

**2024 MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, December 2nd, 2024, 5:30 PM
OWENS MULTIPURPOSE CENTER
1405 S 11TH STREET, LAWTON, OK, 73501**

The Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, December 2nd, 2024, at The Owens Multipurpose Center, 1405 S 11th 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, Terry Brierton, Mike Pollard, Jeshialix Sutherland.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Scott, Jason Wells, David Tyler.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim McConnell w/ Lawton Constitution, Mike Ray w/ Southwest Ledger, Melissa Shelton

II. REPORTS

A. Staff Reports:

1. Larry Parks reports the aquatics center is on track to finish on time. They are preparing to pour concrete, the site sign went up today which is something we have been waiting on. The Lee West improvements will hopefully be approved by City Council on 12/3, so we can begin going out for bids to improve that wading pool. The three wading pools were divided into three different working zones, and the last two will begin once funding is received. As far as the Municipal Pool goes, we are waiting on the Mattie Beal master plan, once that plan goes into effect we will return to the Parks and Rec commission so you can have your voices heard as well before it is taken back to City Council.
2. The last park for round one of the Park Improvement Plan is Union Park that is waiting on the play structure. We are hoping in the next week or so to begin round two of the Park improvements, all of the parks that went to City Council for improvement were approved and have funding in place. 85% of those round two parks already have new play structures at Elmer Thomas waiting for installation. We have also been resurfacing the floors in our restrooms.
3. Prairie Dog relocation is going well. We are still waiting on a couple of private citizens who have shown interest in taking some of these prairie dogs in, but until then we will continue our efforts as we have been doing.
 - i. Michael Scott – Regarding aquatics, are Lee West and Eastside splash pads?
 - a. LP- Yes. As far as Eastside goes, we are waiting on that to see if we will obtain the land to build a new facility. Since we don't know if that will happen, we are moving forward with the plans for Lee West pending Council approval.
 - ii. Michael Scott – Did you receive any feedback regarding the newspaper article that suggested you were poisoning the prairie dogs?
 - a. LP – No, but our permit does authorize for lethal and non-lethal means, but of course we want to do this in a non-lethal way which is why we are simply relocating these prairie dogs.

B. Commission Member Reports

1. Jeshialix Sutherland asks if there are still plans in place to improve basketball courts
 - i. LP – Yes, but we are still in the process of deciding which courts. I know we are going to do the Patterson Center, but there are 3 others that will get work.
 - a. JS – What does that look like for the organizations that utilize these courts?
 - LP – We do have courts at all 3 rec centers, and I would like to put a court on the outside of those rec centers as well.
 - JS- is it possible to have a conversation about a partnership between those organizations and the City to lower the cost or even eliminate the cost. \$70 is a lot for an organization to come up with daily for use.
 - LP – We can have a conversation about that.
2. Terry Brierton asks if there is any update on relocation of geese.
 - i. LP – We have put in a request with the Oklahoma Wildlife for relocation efforts.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

- A. None.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Aquatics season updates from staff
Covered under Staff Reports
- B. Park improvement plan updates from staff
1. Larry Parks – In addition to what was reported earlier, we have a series of CIP request. Liberty Lake is number one out of seven parks on that list. Liberty Lake needs a complete overhaul, it needs dredging, erosion control, a new sidewalk, some tree removal, the play unit needs replaced. We’re now at a point where we can start to shrink the pocket parks that were approved and turn them back into green space.
 - i. Mike Pollard asks if it was dredged recently while the water level was low.
 - a. LP – No, but with the upcoming project it will get done.
 - ii. Mike Scott asks if dredging it will remove the habitat.
 - a. LP – Oklahoma Wildlife will come in first and remove what they can before dredging would begin.

V. DISCUSSION NOT ON AGENDA

1. Michael Scott introduced audience member Melissa Shelton as the replacement for Anthony Cox, who resigned on 11/19/24. She will begin her role as soon as she is appointed by City Council on 12/3/24

VI. BUSINESS

A. Consider approving minutes from September 3rd, 2024, Regular Meeting

MOTION by Linda Neal; SECOND by Dennis Clippinger

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard, Jeshialix Sutherland.

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIES

B. Consider approving the 2025 Annual Meeting Notice.

MOTION by Jeshialix Sutherland; SECOND by Mike Pollard

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard, Jeshialix Sutherland.

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIES

*****Next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. *****

VII. ADJOURN

MOTION by Linda Neal; SECOND by Mike Pollard

AYES: Mike Scott, Terry Brierton, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Linda Neal, Mike Pollard, Jeshialix Sutherland.

NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIES

Meeting adjourned @ 5:50p.m.