

NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 20, 2011

The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Ms. Vicki Stephens at 5:00 p.m., on June 20, 2011, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

Commission Members Present: Tom Davis, Jeanne Hyde, Chandra Martin, Otistene Smith, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones was absent.

Staff Members Present: Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, Jeff Caplinger, Kate Finefield, Jennie Cunningham, Pam Smith, Katrina Wilbon, Renee Henson, Stephan Bartlett and Assistant City Attorney Paula Jones.

Others Present: Shanta Nunn-Baro, Valerie Pruitt, Josh Fendley, Brandon Atkinson, Don Winton, Josh Pangle, Bernadette Conley and Machel Stewart Brown.

Minutes: Ms. Stephens presented the minutes of the May 16, 2011, Parks and Recreation Commission minutes, public hearing minutes for public interest on YMCA purchase and the public hearing minutes for 2012 capital needs.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to accept all three (3) May 16, 2011, Parks and Recreation Commission and public hearing minutes. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: Ms. Stephens said the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer need to be filled.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Jeanne Hyde, to keep the slate of officers as last year which are Vicki Stephens as Chair, Jeanne Hyde as Vice-Chair, Otistene Smith as Secretary and Bruce Waller as Treasurer. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Staff: Mr. Rhoads introduced the following personnel:

- Jennie Cunningham and Pam Smith who will be alternately filling in temporarily as interim Program Supervisor until this position can be advertised and a permanent person hired later this year.
- Travis Young as interim Recreation Superintendent until Tina Worrell returns from the military assignment.
- Kate Finefield as the Park Ranger.
- Stephan Bartlett as an intern from Arkansas Tech.
- Bernadette Gunn as the city Fit2Live Coordinator.

Community Gardens at Vestal Park: Mr. Rhoads reported that Shanta Nunn-Baro with the Argenta Community Development Corporation is coordinating efforts of the People Tree, North Little Rock School District, Police Athletic League, and others to set up a community garden in the Barring Cross area of North Little Rock. The group would like to use about three (3) acres of land in the southwest corner of Vestal Park for such use.

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Community Gardens at Vestal Park (continued): Shanta Nunn-Baro with the Argenta Community Development Corporation said she is working with Bernadette Gunn to get grant funds to put in community youth gardens working with students from Argenta, third grade to fifth grade at Boone Park Elementary School and 11th grade to 12th grade at Arkansas Academy. They have received \$40,000 to fund the project.

Through this project, the youth will learn academic achievement, how to go to the farmer's market and sell their fruits and vegetables, character development, environment and building community pride.

Valerie Pruitt with the Argenta Community Development Corporation will be the organizer for the community as a whole. Home Depot will also help.

Ms. Shanta Nunn-Boro said they also want to get a long-term use agreement for two (2) acres of land that is available next to Boone Park Elementary School.

Mr. Rhoads stated that the Argenta Community Development Corporation and the People Tree organization would be working together on these community gardens.

Mrs. Smith asked if the Cooperative Extension Service would be involved.

Ms. Nunn-Baro said they would be in involved.

Mrs. Martin asked what the Parks and Recreation Departments' obligation would be.

Mr. Rhoads said the Park and Recreation Department and the Central Arkansas Water Department would furnish water to these locations, and use summer students from the recreation centers to help.

Mr. Davis asked how long of a time the use agreement would be.

Ms. Nunn-Baro stated that it would be a five-year term with a five (5) year renewable clause.

Mrs. Hyde asked if the two (2) acres at Vestal Park is where a pavilion has been planned.

Mr. Rhoads stated yes, and he would work with Ms. Nunn-Baro on where the pavilion will be located.

Mr. Davis asked if this was an area prone to flooding.

Mr. Rhoads said it would not be prone to flooding unless it is a very large flood.

Mrs. Martin asked Ms. Nunn-Baro if she had talked to members of the Baring Cross neighborhood.

Ms. Nunn-Baro said she had talked to members of the Baring Cross neighborhood and there were no concerns about this garden. Their group has plans for problems that may come up.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to authorize staff to negotiate a long-term use agreement subject to review by the legal department and final approval by the commission. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

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Arkansas Waterski Club Request for Expanded Use of Victory Lake: Mr. Caplinger reported that the Arkansas Waterski Club has been awarded an INT regional waterski event in September 2011. The waterski club is requesting use of Victory Lake, Wednesday through Friday, September 14, 15 and 16, 2011, and that these dates be added to the dates that have already been awarded. Currently approved are weekend days of September 17 and 18, 2011. This use will make it possible to host the significant regional event. Cost to update the sign will be paid by the Arkansas Waterski Club.

