



# City of Lawton

Lawton City Hall  
212 SW 9th Street  
Lawton, OK 73501

## Parks & Recreation Commission

### Minutes

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Tuesday, July 15, 2025

5:30 PM

Banquet Hall - Lawton City  
Hall

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**"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."**

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### Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Scott, Linda Neal, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Mike Pollard, Reginald Seaton, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Vince Cambron, Terry Brierton.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelvin Ingram (P&R Deputy Director) , Jessica Musselman (Administrative Assistant III).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim McConnell (Lawton Constitution).

### Reports

#### 1. Parks and Recreation Staff

Kelvin Ingram introduces himself as the new Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation. States that he loves Lawton and looks forward to the opportunity to serve this community.

A. Update on the new Aquatics Center and the Aquatics Season.

- Kelvin Ingram begins by saying that in the next week or so we will start seeing the cleaning up of the parking lot, some finishing touches, and the internet services being hooked up as early as next week. They began plastering the pool today. Once everything is in the final stages, we expect the inspection to take place on the 30th or 31st of this month. It's very important that we provide a good quality product, so we do not want to rush this either. Safety has to be the most important aspect of this. The pool will have a capacity of 906, so safety is very important.
- KI continues as far as hours of operation go. We are going to try our best to keep this facility open past Labor Day, which is the typical shut-down weekend. We are going to try to keep this open into October. The hours that we are going to post are for the 2026 season. However, we will have altered hours for the 2025 season so we can allow as many of our citizens to enjoy this facility now. The hours we are currently planning to post are Monday through Friday, 12pm to 8pm; Saturday's hours would be 9am to 8pm, and Sunday would be 12pm to 5pm. As far as features go, we will have a splash pad, lazy river, a recreational pool, a kiddie pool, family slide, observation deck, and a very important aspect is that it is ADA-compliant.
- KI continues, Children 12 years old or younger must be accompanied by an adult, children 7 years old and younger must be within arms reach of their adult for safety reasons. To protect people's feet from hot concrete, we are going to have cool-crete installed. However, there is a maintenance fee included in that because it isn't something that holds up to the outdoor elements we will see in Oklahoma, so upkeep will be important.
- KI continues to say that we are still hiring lifeguards for the facility. We currently pay more than our peer-cities, which is enticing, especially as we move past the Labor Day weekend when other pools close down in surrounding areas. Some of our guards are college students who may not be here at that facility after a certain point, however Yolanda Allen and George Leatherman have been developing a relationship with Cameron University, the YMCA, and City of Altus to possibly assist with that.
- KI states that swimwear must be family-friendly, and that will be monitored as well. We will also have lockers and showers for use. Additionally, as far as food and concessions go, we will not have any hot food at this time. Everything will be pre-packaged. We will also not be allowing outside food or drink at this time. We know food trucks will come, but we are going to keep outside food, outside the facility.
  - Linda Neal asks if we will have picnic tables outside the Aquatic Center to accommodate people who choose to utilize a food truck?
    - KI says that he does not have that answer at this time, but he will provide that answer when he has that.
  - Michael Scott asks if frozen or cold treats will be available, such as ice cream or popsicles.
    - KI I do not have that answer either. A concern could be the sticks and wrappers, but I will provide you with that answer when I have

that.

- KI continues to state that service animals will be allowed, and flotation devices will be provided. They are coast guard approved.
  - Michael Scott asks what age the adult needs to be (in reference to 7 years old or younger being within arms length of an adult)
    - KI - 18 or older.
  - Linda Neal says she doesn't believe it's realistic for an adult to remain within arms' length of a child at all times, especially while swimming.
    - KI - We will use discretion. It's more about promoting safety and awareness.
- KI continues to say that one concern came up regarding security: the height of the fence will need to be looked at. It's currently 6ft tall, and there's concern about people hopping the fence, especially after-hours.
  - Dennis Clippinger asks about the opening date.
  - KI - We still do not have an opening date, but the goal is the first or second week of August.
    - Linda Neal asks about the price of admission.
      - KI - Adults are \$6, Seniors and Youth are \$5, and ages 3 or under are \$2. No season passes this year.
  - Michael Scott asks about the Lawton citizen discount that he has seen surface.
    - Jessica Musselman states that it was discussed, but never approved or promoted.
      - MS asks Kim McConnell how many times they promoted that in the Lawton Constitution.
        - Kim McConnell states that it hasn't been promoted through the constitution because it hasn't been approved or voted on.
        - MS states that maybe it was run in the Southwest Ledger.
          - JM states that maybe the lines have been blurred between the Aquatic Center and Lawton Sports Complex. But there is no citizen discount for the Aquatic Center.
    - MS asks for confirmation that our facility will be open through mid-September or into October.
      - KI clarifies that it hasn't been approved, but that is the goal.

