



City of Lawton

Parks & Recreation Commission

City Hall
212 SW 9th Street
Lawton, OK
73501

Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

5:30 PM

Banquet Hall

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Commission may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Commission may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Commission may refer the matter to City Staff. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Scott, Reginald Fisher, Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Mike Pollard, Reginald Seaton, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton, Blake Munoz (non-voting), Kelly Harris (non-voting).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Brierton

STAFF PRESENT: Larry Parks (CED Director) (Via Telephone), Kelvin Ingram (P&R Deputy Director) , Dylan Dunavin (Recording Admin).

OTHERS PRESENT: Chrystallyn Guest (Citizen), Mark Miller (Citizen), Mike Ray (Southwest Ledger), Tiffiney Dimery (Ward 4 Councilwoman).

Reports

Kelvin Ingram reports that the Community Enrichment Director is with us on speakerphone. He states that the prairie dog issue at Elmer Thomas Park is still a high priority,

1. Parks and Recreation Staff

Kelvin Ingram states that Prairie Dog relocation efforts are still a high priority, and we

are doing recertification and obtaining those permits through Oklahoma Wildlife. We also appreciate the assistance from Lawton Public Schools.

Kelvin Ingram states that we are finalizing the historical narrative on the Harkey Park / Dunbar School monument, we want to properly honor the school and it's history in this community. We look for a Juneteenth ceremony for that monument.

Kelvin Ingram reminds the commission about the new seasonal park hours, states that signs are up to reflect those hours. You will also see Kids First decals added to the signage in our parks. We also have the Community Enrichment Workshop tomorrow (March 4th) at the Owens Center, 1pm to 4pm.

KI continues to state that the Thunder court ribbon cutting was very successful, they are a great partner and attendance was high. Also, the gated area at Lee West is the Splash Pad construction.

KI states that Patterson Center will be having a blood drive on March 23rd at 12pm. Please come check out the activities offered at not only the Patterson Center, but all of our centers. We hired a new coordinator for the Owens Center, Mr. Tilton Adams.

KI states that phase four of park improvements are coming as we finish up round three.

KI states that we are looking for a March 25th open for the Lawton Aquatic Center (corrected to May 25th), we are still looking for lifeguards so please send people our way who are looking for work. The more lifeguards we have, the more we can offer.

David Tyler asks what is the minimum age to be hired as a lifeguard. Kelvin Ingram responds that we begin hiring at 16.

Michael Scott asks about the Polar Plunge. Kelvin Ingram states that it was a huge event, councilwoman Dimery was the first to do the plunge. It was a great day for our Fire and Police departments and had a very large crowd.

Kelvin continues to say that we will have light evaluations in our parks to ensure that we are keeping our parks as safe as possible. We are also working on Wildflower Grants with Color Oklahoma for park beautification. Expect to hear updates over the next few months.

Michael Scott asks about vandalism in the parks, asks about reports regarding costs.

Kelvin Ingram states that we've had blatant vandalism across the board in parks, cemetery and lakes. Which is why we are working towards better lighting, more cameras, and changed park hours based on the season.

Kelly Harris asks about new parks getting lighting.

Kelvin responds that Gooch Acres, Gray-Warr, Mocine, basically any park with Splash Pads also.

Kelly Harris states that he has some ideas regarding conduit to protect the lighting, wiring and copper to talk about later, but it would ultimately save the city money in the long run to protect them.

David Tyler states that three new families have moved into the neighborhood and he is asking about when the Crystal Hills park improvements will begin.

Larry Parks states that the end of July it should be getting scheduled and we will have that time frame.

Kelvin Ingram states that Elmer Thomas Park rentals/events will be paused beginning April 15th with the exception of Juneteenth. The park is still open to the public, but we will not be accepting rentals or private events after April 15th.

Michael Scott asks if restrooms will still be working. Kelvin Ingram states that we aren't planning to close the restrooms, however there may be times that they are shut down depending on line work or other situations.

Kelvin Ingram states that ARPA funds are helping us improve the Aquatic Center, specifically the fencing to prevent leaves, trash, and other debris from blowing into the pool area. It also helped fund bike racks, storage sheds, coverage.

Michael Scott asks about the variety of concessions, if we will have more this year.

Kelvin Ingram states that we have to go to the fee committee.

Michael Scott states that he's talking about the food itself, not the prices.