Don Winton said their organization already has the lake reserved September 17 and 18, 2011, and would like to include the weekdays of September 14, 15 and 16, 2011. INT told the Arkansas Waterski Club that several hundred people could be expected at this event. This date and location will be advertised in several water sports magazines, posted several places on the internet and will go in the event guide as well.

Mrs. Hyde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve this change and that the waterski club pay for the needed correction to the 2011 Victory lake usage sign. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

Feline Rescue and Rehome (FuRR) 2011 Mid-Year Annual Report: Mr. Caplinger reported that the Feline Rescue and Rehome (FuRR) agreement asks for an initial inventory of all feline cats in Burns Park, a six-month report and an annual report. He presented the six-month report required by the agreement. A representative could not be present at this meeting. As an update, FuRR has reported that three (3) cats have an appointment on June 24, 2011, to get microchipped and rabies vaccination. When this is completed, an update will be sent to him.

Mr. Rhoads stated that there are only five (5) cats and the population has stayed consistent, which is what was intended by this joint agreement.

Mr. Waller said he wanted this item to be set aside until the regularly scheduled meeting in August 2011. The commission agreed.

Mr. Rhoads said he would ask FuRR to revise and update their report.

Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation Annual Report: Mr. Caplinger stated that an annual report is required in the agreement with the Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation for the development of the Dark Hollow Memorial Park, formally named 15th Street Triangle Park. The Community Development Corporation conducted a fundraiser and sold honor bricks to develop the park. Due to personal reasons, neither Belinda Burney-Sykes nor a representative were able to be at the commission meeting.

Mrs. Burney-Sykes had submitted a letter stating that their planned construction timeline of June 2011 would not be met. They had only sold 300 memorial bricks of the planned 500. She went to the contractor to inquire of starting the project with the 300 bricks sold to date, and was told that they were not able to start on the wall and then finish it at a later date once the other 200 bricks were sold. She also was informed that cost of building the brick wall had increased from \$5,300 to near \$20,000. She is going to contact the architect to verify the pricing in addition to contacting some other masonry vendors.

Mrs. Martin asked if the price of those bricks could have increased that much.

Mr. Caplinger said Ms. Burney-Sykes is checking on this.

Mr. Rhoads suggested this report is held until a report is submitted. The commission agreed.

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Parks and Recreation Needs Request Summary: Mr. Rhoads presented a total capital list of approximately \$5,000,000 of requests made in the YMCA and general Parks and Recreation public hearings (this figure excludes purchase and operation costs associated with the YMCA facility). The separate \$4,463,200 amount listed for purchase and operation of the YMCA is just an estimate. The commission needs to review and prioritize any activities of capital improvements that were recommended as a priority for staff to seek to facilitate or fund. A grant request will be sought at a later date that will cover some of the items.

Mrs. Martin asked if the \$500,000 amount listed for game tables at Sherman Park was correct.

Mr. Rhoads stated that the correct amount should be \$5,000 and he will get this corrected.

Mrs. Hyde asked if the wheelchair lifts requested for Sherman Park are portable.

Mr. Caplinger said what they are really requesting is a ramp or railing.

Ms. Stephens suggested that the staff be involved in prioritizing this list and return to the commission. Mr. Waller agreed.

Mrs. Hyde said that anything needing to be brought up to city code would need to be a priority.

Mr. Waller stated that the YMCA item did not belong in the Parks and Recreation budget.

Ms. Stephens agreed.

Mr. Waller suggested that the staff look at request items costing less \$10,000 being done in the current maintenance budget, such as picnic tables at Crestview Park.

Mr. Rhoads said he (himself) left some things off this list because he had asked staff to do that.

Mrs. Smith asked if items on a 2009 request list were included on the current list.

Mr. Rhoads said yes, they were listed and would spell them out for clarification. Most of the items had been requested for Sherman Park and Glenview recreation centers.

Mrs. Hyde asked that older requests be noted with an asterisk on the list. She also asked if any grant opportunities would be missed by waiting until next month to make the final selection.

Mr. Rhoads reported that no grant opportunities would be missed, because any grant requests would be based on 2010 items. Older requests will be noted with an asterisk on the list.

Mrs. Smith asked if all Sherman Park sidewalk construction together would be \$85,000.

Mr. Rhoads said he would recheck the figures.

Mr. Rhoads stated that some grant items are in progress including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) restroom, ADA sidewalk around the park and the playground.

Mrs. Smith asked if a list of summary grants and their status could be provided at the July 2011 regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Mr. Rhoads said he would get Mr. Caplinger check all grants available and document what he finds. He also stated that he would include a summarized list of other grants available including those suggested by commission members, document what he found out and what the department can and cannot do pertaining to them.

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Mrs. Smith said there are volunteers available in the community to write grants and the center director's should be informed of this. Grant writers are available in different areas and when a grant becomes offered in the center director's area, the center director can

notify these grant writers. Some of the funds have a short turnaround time and can be partnered with schools or other businesses.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST

SUMMARY 2012

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
DeSalvo Stadium	New Lights and Steel Poles	\$250,000
DeSalvo Stadium	Paint stadium poles, roof, roof support, railings, etc.	10,000
DeSalvo Stadium	Parking lot repairs, lights added third base side	2,500
Sr. League Field	New concession / rest room building w/ storage	100,000
Sr. League Field	New spectator stands ADA accessible with roof	175,000
Sr. League Field	New walkway and entrance	50,000
Sr. League Field	Field work including irrigation and field drains	4,500
Sr. League Field	New scoreboard	10,000
Handicapped inclusion	Arts and crafts programs	Part of Inclusion
Handicapped inclusion	Bowling	2,100
Handicapped inclusion	Dancing	1,800
Handicapped inclusion	Inclusion and adaptive programs	45,000
	Trails and walking areas wide enough that could accommodate wheelchairs, walkers and bicyclists	-0-
Handicapped inclusion	at the same time	
	American with Disabilities Act accessible swimming pools and lessons for those with disabilities	
Handicapped inclusion		2,100
Hispanic Outreach	More picnic facilities (grills and pavilions)	75,000
Hispanic Outreach	Print the majority or most signs in Spanish (in addition to the English)	12,000
Hispanic Outreach	Designate soccer fields for general use during week	-0-
Hispanic Outreach	Indoor soccer field for use year round	1,500,000
Hispanic Outreach	Bilingual staff at North Heights Center	-0-
Crestview Park	Work on stages to complete master plan	<u>\$ follows</u>
Crestview Park	Install a 6' to 8' fence on the interstate access road	25,000
	Work with the streams to enhance natural water flow into a water feature	
Crestview Park		50,000
Crestview Park	Add picnic tables	\$600/Table 1,800
Crestview Park	Add lighting	20,000
Crestview Park	Incorporate stone walkways through the park	50,000
Sherman Park	Tennis Court: Repair and resurface	20,000

Sherman Park	New bleachers for fields	\$2,500/set	15,000
Sherman Park	Multiuse athletic field rebuilt, irrigated, fenced, lights		8,250
Sherman Park	ADA restrooms outside	in progress	50,000
Sherman Park	ADA sidewalk around park	in progress	50,000
Sherman Park	New scoreboard		5,000
Sherman Park	New ADA playground	in progress	50,000
All Centers	Concern about after-school fees for programs		-0-
Sherman Park	Computers/TV damaged by storm replaced	in progress	
Sherman Park	Additional Gymnasium		1,000,000
Sherman Park	Rest rooms upgrades off large meeting room		65,000
Sherman Park	Refurbish swimming pool/splash parking amenities		\$ 300,000
Sherman Park	Refurbish swimming pool dressing room rest rooms		100,000
Sherman Park	New city vehicle for building		30,000
Sherman Park	More programs like soccer, tennis, softball		-0-
Sherman Park	Upgrade gym w/ scoreboard, pads, bleachers		60,000
All Centers	Tables and chairs	in progress	10,000
Sherman Park	Power wash building and reseal bricks		50,000
Glenview	Drainage is still a problem by the walking trail		10,000
Glenview	Splash Park Phase II		150,000
All Recreation Centers	Do past year list of projects before new ones		-0-
United Cerebral Palsy	Wheelchair lift for use at Sherman Park Center		200,000
United Cerebral Palsy	More table games for handicapped use at SP		* 5,000
United Cerebral Palsy	ADA sidewalk from building to Pavilion at SP		35,000
Melrose Park	More playground equipment		15,000
Melrose Park	Handicap accessibility from street		10,000

