



City of Lawton

Parks & Recreation Commission

City Hall
212 SW 9th Street
Lawton, OK
73501

Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 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 (entered at 5:36pm), Vince Cambron, Dennis Clippinger, Terry Brierton, Jerry Boone (entered at 5:49pm), Reginald Seaton (entered at 5:33pm), David Tyler (exited meeting at 6:15pm), Melissa Shelton, Blake Munoz (non-voting), Flora Callejas (entered at 5:37pm).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Pollard, Kelly Harris.

STAFF PRESENT: Kelvin Ingram (P&R Deputy Director), Dylan Dunavin (Recording Admin).

OTHERS PRESENT: Taron Epps (Ward 2 Councilmember), Kelly McConnel (Citizen, Ward 2)

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Staff

Kelvin Ingram states that the Harkey Park / Dunbar School project was approved by

Council and the City will have a Juneteenth dedication for this monument.

Terry Brierton asks if there are plans to remove the backstops at Walker Family Park?

Kelvin Ingram responds by saying that that is not the plan, in fact he wants to improve them.

Kelvin Ingram states that the wildflower initiative is still underway with Color Oklahoma in some of our dormant parks.

Kelvin Ingram states that we will resume Prairie Dog relocation efforts in July. Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation just took in 60 of our prairie dogs for their park system.

David Tyler states that he hasn't seen one prairie dog on LPS side of the berm. He states that he is impressed and loves it.

Kelvin Ingram continues to state that the OKC Thunder events were successful, and they will continue to tour the state as success is had by the team.

Kelvin Ingram states that the Patterson Blood Drive was very successful.

Kelvin Ingram continues to state that Parks and Recreation will have a stand down training on May 15th from 8am to 12pm. He states that offices will not be closed, but staff will be minimal between 8am and 12pm.

Discuss baseball coach Mark Miller's comments regarding ball field usage and the desire for a rental system for City-owned ball fields.

Kelvin Ingram states that Mark Miller completed the Adopt-A-Park process for his work at Gray Warr Park.

Discuss the Park Adoption (Adopt-A-Park) from 2LT Matthew Hyder for Panther Park

2LT Matthew Hyder completed the Adopt-A-Park process for Panther Park near Fort Sill, this will be for his unit to complete litter control.

Update on 2026 Aquatics Season

Kelvin Ingram states that the Lawton Aquatic Center will host Employee Day on May 23rd as a way to help prepare the Aquatic Staff for what a full facility will look like. It will also help get the water chemistry where it needs to be with bodies in the water. This day will help preparedness so we are ready for the public on opening day, May 25th.

Kelvin Ingram continues to state that lifeguard recruiting efforts are still underway. If anyone is interested, applications can be picked up at the Owens Multipurpose Center.

Kelvin Ingram continues to state that with ARPA funding, there is a concrete path

between the Lawton Aquatic Center and the Splash Pad. There will also be added shade areas and digital screens to show pricing and information. This will help prevent us from needing to pay for new signage every year.

Kelvin Ingram states that we passed the inspection with the department of labor.

David Tyler asks how many people are on a Family Season Pass?

Kelvin Ingram responds that a family pass is for four people.

Flora Callejas asks about safety and security at the LAC.

Kelvin Ingram states that we use Triangle Security for our security needs. There will be three guards at the LAC, and they do check bags prior to entry. We also have 41 cameras in use that can be checked by several City of Lawton staff at any given time from their phones. These security guards are also CLEET certified.

David Tyler asks what age requires a parent to accompany the child.

Kelvin Ingram responds that 16 and under requires adult supervision.

Michael Scott asked about capacity.

Kelvin Ingram states that capacity depends on the number of lifeguards. It's roughly 25 people per one lifeguard. So it's dependent on staffing.

Michael Scott asks if we can go back in time to view video on our security cameras.

Kelvin states that yes we can, however clarity issues can arise also.

Kelvin Ingram states that he is welcome to tours if any of the commissioners would like.

2. Commission Members

Terry Brierton states that this Parks and Recreation commission used to be more sports oriented when he first joined the commission many years ago, and much less about parks. He stated that the park improvements are great, and they've been a huge addition for the City and department. However, he believed the overall vision has been lost since the addition of Play Lawton. He feels the PLEX will not help low-income kids and low-income kids will be left out. The City needs to give back in the form of programs. Lawton can't even compare themselves to other schools in other cities because they have so much more money and resources for their kids. We are even losing athletes to other cities schools because their resources are so much greater. The city used to contribute to helping these kids. The concern is if kids don't have these sports opportunities, they will sit around with nothing to do and are at higher risk of

getting into negative hobbies and activities.

Michael Scott asks if it's a City issue or an LPS issue?

