

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MAY 4, 2022**

The Special Called Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at the Owens Multipurpose Center, 1405 SW 11th St, Lawton, Oklahoma and called to order by Chairperson Sherene Williams at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Scott, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry, Terry Brierton, Jacobi Crowley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Angela Rivera, Jason Wells

STAFF PRESENT: Christine James, Parks & Recreation Director; Kim Starnes, Recording Admin; Keith Neitzke, Recreation Services Administrator; Antonio Hopson, Parks & Grounds Superintendent; L. Shane Huck, Sports and Aquatics Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Vickie Johnson Flores, Vicky Flores, Pat Simpson, Mike Simpson

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Pat Simpson gave a presentation/show and tell on Pickleball and all its information to bring awareness to Pickleball and try to get it into the centers. He spoke with Yolanda Allen to have games at the Patterson Center and wanted commission's support.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. WELCOME NEWLY APPOINTED PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS, MICHAEL SCOTT, WARD 1 REPRESENTATIVE AND LINDA NEAL, WARD 3 REPRESENTATIVE. INCLUDED IS THE UPDATED COMMISSION CONTACT LIST WITH THEIR INFORMATION ADDED.**

Sherene Williams welcomed Mike Scott and Linda Neal to the Commission. New contact information sheets were included in the agenda packet.

-
- 2. DISCUSS STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR AQUATICS HOURS FOR THE 2022 SEASON AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL.**

This item was presented by Christine James. This agenda was for the following locations to change hours. The hours proposed to change are:

Municipal Pool to change from Tuesday through Sunday 1:00PM to 6:00PM to Tuesday through Sunday Noon to 8:00PM

Clement Washington Splash Pad to change from Tuesday through Saturday Noon to 5:00 PM to Monday through Friday 1:00PM to 5:00PM

Elmer Thomas Park to change from Tuesday through Sunday 11AM to 6:00PM to Tuesday through Sunday 11:00AM to 8:00PM

Linda Neal brought up the short hours for the wading pools.

Christine James explained the wading pools are geared more towards the afternoon crowd and most people used the Elmer Thomas Splash Pad more so than any other anyway.

Christine James then explained that we are missing the working family crowd by not keeping the Municipal Pool open later.

MOTION by Anthony Cox; SECOND by Jason Scott for the Commission to take this item to Council for approval.

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry.

NAYS: none. MOTION CARRIED

3. DISCUSS STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATION CENTER HOURS, EFFECTIVE START DATE BEING MAY 31, 2022, AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

This item was presented by Christine James to change hours of operation for some of the recreation centers (Owens Center and H.C. King Center) to open and close later in the day, with the new hours being Monday through Friday 11:00AM to 8:00PM and on Saturday from 1:00PM to 5:00PM. The Patterson center would stay open Monday through Friday 9:00AM-6:00PM since they have a lot of senior activities at this center but would change the Saturday hours from 1:00PM to 5:00PM. This change, if approved, would be implemented on May 31, 2022, the 1st week of summer for the school kids.

Mike Scott asked if Patterson Center would be opened on Saturday.

Christine James explained that we are already opened on Saturdays in the morning but would like to change the hour to 1:00PM to 5:00PM so it is consistent across the board and to try to attract a younger crowd at Patterson.

Jacobi Crowley stated that since the Patterson classes are primarily in the morning on Saturday, wouldn't it make more sense to keep the hours open in the morning, like 8:00AM to 1:00 PM.

Christine stated that we are open to any recommendation the commission offers.

Keith Neitzke stepped in and added that the attendance is down to about 2 or 3 people on the Saturday morning class and Yolanda is getting burned out working the six-day work week, so her cancelling her Saturday morning class will be probable.

MOTION by Sherene Williams; SECOND by Jason Scott for the Commission to take this item to Council for approval.

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry.

NAYS: none. MOTION CARRIED.

4. DISCUSS AND APPROVE A RULE CHANGE FOR THE 2022 ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM TO MATCH THE LEGALITY OF EQUIPMENT IN THE SOFTBALL OF OKLAHOMA'S ADULT RULEBOOK.

This item was presented by Larry Shane Huck. Shane informed the Commission that the Adult Slow Pitch League currently plays under the USA/ASA old softball league rules. Two years ago, Oklahoma changed the rule of the bats that can be used. Shane proposed that we make the Lawton Adult Slow Pitch League change current rules to be that of the same as the state of Oklahoma's state codes.

MOTION by Anthony Cox; SECOND by Sherene Williams to approving all ideas.

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry.

NAYS: none. MOTION CARRIED.

5. DISCUSS A PROPOSED MEMORIAL, USS OKLAHOMA CITY ANCHOR, TO BE IN ELMER THOMAS PARK AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC) AND CITY COUNCIL.

This item was presented to the commission by Christine James. We have a local eagle scout, Mr. Aguilar, that is in the process of obtaining an anchor from the USS Oklahoma City. He has already given a presentation to the military. This is the last step for the military to approve and release the anchor. The location, which is the Southeastern side of Lake Helen, and the (28.07) has already been approved by the City Planning Commission (CPC).

Sherene Williams asked how it would affect the Sports Complex.

Multiple people answered that it wouldn't be near the complex and would be around Lake Helen.

Mike Scott brought up a possible fishing area conflict on the east side of Lake Helen.

Christine James stated that it is far enough from the parking lot that she doesn't see many fishermen walking to that side of the memorial trail with all their gear.

MOTION by Brian Henry; SECOND by Jason Scott for the Commission to take this item to council for approval.

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Jacobi Crowley, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry.

NAYS: none. MOTION CARRIED

6. DISCUSS A PROPOSED MEMORIAL, GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMORIAL, TO BE LOCATED IN ELMER THOMAS PARK AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC) AND CITY COUNCIL.

This item was presented to the commission by Christine James. Vickie Johnson Flores and Vicky Flores attended the meeting to answer any questions the Commission might have. The location will be on the Southeastern side of Lake Helen just Northwest of the USS Oklahoma City Anchor. This location has already been approved by the City Planning Commission (CPC). The monument will be

Susan Thompson asked if this was the final design.

Vicky responded that there will be an etching will be made on the memorial based on Oklahoma, such as a buffalo, the State of Oklahoma, etc. The four words at the bottom of the memorial will stay the same but we will pick the designs to be etched in.

MOTION by Anthony Cox; SECOND by Brian Henry for the Commission to take this item to council for approval.

There was no further discussion, and a motion was made to adjourn.

MOTION by Anthony Cox; SECOND by Jason Scott to Adjourn.

AYES: Jacobi Crowley, Susan Hargreaves Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott, Anthony Cox, Brian Henry.

NAYS: none. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED,
SHERENE WILLIAMS, CHAIRPERSON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION