

**2024 MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 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, David Tyler, Mike Pollard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Terry Brierton, Jason Wells, Melissa Beck, Jeshialix Sutherland

**STAFF PRESENT:** Larry Parks (P&R Director), Antonio Hopson (P&G Superintendent) and Dylan Dunavin (Recording Administrator)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim McConnell

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**II. REPORTS**

A. Staff Reports:

1. Reports will fall under “Unfinished Business”

B. Commission Member Reports

1. None

**III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

- A. None.

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**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Aquatics season updates from staff

1. Larry Parks – All three pool conversions were approved; work will begin soon but we do not currently have an official date. Clement Washington Splash Pad will receive an upgrade. The scaled down design for Lee West and Eastside was approved by City Council, work will begin on that soon as well. I fully expect to have all wading pools and splash pads to be ADA accessible and open for next season.
2. A splash pad is included in the Park Improvement Plans for Greer Park/Kidzone as well. The goal is to alleviate the wear and tear on our current facilities by adding new locations.
3. We have already begun the winterization process to prevent ruptures in our aquatic’s facilities.
4. We are still waiting on the final master plan for Mattie Beal Municipal Pool, and Mattie Beal will remain on our Park Improvement Plan, we have the new playground structure, but we need the finalized master plan to ensure everything get placed correctly.
5. The groundbreaking for the new aquatics center at Elmer Thomas Park will be held on

September 17<sup>th</sup>. The location of the facility will be very close to where the splash pad is currently.

- i. Linda Neal asked what the plans were for parking.
  - a. LP – There will be two parking lots constructed to accommodate, one lot will have 155 spaces and the other will have either 155 or possibly 255.

B. Park improvement plan updates from staff

1. Larry Parks – We received a grant for just under \$1M from Play and Play Structures for Spark. This was awarded because of an essay I wrote discussing CIP, our Park Improvement Plan and explaining how much our parks mean to the Lawton community, this grant will help pay for over 40% of our upcoming Park Improvements for our play structures.
2. The first park that will benefit from this is Kidzone. Kidzone will be getting ziplines, crawling nets, climbing structures and various other updated equipment and the best part is 85% of it will be shaded. A splash pad will be included as well.
3. The current round of park improvements is expected to be completed by September 26<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 crews working to ensure we can finish round one and move on to our next round of improvements.
4. Fred Bentley and Panther parks are just awaiting new swing sets, as well as picnic tables, benches and trash cans.
5. All of the first phase courts have been resurfaced to include tennis and pickleball, on our next phase we are looking at including basketball courts as well.
  - i. Dennis Clippinger – Just to confirm, at Kidzone the old structure will be completely removed for this new structure?
    - a. LP – Yes, but the entrance with the handprints will be staying. The parking lot is also included in those park improvement plans; the plan is to black top it.
      - Michael Scott – Do we own the entrance?
        - LP – Yes.
6. Linda Neal – Is lighting included in the Greer Park plans?
  - i. LP – Yes, and cameras. We are waiting on a data line this week to move forward with that.
    - a. Dennis Clippinger – Is Frisby golf still at Greer?
      - Antonio Hopson – Yes, it is
7. Michael Scott – Is this play equipment grant manufactured by SPARK? Is it a credit or cash?
  - i. LP – It's manufactured by Play and Play Structures. They are in Oklahoma and are the largest play structure manufacturer in the world.
8. Larry Parks – I'm beginning to think at Elmer Thomas we may need some kind of breathable but metal structure that is more durable than the tarps that continue to get torn up in the wind. And it shouldn't be a situation where we are waiting a full year for.
9. If you deem our Park Improvement Plans worthy and approve them. I will take them to the City Council and brief them on it.
  - i. Linda Neal – Did you go and view these structures at other facilities?
    - a. LP – Yes, in Wichita Falls and Anadarko. I was blown away by the equipment, it is easy to see why this company is #1, and there is a 20-year warranty included in this. It will include training staff on inspecting the equipment and Play Structures themselves will inspect once a year also. There will also be a QR code with inspection information for the citizens and a questionnaire.

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**V. DISCUSSION NOT ON AGENDA**

1. Michael Scott requested the record to show that commissioners Terry Brierton and Anthony Cox both communicated they would be absent due to High School softball season. He had received no response from Jason Scott nor Jason Wells. Jeshialix Sutherland said she would attend but didn't make it. Still no word on if the Chamber of Commerce will replace Melissa Beck or not.

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**VI. BUSINESS**

- A. Consider approving Park Improvement Plans II to be presented to City Council and encourage Council's consideration and approval.

**MOTION by Linda Neal; SECOND by Dennis Clippinger**

**AYES: Mike Scott, David Tyler, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard**

**NAYS: None.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

- B. Consider approving minutes from the July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION by Mike Pollard; SECOND by Vince Cambron**

**AYES: Mike Scott, David Tyler, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard**

**NAYS: None.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

- C. Recognize the reappointment of Terry Brierton to the Parks and Recreation commission.

**No Action needed.**

- D. Receive updates on proposals for CIP.

Larry Parks - Already covered under Aquatics and Park improvement updates.

- E. Update on Prairie Dog situation.

Larry Parks – We have a plan in place to relocate the prairie dogs, we need to make sure the biodiversity is intact. We wanted to begin the relocation a few months ago, but the temperatures were too hot for the prairie dogs because it would put too much stress on them especially during the drive to take them to their new locations. There are three wildlife management locations in Oklahoma that want them all. This will be an annual process; the goal is to start this on October 1<sup>st</sup> or the week after. They will send out four biologists to show us our three methods for relocation, we've already tried one using Dawn soap to draw them out, catch them and cage them. There is also a suction method that will suck them out of there holes and can be put into crates. Once captured they will be taken by truck to their new locations. They will be driving them, not us. The plan is to do this every year prior to mating. We have over 500 prairie dogs on the east side right now. These prairie dogs do respond to barriers also, they do not like tall grass, and they do not like water.

- David Tyler – On July 1<sup>st</sup> I had two prairie dogs and by the 8<sup>th</sup> I had over 30. Every time they do work in Elmer Thomas Park, the prairie dogs start working towards the LPS ballfields.
  - o LP – We want them out before construction begins on the Aquatics facility at Elmer Thomas Park. We are even seeing Hawks now due to how many prairie dogs we have.

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**\*\*\*Next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. \*\*\***  
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**VII. ADJOURN**

**MOTION by David Tyler; SECOND by Linda Neal**

**AYES: Mike Scott, David Tyler, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard**

**NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIES**

**Meeting adjourned @ 6:15p.m.**