



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

Little Rock City Hall

Attendance: Ben France, Quinten Whiteside, Samuel Ellis, Mike Bernardo, Cannon Fletcher, Summer Campbell, Chemia Woods

Absent: Chris Kemp, City Director-Capi Peck, City Director-Andrea Lewis

City Board of Director Liaison:

LRPR/LRCAO Staff: Parks Director-Leland Couch, Deputy Director Administration-Angela Nelson, Deputy Director Operations-Justin Dorsey, James Short-Sr. Park Planner, Deputy City Attorney-Simone Blagg, Administrative Assistant to the Parks Director-Mahogany Burkhalter, Karen Sykes-Volunteer Program Coordinator, Graham Brown-Parks Data and Marketing Coordinator, Kyndall Richardson-Secretary

Welcome: Vice Chairman France welcomed everyone. Meeting called to order at 11:47 am.

Roll Call: Roll call completed. Seven (7) Commissioners present. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman France asked for a motion to approve November 2025 minutes. Vice Chairman Whiteside made 1st motion. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Campbell. Vote passed. Motion carried.

Citizen Communication:

Director's Presentation/Staff Reports/Events:

Director's Report:

- ❖ BOD Items: Southside Playground resolution passed.
- ❖ MacArthur Dog Park Shade structure donation approved.
- ❖ 30 Crossing Presentation was completed.

Staff Reports:

- ❖ Commissioner Fletcher – asked about unspent PIT funds being left over. Deputy Nelson and Director Couch advised that funds were received later in the year than in previous years.

Events:

- ❖ Ugly Sweater race 12/20 9AM
- ❖ Therapeutic Recreation Christmas Prog Program – Fellowship BC 12/18 7pm
- ❖ Jacksonville Choir-Holiday Concert - MacArthur Museum- Saturday, 12/12, 2pm



Presentation:

- ❖ Presentation – Graham Brown – Recap of year 2025.

Unfinished Business:

- ❖ Subcommittee Reports
 - Masterplan Subcommittee Report– Commissioner Fletcher stated that Section 13 project is still waiting on the legal opinion. Deputy Dorsey is working on it. No Masterplan Subcommittee meeting was held.
 - Marketing Subcommittee Report –Vice Chairman Whiteside had No Update. They weren't able to meet.
 - Parks Conservancy Subcommittee Report – Subcommittee Chair – Commissioner Ellis was absent today. No update given. Parks Director and Commissioner Campbell asked for meeting information.
- ❖ Presentation list discussion/Selection for the next meeting.
 - Decided after New Business was completed. Parks Director will give the 30 Crossing presentation.
- ❖ Subcommittee Assignments/Subcommittee Chair/ Subcommittee Chair Procedure.
 - Subcommittee members decided to stay on their current subcommittees. Made aware of shrinking committees.
 - Commissioner Bernardo nominated Commissioner Fletcher for Masterplan Subcommittee Chair. Motion was 2nd by Vice Chairman Whiteside. Vote passed. Motion carried.
- ❖ Commissioner Retreat Dates – Deputy City Atty Blagg.
 - Vice Chairman Whiteside made a proposal to accept the January 28th date. Commissioners decided to vote on date at the January meeting.
- ❖ Parks Features Directory Update – Per Graham, the website is still under reconstruction, and any updates will have to wait until this process has been completed by IT.
 - Director Couch advised of the wait for the IT update. He also discussed some changes that Graham Brown – Parks Marketing Coordinator has been able to incorporate currently.
- ❖ 2026 Meetings/Event Schedule for Parks Commission
 - Commissioner Fletcher asked about other options. Schedule Discussed. Vice Chairman Whiteside made a motion to accept the schedule. Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Campbell. Vote passed. Motion carried.



New Business:

- ❖ Dates for Parks Commission Golf Tourney – Chairman France
 - Discussion on needing a fundraiser this year. Will discuss fundraising options at the retreat.
- ❖ Vacancy Discussion/Commissioner Ellis Update/Commissioner Knight Removal
 - Discussed current applicants and vacancies.
 - Vice Chairman Whiteside made motion to accept the 2 applicants – Amber Teigen & Nolen Hughes. Motion 2nd by Chairman France. Vote passed. Motion carried.
- ❖ Parks Commission Presentation to the BOD
 - Director Couch confirmed that Commission will provide updated information to Graham and he will update the presentation before its presented to the BOD.
- ❖ Dashboard Presentation request
 - Commissioner Fletcher would like to make a presentation to the Commission. He will have to send a presentation to us prior to the meeting so that it can be set up to be presented.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- ❖ Items previously discussed throughout the meeting.

Board – liaison Feedback

- ❖ No BOD Liaison present.

Adjournment:

- ❖ Commissioner Woods made a motion to adjourn at 12:59 pm. Motion 2nd by Vice Chairman Whiteside Vote passed. Motion carried.
- ❖ Meeting Adjourned at 12:59 pm.