Kelvin Ingram states that the issue is certifications needed for certain foods unless they are prepackaged foods.

David Tyler asks if there has been any thought about a snow cone or food truck to park outside but charging them a fee to do so.

Kelvin Ingram states that, yes we have, but it would need approval also. We are really only looking at prepackaged.

Kelly Harris asks who is the chairman of the fee committee. Kelvin responds that it is councilman Allan Hampton.

Kelvin Ingram adds that we are going to make a pathway between the splash pad and the Lawton Aquatic Center.

Kelly Harris asks about the grants we applied for. Kelvin states that we did not

2. Commission Members

Vince Cambron states that the 35th Division is looking great. However, he suggests adding another "spinning tree", and kids are constantly on that toy. He continues to thank Admin Assistant Dylan Dunavin for prompt response on iHelp Lawton.

Michael Scott states that Dylan also provided another annual meeting notice and an updated roster to all commissioners.

Mike Pollard states that kids love Lee West, no matter what the weather is, the park is filled with kids.

Dennis Clippinger agrees with Mike Pollard on Lee West park.

Kelvin Ingram states that the bathrooms at Greer Park are open and rentals are open again.

Michael Scott asks about the Greer Parking Lot.

Larry Parks states that it would be a CIP project, and we are very early in the process. But we are hopeful for the end of summer to begin, but it would need to come at a time when usage is lower also.

Reginald Seaton states that he saw the Lawton Youth Sports Authority recently renewed their contract for Miracle Field and McMahon Park. Are the skate park and skating rink apart of that, or would those stay under Parks and Recreation?

Kelvin Ingram states that we will have to look into that. I know LYSA wants to do some work and repairs over there though.

David Tyler states that Jay Desilva loves the berm, it's helped so much with the prairie dogs. States that Kelly Harris had the original idea for the berm.

Kelly Harris states that the credit for that should go to the Mayor.

David Tyler states that at this moment, there are zero prairie dogs on LPS land. Mole Max is working also.

Reginald Fisher commends the department as a whole, and commends the improvements throughout the city.

Blake Munoz gives kudos to the Elmer Thomas Park crew for keeping the trail free of debris and smooth. He also states that there are loose and wobbly boards on the trail

behind McMahon Park.

Welcome new Ward 3 Commission member, Reginald Fisher.

Michael Scott introduces Reginald Fisher as the new Ward 3 Parks and Rec Commissioner.

Audience Participation

Anyone who has an item of business to present to the commission that does not appear on the agenda please come forward.

1) Mark Miller is a baseball coach who is currently in the Adopt-A-Park process. He states that Lawton needs improved baseball fields, not just a field with a backstop, but true fields. He bought his own dirt, and has been working to build a field at Gray-Warr, which is what brought him to the Adopt A Park process. He continues to state that he wishes the city would adopt a system similar to Broken Arrow where they number the fields, and you come claim a number before the season on a first come, first served basis. The goal is to help kids.

David Tyler states that the decline of Youth Sports in Lawton began in the 90's, and he feels much sympathy for Mr. Miller's issue.

Mark Miller states that Lawton desperately needs a system to give ownership of a field.

Kelvin Ingram states that LYSA runs McMahon Park, Eastside and Alshlager Park (17th and G). He continues to say that the Parks and Recreation department is working with Mr. Miller to complete the Adpot-A-Park process for the work he has done.

Kelly Harris states that the new sports facility coming up may be great for what he wishes to accomplish. However, the ball fields won't be constructed until late 2027 or later.

2) Crystallyn Guest introduces herself to the commission. She states that she has a history of stem and events. She will be writing grants and would like to network with the Parks and Recreation division and the Parks and Recreation commission so she can utilize her abilities to help grow programs. She will provide contact information to the commissioners.

Unfinished Business

None

Business Items

3. Consider approving the minutes from the regular meeting on January 6, 2026.

MOTION by Mike Pollard; SECOND by Melissa Shelton

AYES: Michael Scott, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Mike Pollard, Reginald

Seaton, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton, Reginald Fisher, Vince Cambron

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIES

Adjournment

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."

MOTION by David Tyler; SECOND by Vince Cambron

AYES: Michael Scott, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Mike Pollard, Reginald Seaton, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton, Reginald Fisher, Vince Cambron

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIES