

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Owens Multipurpose Center Stanley Haywood Room
September 28,2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Sherene Williams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m. due to waiting for a qu in Owens Multipurpose Center in the Stanley Haywood Room. Meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board as required by State Law.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott.

ABSENT: Jason Wells, Jacobi Crowley, Angela Rivera, Anthony Cox, Bill Stamps

OTHERS PRESENT: Christine James, Parks & Recreations Director,,Antonio Hopson, Superintendent for Parks & Grounds, and Katisha Wiley, Recording Administrative Assistant II, Krista Ratliff, Chamber of Commerce.

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

REPORTS

Parks & Recreations Staff-None

Commission Members-Sherene Williams

Sherene Williams

On August 16, 2022 there was a discussion on how to get more information out to the communities in the wards. She interviewed with Caitlyn (PR for the City of Lawton) and then Thursday a PSA announcement was put out. In the PSA the information was about the Commissioners are responsible for and what the Commissioner's mission statement is. It was also put on Facebook as well, there were some responses. The dog park was another discussion referring to the benches needing an upgrade.

City Hall Meetings Council Chambers

Oct 6 Ward 4 discussion 5:30 p.m.

Oct 13 Ward 2 discussion 5:30 p.m.

Oct 20 Ward 5 discussion 5:30 p.m.

Oct 27 Ward 7 discussion 5:30 p.m.

Christine James

We are looking in to other options regarding the Dog Park and other locations for Dog Parks as the Parks Master Plan. Where the current Dog Park is now it is in the flood plain so that every time that it rains debris gets filled up and the fences bend over, so before any renovations can be done we are looking into many options so that city funds can be put to good use.

Audience Participation

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Consider approving the minutes from the September 28,2022 Special meeting.
- B. Consider a request from Holiday in the Park to paint an angel mural on side of the east pavilion within Elmer Thomas Park and making a recommendation to the City Council.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. Adjourn

A. Motion by Linda Neal Second by. Terry Brierton to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022 **AYE:** Mike Scott,Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott. **+NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed. Obstained: None***

B. Motion by Mike Scott Second. Jason Scott To consider a request from Holiday in the Park to paint an angel mural on the side of the east pavilion within Elmer Thomas Park and making a recommendation to the City Council. **AYE:** Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal,Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed.***

Christine James

Krista Ratliff is here from Holiday in the Park is requesting to allow the painting of the mural in ETP on the side of the east pavilion. The proposed mural is in the packet that was given to the Commissioner’s. The Park Master Plan may or may not include the east pavilion still being located where it is now, which needs to be taken into consideration. The east pavilion has no turf there and it is on a hill so that the rain drains past it. This will be on the closed side of the pavilion.

Krista Ratliff

It is a mural where you can take your picture and the mural would be year around. The Shaw Bros. have agreed to do both murals and Ft. Sill Chamber would probably find a sponsor or donor to cover the costs. It would be located on the eastside where it is facing the entering of the park. The other mural will be located along the road.

Antonio Hopson

It was asked if the mural was vandalized would the Shaw Bros. come out to re-paint it? **(Krista)** The Shaw Bros. would not paint it over if it was vandalized, but they do put a special coating on it so that if it is vandalized it will ju

C. Motion by Terry Brierton **Second** by Susan Thompson **To 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 recommendations to the City Council** **AYE:** Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed.***

Christine James

The mural will be located on the opposite side of the east pavilion.

Krista Ratliff

The mural would be a picture of Stephen Hillenburg the creator of Sponge Bob Square Pants. Since the creator is from here it would be a great way to celebrate Lawton.

D. Motion by Terry Brierton **Second** by Linda Neal **To Consider a request from Holiday in the Park to permanently install a “LOVE” sign/display within Elmer Thomas Park and making a recommendations to the City Council** **AYE:** Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed.***

Christine James

The “LOVE” sign is currently installed within Elmer Thomas Park. It is located close to the patriot pavilion which is on the eastside of the park. It is standing right now with T posts, but for safety concerns Holiday in the Park would like it to be installed into concrete.

E. Motion by Mike Scott **Second** by Terry Brierton **To Adjourn** **AYE:** Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Linda Neal, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams, Jason Scott **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed.***

Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Consider

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.
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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.
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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.***