

MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 17, 2023, 5:00 P.M
111 Opera Street, Suite A

1) Roll Call of Committee Members

Committee Members present: Samantha Christian, Rick Dwyer, Bob Reddish, and Julie Nix. Absent: Ann Kendrick, Jerry Rephan, and Larry Williams. P&T staff present: Anthony Whittington, Kathleen Fason.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Bob made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023 agenda. Julie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Approval of the Minutes

Rick made a motion to approve the July 20, 2023 minutes. Julie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Introduction of Guests: None present.

5) New Business

A) 2024 Budget Capital Review: Anthony reviewed the updated capital requests for 2024. He explained that shade kites for Valley Street Skate Park had been added due to the need to remove trees from the southern end of the park.

B) Linden Park Update & Future Development: Anthony stated that during the City Board's Annual Retreat they discussed the need to improve and add to the fields to Linden Park for Soccer. Deputy City Manager Denny McPhate is visited the park with Anthony and others to look at how this goal could be achieved. It was decided that additional parking would be needed as well. We have added a request for funding to have a Master Plan done for Linden Park next year. Committee members were very encouraged to hear of this project. They also recommended adding additional fields and lighting as well as a concession stand. Anthony also shared that the new 5–12-year-old playground was installed but we are waiting for the artificial turf safety base to be delivered.

C) Greenway(s) Update: The next section of the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail will be focused on the natural surrounding with art at the trailhead in the form of a water feature with wetlands animal sculpture. Anthony is working with the Hot Springs Arts Advisory Committee to prepare a Call for Artists that he hopes to have out by October. He said his staff are currently working on interpretive signage designs that will cover Stormwater, history, and wetlands information. The contractor hopes to be finished with construction of Southern Trail, Phase 1 by late September. He will then move straight to the Jean W. Wallace Wetlands Trailhead. The Stokes Creek Greenway Trail, Phase 1 is currently under ARDOT Review of the 60-100% plans sent over by the city. Phase 2 design is currently being redone due to the need to add a bridge to cross the creek and go along the Leonard side of the creek. Phase 3 from will run along McLeod Street from Leonard to the bypass. The next section will be Phase 3b and is currently being evaluated for the best approach due to the crossing of traffic lanes. Phase 4 will have us back up at Leonard and Richard Streets meandering east, northeast to Freida Street. Trails continue to

connect communities and provide alternate transportation and recreational opportunities in Hot Springs!

6) Parks & Trails Director Reports, Announcements, & Items for Discussion

- Anthony stated that he will be in Washington D.C. with his Leadership Arkansas group during the week of our September meeting. Everyone agreed to cancel September's meeting and meet again on October 19.
- Velocity is still in a holding pattern waiting for paving at the parking lot. The bid is going out soon. Sod, purchased by Urban Forestry, will be going down soon. Anthony is working with Engineering Department staff to get some drone shots of youth and adults on the pump track on September 26th at 6 pm. He hopes to receive an invitation to the ORG Review in October where he will show the photos during his presentation!

7) Parks & Trails Advisory Committee Reports, Announcements, & Items for Discussion

- Rick offered to write a letter of support and recommendation for continued funding and development of the Stokes Creek Greenway Trail. Anthony thanked him and said he would get him all the information he needs about the project.
- Julie inquired where the city stands with installing any pickleball courts. She said she was concerned about the noise that the paddles make disturbing residents who live around city parks. Bob said that elderly individuals often like to go out and play at 5:30-6:30 in the morning. Anthony thanked them both for the insight. He stated that the city is researching and adding lines and netting where possible to existing tennis courts.

8) Adjournment:

Julie made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm. The Parks and Trails Advisory Committee will hold their next regular meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Anthony Whittington, Director
Parks & Trails Department

APPROVAL: _____
Samantha Christian, Chairperson
Parks & Trails Advisory Committee