

**2023 MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023, 6:00 PM
LAWTON CITY HALL BANQUET ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET, LAWTON, OK, 73501
CONFERENCE/BREAK ROOM**

The Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Thursday, March 23, 2023, at The Lawton City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma, and called to order by Chairperson, Michael Scott, at 6:12 p.m. Meeting was held in the City Hall Banquet Room.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, David Tyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Wells, Jason Scott, Jeshialix Sutherland

STAFF PRESENT: Christine James, Parks and Recreation Director; Mitchell Dooley, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director; Kyla Christorf, Recording Administrative Assistant III, Michael Glaze-Lyle Park Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution Journalist; Kelly Harris, Council Member Ward 2; Matina Davis, Advocate for the youth; Aquarian C.; Local Community Member and Motivational Speaker.

II. REPORTS

None

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider approving minutes from the February 27, 2023, Special Meeting.

MOTION by Jacobi Crowley; SECOND by David Tyler

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Anthony Cox, Jacobi Crowley, David Tyler

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIES

- 1. A. Consider recommending to the City Council a presentation from Halff Associates regarding the Draft Elmer Thomas Park Master Conceptual Plan with four changes. First making the basketball courts near the Aquatics Facility and playground a half court with four lowered basketball goals. Second, make two full basketball courts over by the skate park with regular-sized basketball goals. Third-making buildings that can be rented out to vendors Fourth, provide more pickleball courts.**

- James Hazzard, PLA Project Manager for Halff Associates, asked if there were any questions before the presentation.
- Michael Scott asked for the Citizens Steering Committee list to be made available to the Park and Recreation Commission members. Christine James, Park and Recreation Director, said yes, the Citizen Steering Committee will be made available for them.
- James Hazzard, PLA Project Manager for Halff Associates, presents a presentation on the final draft of the Elmer Thomas Park Master Plan.
- Jacobi Crowley Expressed his concern about Miracle Park being moved.
- David Tyler said he understands moving Miracle Park because children, even those with special needs, want to play with their own peers.
- Christine James, director of Parks and Recreation, stated that Miracle Park can be moved to McMahon Field.
- Jacobi Crowley expressed his concerns about the basketball court, stating that it should be moved farther away from the playground itself.
- Terry Brierton suggests moving the basketball court over near the skate park
- Susan Thompson suggests keeping a half court over near the playground with lowered goals so that little kids can practice basketball.
- David Tyler suggested putting in more pickleball courts.
- Jacobi Crowley recommended putting up buildings to rent out to vendors.
- Linda Neal Stated her concern on the distant from parking to the playground but was put at ease by Mitchell Dooley, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director.

MOTION by Linda Neal; SECOND by Jacobi Crowley

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, David Tyler

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIES

B. Consider receiving a presentation from Halff Associates regarding the status of the Aquatics Master Plan and providing final comments to Halff for inclusion in the final draft plan.

- (i) Halff Associates presents a presentation on the status of the Aquatics Master Plan.
 - a. Susan Thompson suggests putting in two swimming lanes at the aquatic facility at Elmer Thomas Park.
 - b. Half the associates asked if there were any questions.
 - c. Jacobi Crowley asked when the start time for the project will be since he noticed 2024.
 - d. Christine James informed the commissioners that 2024 would be the planning period if approved; as of right now, the earliest if everything works out perfectly would be 2026, but realistically, it would be 2027. Full five-year process.
 - e. Susan Thompson asked what would happen to the municipal pool. Christine James told them that, financially speaking and logically, it would be demolished, but that was all up to the City Council. Mitchell Dooley, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, informed the commissioners that despite our efforts to keep the municipal pool open, he does not see it happening.
 - f. Jacobi Crowley asked if it could be built in phases. Christine James, Parks and Recreation Director, let them know that yes, phase 1 would be building the pool and lazy river. The deepest part of the pool would be four feet deep.
 - g. Michael Scott informed the park and recreation staff that even though he votes to approve recommendations to the Aquatic Master Plan, he is not giving up on wanting more aquatics built all over Lawton.
 - h. Susan Thompson suggested making an infinite pool for the lane.
 - i. Jacobi Crowley stated the aquatic facility needs to be multi-generational. Also, to do functions like aquatic aerobics Halff Association's next project after Elmer Thomas Parks aquatic plan will be Lee West Park's aquatics plan.

MOTION: NO MOTION JUST FEEDBACK FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS ON WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE OR NOT LIKE IN THE FINAL DRAFT PLAN

*****Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. *****

VI. ADJOURN

MOTION by Jacobi Crowley; SECOND by Susan Thompson

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Jacobi Crowley, David Tyler

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIES

Meeting adjourned @ 8:22 p.m.