TOTAL REQUESTS

***\$5,075,050**

YMCA	Purchase		\$2,000,000
YMCA	Maintenance Repairs		50,000
YMCA	Replace Pool Bubble		90,000
YMCA	Construct 50 meter indoor pool		2,000,000
YMCA	Start-up Equipment		123,200
YMCA	Operation Expenses	\$350,000	
YMCA	Operation Revenues	\$150,000	
YMCA	Net Operation Cost		200,000

TOTAL YMCA

\$4,463,200

* Denotes corrected figures.

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State Outdoor Grant Request: Mr. Rhoads stated that staff is recommending the list of items for this year's grant request. It continues to seek the items needed to complete the renovation of Sherman Park's outdoor areas. It adds playground and restroom upgrades at Burns Park to make them handicapped accessible. Other items include upgrades and increases in fishing and picnic areas pointed out as needed in the master plan, and by the outreach meetings.

Division heads met concerning grant money and the first priority would be to finish the outdoor area on the Sherman Park grounds. This includes grading, leveling, new irrigation, replace worn out fencing, replace lights with a more energy efficient system, buy and install a new scoreboard, repair and resurface the two (2) outdoor tennis courts. State is now mandating more Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility. The second priority item will be the Burns Park caboose playground area, the third priority item will be the Burns Park covered bridge and the fourth priority item will be the Burns Park Soccer Complex. A final budget and grant documentation will be brought for approval at a later commission meeting.

Mr. Waller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to proceed on the grant and approve this list as submitted by the staff. All voted aye and motion passed unanimously.

**North Little Rock Parks and Recreation
2012 Arkansas State Parks Matching Grant
Project Recommendations**

Sherman Park Community Center

- Multi-use Field: grading, leveling, new irrigation system, replace worn-out fence;
- Lights: Replace existing lights with more energy efficient system;
- Replace non-working, existing scoreboard;
- Tennis Court: Repair and Resurface two courts

Note: These items had been requested in a previous Outdoor Recreation Grant (2009–2010) but were not funded.

Burns Park – Caboose Playground Area

- Upgrade restroom to ADA compliance;
- Add accessible walkway to restroom;
- Replace playground surfacing material with ADA impact surfacing material;
- Add accessible walkway from east parking lot

Burns Park – Covered Bridge

- Resurface portion of gravel parking lot for accessible parking;
- Make walkway from parking lot to gazebo accessible;
- Add small accessible pavilion with accessible picnic tables

Burns Park – Soccer Complex

- Add up to two (2) accessible pavilions and walkways to pavilions in Quad 4

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Vision/Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation: Mr. Rhoads said that it has been suggested that the department’s common directions, mission goals and objectives be revisited, and that staff, including supervisors and center directors, be included as a part of determining these items. All of this is required for accreditation.

This would be set to do at another time that would be determined by the commission. Staff needs commission input of when to do such undertaking and is open for suggested times.

Ms. Stephens said she agreed that a meeting would be necessary. She wants all of the key staff present and suggested this meeting start at 4:00 p.m. on July 18, 2011, which would be one (1) hour before the July 2011 regularly scheduled commission meeting. The commission and staff present agreed.

Director’s Report: Mr. Rhoads presented director reports for May 2011.

Burns Park Athletic Complex: Mr. Rhoads reported that the baseball complex construction is slowly proceeding. Roofing for dugouts and fencing installation is currently in progress. A fall baseball program is planned.

Funland Employee: Ms. Stephens commended a Funland worker by the name of Cassandra Jackson. Mr. Young agreed that she is a good employee and said he would let her know.

ASpire and SAPling Programs: Mrs. Smith asked how the ASpire program was going.

Ms. Cunningham said the ASpire program is going well. The program is filled to capacity, and also includes fifth and eighth grade students. She is excited about this program, and it will end August 12 for this year.

Mr. Young said each ASpire family that was enrolled last year will get a letter explaining the new fee schedule for that program.

Drainage at the Glenview Recreation Center and Snakes: Mrs. Martin asked if drainage issues have been fixed at the Glenview Recreation Center, including the abundance of snakes.

Mr. Rhoads stated that an engineer has looked into this drainage problem and work has been done on the area. Staff is waiting for rain to check the results. There could be drainage areas that are stopped up. Photos will be taken next time the area floods.

Kate Finefield said the Arkansas Herpetology Club will help with the snake problem and she has a contact if staff is interested.

Mr. Rhoads asked Mrs. Finefield to talk with Renee Henson and Katrina Wilbon on getting help with the snake problem at the recreation centers.

Ordinances: Mr. Rhoads reported that Jeff Caplinger is working on getting departmental policies together for commission's consideration to make into city ordinances.

Mr. Davis asked if the Park Ranger would have a police radio.

Mr. Rhoads said she would have a police radio and be trained for use by a member of the North Little Rock Police Department.

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Calendar of Events: Ms. Stephens stated that the next commission agenda deadline is Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. Any items need to be called in by that date and time to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office.

The next regularly scheduled commission meeting is Monday, July 18, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., in the North Little Rock Community Center.

Adjournment: Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Martin, to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. All voted aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Ms. Stephens opened the meeting for public comments.

Recreation Programs: Ms. Bernadette Conley stated that trees lying on the ground at the Sherman Park Recreation Center need to be picked up, and suggested that the ground be built higher to help with the flooding problem. She also asked if the Recreation Advisory Committee would be reformed. Pertaining to fee increases with the ASPIre program, she asked what Federal agencies were connected with staff cuts to this program.

Mrs. Smith said she will follow up to get with previous members of the Recreation Advisory Committee. Many of the members had dropped out.

Mr. Rhoads stated that it was Work Force and the Learning Center that was associated with the ASPIre program and had funding cuts. Federal employees associated with these programs were notified the day before the cuts actually happened.

Mr. Young said that 11 staff positions were cut by these Federal agencies.

Ms. Wilbon stated that ASPIre fee increase notices were mailed out before school was out in 2011, but not all parents understand that there are fee increases.

Mr. Young said that all past participants will be contacted again personally about the fee increase with details.

Ms. Wilbon asked if the ASPIre program was going to change in 2011. Ms. Wilbon also wanted to know if recreation center members could go into the recreation center while the ASPIre program is going on. She suggested that the class participants be offered a snack.

Mr. Rhoads said it is the same program that has been implemented in the past and suggested she see Ms. Cunningham to get this information. Her questions concerning the ASpire program and others will be discussed at the goals and vision meeting.

Ms. Stephens said there will be several agenda items that will be discussed at the goals and vision meeting. Everything the department does is done on a shoestring budget, and makes no money on any programs or activities held. More money is being charged for the ASpire program so the department can just try to keep up with expenses. She feels that the after school fees charged are very inexpensive for the quality program participants get.

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Public Comments (continued):

Recreation Programs (continued): Ms. Wilbon said she feels that all youth should be let into the recreation center whether they are participating in a structured program or not. She thought the recreation centers were designed to bring in funds, but to be a service to the community.

Mr. Rhoads said there is a safety and space issue.

Mr. Waller said it cost money to operate. Community participants said the programs were worthwhile and wanted to continue them. A fee increase was the solution that would allow the programs to continue without breaking the bank and it was decided a while back. If the center directors do not like raising fees, then they need to find another alternative to fund the programs.

Mr. Rhoads said staff was involved in setting these rates. This item was discussed at some of the commission meetings with recreation staff present, and at the staff's recreational department meetings. The fees were discussed and passed by the commission based on input from the staff. The fee increase was proposed by the commission to start January 1, 2011, but changed it to the start of school in 2011 based on the center director's recommendations. It was discussed at three (3) of the commission meetings and sent back to the staff for discussion. The commission changed things based on staff input and recommendations.

Ms. Henson said she remembers it being discussed, but did not know when it was approved.

Ms. Henson said the Midnight Basketball staff had told her that the Midnight Basketball program had been stopped, and the staff probably heard it from Tina Worrell.

Ms. Stephens stated that the Midnight Basketball program had not been stopped, but was just taking a break and will start again during the school months. Ms. Worrell is not here to tell what she might have said.

Ms. Henson said she did not know much about the Midnight Basketball program.

Ms. Stephens stated that she (Ms. Henson) should know about the program because it is held at the Sherman Park Recreation Center.

Mr. Caplinger said he understood that it would be a school year program, and not held in the summer. This decision was made last summer.

Ms. Henson said that no one told her the schedule.

Ms. Stephens said that the staff and commission members need to communicate because it is about the needs of the community. The commission members do not attend the commission meetings to hear about rumors going on in the community. The commission is making decisions based on what they understand are needs in the community. The lack of communication problems needs to be solved and staff needs to either work with the commission or do something different.

Ms. Henson said she did not know who made the decision to take a summer break from Midnight Basketball.

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Public Comments (continued):

Recreation Programs (continued): Mr. Waller said there was no Midnight Basketball one (1) year ago.

Ms. Stephens said it would have been Mrs. Worrell's responsibility to keep the staff informed.

Mr. Rhoads asked Ms. Henson if they had Midnight Basketball last summer.

Ms. Henson said they did not have this program last summer.

Mrs. Smith said parents in the community are concerned about youth being turned away from the recreation centers.

Mrs. Martin said she wants more discussion on what options are available on partnering with higher education like schools and having more volunteers.

Ms. Stephens agreed that the department should be able to partner with higher education and find more volunteers because there are so many people that are not doing anything.

Mrs. Hyde said Charles Jones has already reported that after school learning is available at the school and in place. However the youth do not want to sit after school and learn, they want to go to the recreation center.

Ms. Stephens said that last year the North Little Rock School District parents were told they could take their child to any public elementary school then walk across the street or next door to the recreation center for an after school daycare program. The Parks and Recreation Department was not asked or notified of this. The department staff was overwhelmed and not prepared for all the youth that came, and many were coming in from outside of the area. Activities and space had to be found for them, and all the parents had to pay was \$15.00 per school year for a membership card to participate in the after school daycare. The department does not have the funds to run a decent program and daycare five (5) days a week for nine (9) months for \$15.00 per school year.

Grants: Mr. Rhoads said some grants require that the schools do the grant request and partner with the center.

Mrs. Smith said the department staff needs to work with the schools to get something done.

Mr. Waller said that according to Mr. Jones, the school board is happy with the way things are and was not interested in writing a grant.

Ms. Stephens said the commission looks to the center directors to help find ways to incorporate the youth into the programs.

Mrs. Smith said the schools are going to be looking for partners because the funds will dry up December 2011.

Mr. Waller said that people do not understand that the department applies for grants but does not always get them. Also, if someone knows there is a grant available, they need to let someone in the department know.

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Public Comments (continued):

Grants (continued):

Ms. Stephens said that Mrs. Smith is a wonderful resource for cutting edge grant information, but the department does not have a grant writer on the staff.

Mrs. Smith said she sent a lot of available grant information to Mr. Rhoads, but according to him (Mr. Rhoads) the city grant writer never seemed to have time to do the grants. If the staff finds grant money available and cannot find a grant writer, let either she or Mrs. Martin know.

Ms. Stephens said there is no grant writer for the department, but one for the city. When grant information became available and the city's grant writer was notified, he chose not to write the grants.

Mrs. Martin noted that several little grants have been written and received for the department.

Mr. Rhoads stated that the grant that is funding items at Sherman Park is a two (2) year grant.

Mrs. Smith said that businesses like Target and Walmart sometimes have grants available, but they are not helping the local Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Rhoads stated that Walmart usually will not talk to a city concerning their (Walmart) available grants.

Mrs. Smith said this is where a partnership could help.

Baring Cross Area: Michelle Stewart–Brown representing the Baring Cross community said she is glad to see a community garden being put at Vestal Park. There also needs to be a place in the Baring Cross area to give information to the community, and a recreation center.

Ms. Stephens said there is nothing in the current budget for a recreation center in the Baring Cross area, but because it had been mentioned in 2010, it will be on the priority list as an item mentioned then.

Mrs. Stewart–Brown asked how their group could reserve a part of Vestal Park for National Night Out.

Mr. Rhoads told her to contact the Police Athletic League to get information.

There were no more public comments.

Submitted by,

Otistene Smith, Secretary