weekly and within the program, you will be able to do highlights from dinners too programming, down to instructions on how to fill out a permit. Those particular things will go a long way.

2. ***Susan Thompson (Ward 6)*** Stated, that they were unaware that the news of the Lawton Public Schools were trading parks and ballfields. Communication is not of abundance and information that is needing to be put out is needing improvement. We are unable to advocate for things that they are not knowing anything about. She agreed that it is a good idea, because the cost for the maintenance of a park is expensive.
3. ***Sherene Williams (Ward 7)*** Stated, that getting more involved with the Director or Assistant Director to keep them more apprised of information on a daily basis even if it's just an email. She stated that this would be on a volunteer basis. The following volunteered: Susan Thompson, Jacobi Crowley, Jason Scott, and herself.
4. ***Antonio Hopson (Parks Superintendent)*** Stated, that all interviews with KSWO are conducted thru the Communication Marketing Director Caitlyn Gatlin.

Motion by Jacobi Crowley Second by Linda Neal To consider receiving the wading pool evaluation conducted by Water Technology Inc (WTI) and discussing recommendations to staff on the next steps. AYE: Mike Scott, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene, Williams, Jason Scott. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

1. ***Keith Neitzke (Leisure Services Administrator)*** State, Council directed the staff to work with the Oklahoma Historical Society to research any historical value relating to the wading pools, they also directed staff to look into the Aquatics Master Plan, to see what facilities that we actually need. It was mentioned in a previous meeting that there are not any opportunities for partnership, because the YMCA has a pool, and Ft. Sill has aquatic activities. The city serves about 77,000 people. WTI would like to be considered when they start working towards an aquatic master plan. The plan will be delayed until the Oklahoma Historical Society takes a look. The wading pool at the 35th division, the original wading pool was built in 1930 and the pool that is in place now is not the original. The other pools located at Mocine Park and Harmon Park were built in 1985. The Pools are losing water every night in the pool. Harmon Park was closed due to the restrooms not functioning and the issues with the chlorine feeders and the filters. Average people that use the pools is about 80 people a day. Clarence Splash Pad averages about 20 people a day. The fluctuation with people coming to the pool changes, it could average 13 people a day across all the wading pools. The Elmer Thomas Park Splash Pad averages about 31,000 people this year that has visited the splash pad, most of the people come after 6:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider approving the minutes from the July 27, 2022 regular meeting.

2. Consider a request from Holiday in the Park to paint a angel mural on the side of the east pavilion with Elmer Thomas Park and making a recommendation to the City Council.
3. Consider a request from Holiday in the Park to paint a Sponge Bob mural on the side of the east pavilion within Elmer Thomas Park and making a recommendation to the City Council.
4. Consider a request from Holiday in the Park to permanently install a “Love” sign/display within Elmer Thomas Park and making a recommendation to the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Linda Neal Second by Jacobi Crowley, to adjourn the meeting of July 27, 2022.
AYE: Mike Scott, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott. **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed.***