## B. Update on the Park Improvement Plans

- Michael Scott asks about an update on Greer Park (KidZone).
  - KI states that it will be a very enduring playground for kids. It will be almost like an "ultimate warrior" fitness ground also. It is also ADA-compliant, plus everyone will love the overhead shade. Not just to protect people, but the equipment will stay cooler also. The crew will begin cleaning the area to

begin the flooring. Next is the splash pad to be constructed. We also want to update the mural out there. We are looking into local artists to do that. But we need to get the construction completed first.

- MS asks about the zipline.
  - KI states that the zipline is included and is also ADA-compliant.
    - MS asks about the parking lot.
      - KI states that he will get the update himself and get back to the commission.
- KI states that one thing he is learning is the issues in our parks, and how he plans to figure out what needs to be updated and what people want is by speaking to our citizens who utilize these parks.
  - David Tyler states that he had a complaint from the new young families around Chrystal Hills park. A citizen said it "looked like junk" and they didn't want to play there. He didn't realize how badly the equipment was falling apart.
    - KI states that he will look at that immediately.
- KI states that Lee West is heading for a major update. We want to have an event surrounding the Thunder Court considering they just won the championship. They have a vested interest in this community.

## 2. Commission Members

- Michael Scott asks if the title of "Community Enrichment" will now transfer to the name of the commission.
  - Jessica Musselman states that they will remain the "Parks and Recreation Commission" as they are still representing the citizens for Parks, Recreation, and Aquatics.
- Reginald Seaton commends Parks and Recreation for doing a great job.
- Jerry Boone appreciates the information provided. He's still learning his ward and the parks in that area.
- Michael Scott states that back in the day, it was acknowledged there were too many parks. The city made comments about selling them at one time, or if the council would possibly vacate any of the pocket parks. We don't expect those small, out-of-the-way parks to be upgraded in the same way that the heavier-used parks are being upgraded.
  - David Tyler states that at one point in the 70s, we had a park named Butch Sutwell, and it was determined the City didn't even own the property. But I applaud the City for "shutting down" some of the smaller areas that you can't do much with. He also states how impressed with how well our crews are doing to stay up with construction.
    - KI states that they have a great system and will not fall behind.
  - KI states that citizens around Albert Johnson and Gray-Warr have stated that a parking lot would be greatly appreciated.

- Jessica Musselman refers back to Michael Scott's comment about selling parks. She states that about 3 or 4 years ago, the city did sell off some parks, and it took the number of parks we had from roughly 92 down to the roughly 76 parks that we have now. And in addition to that, we did a "park swap" with LPS with parks that are neighboring LPS school property. Sometimes we do help when citizens have complaints about those parks as we are available. And some of the parks are going to have old equipment removed (such as individual backstops) and just be used as an openscape.
- Linda Neal asks about prairie dogs.
  - KI states that the park maintenance team is planning to do another round of prairie dog relocation. It's an ongoing process.
  - Linda Neal states that some businesses around Gore and 2nd are discussing moving due to the prairie dogs. She continues to say that she just wants to make sure the city stays on top of that issue.
    - Michael Scott mentions an old plan of building 3-foot walls to contain the prairie dogs, due to not being able to see.
      - David Tyler confirms that former Councilman Harris had mentioned that at an old council meeting. He confirms that it can be anything such as rocks, grass, etc. Not just lumber.
  - Michael Scott states that he is disappointed because they've heard so many master plans over the years to contain the prairie dogs, but we still have the issue.
    - KI states that the crews are still coming up with plans and ideas.
  - David Tyler states that he has bad prairie dogs at Central High School. He really hopes the city can get past the discussion and fix the issue.
- Melissa Shelton states she has no comment.
- Mike Pollard states that the city needs to look at reducing the number of parks. 76 is too many to realistically upkeep. Additionally, prairie dogs are not an endangered species. I just want to state that for the record. The prairie dog issue is a long-term issue, and we just need to be patient. With how quickly they reproduce, we need to keep our expectations realistic also.

## **Audience Participation**

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

## **Unfinished Business**

## **Business Items**

3. Consider approving minutes from the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION by Linda Neal; SECOND by Mike Pollard**

**AYES: Michael Scott, Linda Neal, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Mike Pollard, Reginald Seaton, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton**

**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 Mike Pollard; SECOND by Dennis Clippinger**

**AYES: Michael Scott, Linda Neal, Dennis Clippinger, Jerry Boone, Mike Pollard, Reginald Seaton, David Tyler, Melissa Shelton**

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION CARRIES**