Terry Brierton responds and says that the City used to be involved in the youth sports, and used to offer programs run through the City but now it's just school or Play Lawton.

Flora Callejas adds that when she first came to Lawton, the schools used to provide the uniforms and equipment. Now the coaches aren't even involved beyond the game itself and they have cliques which create a negative environment. I think we need to bring sports back into this committee.

Reginald Fisher agrees with Terry in regards to bringing recreation back into the Parks and Recreation committee. He also states that this is a good way to get kids back outdoors and into the parks.

David Tyler states that he hopes Crystal Hills Park is still on the plan for July improvements as he has more families moving into the neighborhood and asking about that park. He also follows up on the sports discussion by stating that some other cities across the country run instructional leagues, that are designed to teach the fundamentals of the sport rather than focusing on leagues, games, stats and wins/loses. Just trains and teaches the games so they aren't behind going into school based sports. David Tyler also states that he has to leave the meeting to take a conference call at 6:15pm.

Reginald Seaton states that when he worked for the City at the time they ran sports programs, they faced challenges also. What is needed most right now is for leaders to step into those roles to coach and dedicate time to these kids and defend those programs.

Vince Cambron states that he put his kids through basketball at the church. He also states that he is a Cub Master for the Cub Scouts. So beyond sports, the Cub scouts is another avenue to look into for the youth.

Vince Cambron continues to state that at 35th Division park, there are two holes surrounded by plastic that should be looked at. He states that he will mark them also. One is near the SW Corner, and the other is near the pavilion.

Kelvin Ingram responds and states that he will meet him on-site to look at those holes.

Kelvin Ingram states that, ultimately, we understand and hear the comments regarding youth sports. However, those questions and comments fall under Play Lawton and Will Miller. They have their own committee, Lawton Youth Sports Trust Authority is its own committee that is designed for that very topic. He states that we in Parks and Recreation just don't have the staff to take that on, but we do hear your comments as we at the Owens Center hear a lot of complaints that are directed at Play Lawton.

Jerry Boone apologizes for being late and will call Kelvin Ingram with his questions and concerns. He has new families in his neighborhood also and has some concerns for Mr. Ingram at a later date.

Flora Callejas adds to the sports discussion, stating that maybe the department could use Youth Sports to tap into the recreation side of the department more and would give the underprivileged kids a better opportunity to play and learn.

Flora Callejas continues to state that she thinks the skate park needs upgraded from hot metal equipment to more modern materials. Her son doesn't skate there for that reason.

Melissa Shelton states that one thing to consider is that today's kids are more technology focused, and maybe they aren't interested in sports regardless of what is offered.

Discuss the possibility of designated VIP parking spots for Parks and Recreation commissioners for City Events located in Parks with an active VIP area per Michael Scott.

Michael Scott states that during large events like Freedom Fest, International Fest, Juneteenth, etc that are large and bring mass parking, a VIP pass for the Commissioners would be appreciated for us carrying ice chests, bags, chairs, etc. It's difficult to walk from the backside of Lawton High School to the east side of the park with such items on rough terrain. Maybe that is more of an Arts & Humanities question. It would be wonderful to consider this.

Kelvin Ingram states that we could bring it up to Jason Poudrier.

Audience Participation

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

Kelly McDonald states that she didn't know what to expect coming into this meeting. She says she isn't a sports person, but she does see that the City is trying. She's here because of concerns regarding Liberty Lake Park, which started as just the homeless population congregating and litter, but Kelvin Ingram and Council member Epps have been incredibly helpful in finding solutions to key issues for her at Liberty Lake Park. She also states that she appreciates how passionate Terry Brierton and other commissioners are about the City, the department, and the youth.

Kelvin Ingram states that with regard to the sports conversations tonight, he reminds the commission that there are other activities that keep the kids busy. He states that he was in the school band as a kid, some kids were in the choir, but even now he is into cycling, which is still a sport. Point is, there are plenty of activities that kids can get into.

Councilman Taron Epps states that he's sat on a lot of boards, and he's noticed the names don't always match the name of the board, so people assume one thing, but it turns into something else. The McMahon Board did the same thing. It transformed over the years. This board is a Kids First board, and we do take all of this into consideration, we do think about all of these things, so please do not feel unheard, and yes, we have heard of challenges and concerns with the upcoming facility.

Unfinished Business

Business Items

3. Consider approving the minutes from the March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Vince Cambron; SECOND by Dennis Clippinger

AYES: Michael Scott, Flora Callejas, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Terry Brierton, Reginald Seaton, 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 Vince Cambron; SECOND by Melissa Shelton

AYES: Michael Scott, Flora Callejas, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Terry Brierton, Reginald Seaton, Melissa Shelton, Reginald Fisher, Vince Cambron

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIES