

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKS AND RECREATION
PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS FOR THE 2013 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

MAY 21, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing was called to order by Vicki Stephens at 5:15 p.m., on May 21, 2012, at the North Little Rock Community Center.

Commission Members Present: Tom Davis, Chandra Martin, Vicki Stephens and Bruce Waller. Charles Jones had to work. Otistene Smith was taking care of her father. These were excused.

Staff Members Present: Bob Rhoads, Jan Eberle-Wilkins, John Crow, Tina Worrell, Jeff Caplinger, Steve Ralston, Jennie Cunningham, Katrina Wilbon, Pam Smith, Ernest Peoples, Renee Henson, Glenda Parker and Assistant City Attorney Paula Jones.

Others Present: Alderman Debi Ross, Scott Gann, Don Winton, Tim Eubanks, Gary Rogers, Carol Rogers, Kyle Rogers, Anthony Coffman, Tony Coffman, Mark Holland, Deanna Garretson, James Christopher and Bernard Bracey.

Reason for the Public Hearing: Ms. Stephens stated that the reason for the Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing is to get input on Parks and Recreation Department needs for the 2013 Capital Improvement Program. No action will be taken at this meeting and requests will be considered if money becomes available,

Other Public Hearings: Tina Worrell said that public outreach meetings were held for the underserved population in North Little Rock in three (3) different locations, to get input on Parks and Recreation Department needs for 2013. Notes from the community public hearings and staff lists are attached.

African American Community: Mrs. Worrell said that she and Renee Henson had a public hearing outreach meeting for the African American community. The public hearing was held at the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) meeting at 1418 Main Street in North Little Rock, on May 1, 2012. Their requests from Parks and Recreation included:

- Provide transportation to accessible water areas at the North Little Rock recreation centers and to Burns Park.
- Implement more arts and educational programs.
- Remodel the Sherman Park ballfield, upgrade bleachers and benches, and replace fencing. Note: This is already included in a grant to be done.
- Add more interactive play stations in the recreation centers three (3) water areas.
- Replace old outdated scoreboards at the Sherman Park ballfield. Note: This is already included in a grant to be done.
- Modernize and update bath houses at the splash pad and swimming pools.
- Add more security such as additional lights and have more of a police presence at the parks.
- Find more parking spots for Sherman Park patrons (possibly look at a different layout) or add parking across the street.
- Replace the ballfield lights at Sherman Park. Note: This is already included in a grant to be done.
- Add benches along the walking trail.
- Add more American's with Disability (ADA) accessibility to the pools and splash pad.

Hispanic Community: Grace Church of the Nazarene on May 10, 2012 (Tina Worrell):

- Install more fishing piers on the ponds and river.
- Implement more free or reduced cost programs.
- Conduct English and Spanish speaking classes.
- Print parks and recreation programs and facilities pamphlets and leaflets in Spanish.
- Implement indoor soccer programs at the recreation center gymnasiums for their use,
- Add more picnic tables at Burns Park.
- Hire Spanish speaking staff members.

Special Needs Classes: Northeast High School East Campus on May 21, 2012 (Tina Worrell):

- Offer:
 - More special events/leagues/tournaments including fishing, kickball, baseball, 3 on 3 Basketball, gun and skeet shooting
 - Fishing lessons
 - Street hockey
 - Paintball
 - Cheerleading
 - Community theater with plays
 - Painting, drawing and woodworking classes
 - Wildlife guides and written information
 - Teen and young ladies basketball and outdoor volleyball program
 - Hip Hop and Tango dance classes
 - Community centers use free to everyone
 - More disc golf course tournaments and better advertisement on it
 - Educational, technology and basic skills classes such as how to repair cars, bicycles, etc.
 - Teen hangout clubhouse
- Build:
 - Indoor archery range with archery club
 - Rifle shooting range
 - Miniature golf course with turns, curves and interactive areas
 - Indoor and outdoor swimming pools with lanes, swim lessons and swim teams
 - More tennis courts, basketball courts and skateboard parks around the city
 - Roller derby rink
 - More dog parks and to the current one add larger areas, swim areas for dogs, retriever training pond 6' deep, and find a way to make people pick up their dog feces
 - Multi-generational community center
- Stock covered bridge with fish other than catfish and trout, and have a catch and release program
- Add amusement park rides for teens and adults

Skateparks - Scott Gann - Resident of Sherwood:

- Build six (6) 2500 sq. foot skate parks at six (6) sites in North Little Rock. Locations suggested are Camp Robinson Park, Pugh Park, Dark Hollow off 15th Street, Melrose Park, Sherman Park and Glenview Park.
Cost would be approximately \$30 per square foot to \$40 per square foot for these parks.

Ms. Stephens asked him to continue talking with John Crow.

Arkansas Waterski Club - Don Winton, President of the Arkansas Waterski Club:

- Build a new or modified boat launching ramp with handicapped accessibility at Victory Lake. Wants it relocated back and southwest from the current ramp.
Cost will be approximately \$9,000 to \$17,000.
- Solve silt problem at Victory Lake.
- Stabilize Victory Lake bank and cost would be approximately \$1,000,000.

Ms. Stephens asked if the Corp of Engineers could help with any of these projects, and Mr. Rhoads said he would check.

Tennis Center - Mark Holland, Facility Manager at Burns Park Tennis Center:

- Repair roof over the lobby to prevent leaks.
- Resurface two (2) to three (3) outdoor courts a year.
- Add more outdoor lighting.

BMX Track and Facility - Gary Rogers with the Central Arkansas BMX Youth Development Association:

- Install gates and fence for security.
- Put calcium chloride or asphalt in track turns.
- Install cover for track.
- Provide access to a water truck (for the calcium chloride).

North Little Rock Community Center - James Christopher (member of the North Little Rock Community Center):

- Install better floors for low impact aerobics.
- Allow patrons to have long-term locker use and charge a fee (\$3.00 to \$4.00 per month),
- Allow free play basketball after 6:00 p.m.
- Have the fitness center open four (4) hours on Sunday.

Note: Mr. Rhoads stated that free play basketball had been temporarily suspended, but staff is looking at possibly starting it back June 1, 2012.

Funland -Tina Worrell:

- Install a fence around Funland for security,
- Build or install a storage building for holiday lights.
- Replace two (2) amusement rides (\$30,000 each), and add rides for older youth and adults.
- Provide more space at Burns Park for special program staff.
- Build a better website for the city, Parks and Recreation and Funland.

Recreation Staff - Tina Worrell:

- Replace two (2) two-passenger vans and one (1) truck.
- Buy a sedan for each recreation center to run errands.
- Buy computers, laptops and printers.
- Buy uniforms for athletic programs basketball and cheerleaders.
- Buy educational software for the computer labs.

Sherman Park Recreation Center - Tina Worrell:

- Buy a sedan to run errands.
- Renovate restrooms at pools and the splash park.
- Install adjustable basketball goals.

Glenview - Tina Worrell:

- Create a miniature golf course.
- Complete the splash pad second phase.

North Heights - Tina Worrell:

- Create additional space.
- Install play water features.
- Buy a pit for gymnastics.

North Little Rock Community Center - Tina Worrell:

- Buy additional treadmills and workout bicycles.
- Buy additional weight equipment.
- Replace the air and heat unit.
- Buy new technology equipment for rentals (podium, speakers, LCD projectors, screens, etc.).
- Buy software for programming (rentals, programming, work orders).
- Design a master plan for the city.
- Build an office in Burns Park.
- Create teenage hang-out rooms and programs.

Burns Park Baseball Complex - Bob Rhoads for Bobby Gosser, Burns Park Athletic Association:

- Pave the parking lot.
- Install shade covers for the spectators.
- Build a maintenance building.

Burns Park - John Crow:

- Rework drainage on soccer fields 1, 5-8 and 11.	\$ 150,000
- Build a new maintenance shop (shop III).	80,000
- Install a new lighting system at DeJanis/DeSalvo ballfield.	180,000
- Remodel grandstands/pressbox at the Senior League Field.	150,000
- Shore-up bank of White Oak Bayou behind soccer fields 2-4.	No estimate
- Rework girls softball infields.	80,000
- Install shade structures over bleachers at baseball complex.	130,000
- Asphalt parking lot at baseball complex.	120,000
- Upgrade six (6) restrooms with ADA accessibility.	360,000
- Buy a Bobcat Skid Steer.	30,000
- Buy a Mini Track Excavator.	35,000
- Buy an Engine Powered Post Hole Digger.	4,000
- Buy a Rear Tine Tiller - Heavy Duty.	1,500
- Buy a Forklift - 5,000 lb.	22,000
- Buy a 32 hp utility tractor.	22,000
- Buy a 1-ton pickup with dump bed.	30,000
- Buy trimmers (10), pole saws (2), and blowers (2).	8,000

Golf Course at Burns Park - Steve Ralston:

- Replace the 36-hole sprinkler system.
- Repair cart paths.
- Renovate old clubhouse to make it rentable.

Ms. Stephens asked if there were any other requests. There were none and the public hearing ended at 5:57 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jan Eberle-Wilkins for Otistene Smith
Secretary