



**Bentonville Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2017 – 5pm
Downtown Activity Center – 215 SW A Street**

Agenda

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes from October Meeting

New Business

1. 2018 Trail Projects – Grant Application
2. 2017 Recreation Programs Presentation
3. 2018 Final Capital Project List / Work Plans

Other Business

Attachments:

*October 2017 PRAB Minutes
Capital Improvement Worksheet – November 2017
Capital Improvement Worksheet – 2018
2018 Department Work Plan*



APPROVED

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, October 16, 2017
Meeting Called to Order: 5:04 p.m.
Meeting Adjourned: 6:07 p.m.
Meeting Held: Downtown Activities Center
Attendees: Jon Terlouw, Michelle Malashock, Courtney Shaefer, Craig Gilbert, Whitney Sutherland, Chris Sooter, Holly Hook, Amy Davis, Mike Power, Crant Osborne, Lee Farmer, David Wright, Stephanie Orman, Tracy Acosta

Old Business

Approval of September 18, 2017 Minutes

Motion to Approve by: Holly Hook
Seconded the Motion: Craig Gilbert

New Business

Capital Improvement Update

David Wright updated all on the Citizens Parks trail. It will be complete in the next 30 days. During the last City Council meeting they approved the bid award for the parking lot and pavilion. Construction will begin next week on this project.

David also shared information on the tennis courts at Citizens Park. There will be eight courts instead of 12 like originally hoped. This project will bid out in December 2017, with construction beginning in early 2018. These courts will be lighted. We have a contract with Bentonville Public Schools for their tennis matches and practices to be held at Memorial Park. This will not change or effect the new tennis courts being built at Citizens Park.

Public Art Installation – Sassy the Sasquatch at Park Springs Park

Sassy the Sasquatch is a 10' tall art piece, if approved, will be placed on Tiger Boulevard. It will be placed on a four foot platform and made of bicycle chains. We have used this artist on two other art pieces in town. She designed the Monarch and Dandelion art piece as well as the painted pupils in the tunnel. If this piece is approved Bentonville Advertising and Promotions Commission will fund it. The Public Arts Commission has already approved this new proposed art piece. If this board approves, it will go before City Council on November 24, 2017. There was some discussion and concerns shared by several board members about it being terrifying and not exactly what they wanted coming out of the woods, specifically at night. There is also concern about erosion in this area and the installation needs to be thought out to prevent further ground erosion in that particular location. David assured members, it would be built up to prevent this and work would be done at the beginning of this project to prevent erosion. Amy shared this problem happened to the pig art piece at Crystal Bridges.

Motion to Approve by: Whitney Sutherland
Seconded the Motion: Amy Davis

North Trail Creek Stabilization

Watershed Conservation has given us a bid to bring the north stream back into North Trail Creek. David has applied for a grant for this.

Memorial Park Turf Improvements

David and other team members are having a pre-construction meeting November 1st to begin the process of turf installation. This project is on schedule at this time.

Bella Vista Lake Master Plan

David Wright shared more information regarding the latest regarding Bella Vista Lake Park. The City hosted a community dialogue in April 2017. David was part of the *public infrastructure group*. They have had several meetings since then, still with no resolution. They have three options to date. 1.) Lake 2.) Free Flowing Stream 3.) Side Channel Lake. Since July 2017, there have been 12 committee meetings with 30 – 40 people attending. The conclusion of the meeting, was a compromise of the group to have a side channel lake. The mayor is interested to see what can be done without the Federal Government involved. We want to study all options. David stated the business, WCRC, (Watershed Conservation Resource Center) specializes in stream bank restoration. They specialize in putting water flow back into its historic stream channel. The second business, EDG (Ecological Design Group, Inc.) would study the use of the dry land area. The cost of both studies would be approximately \$98,000 which the Walton Foundation would totally fund. In hiring these two firms, it does not commit us to anything. It will allow us to put a set of detailed plans in front of the public and City Council to assist in making a decision on what is to be done. We want to hear from the citizens, what they want to do with the land. Depending on what is done with the water, will decide what is done with the land. The study is to be completed by June/July 2018.

The Federal Government money is still available to us. We will continue to go through the 18 month process. We are two months into an 18 month process. FEMA has a provision that states, the federal money is there to replace, not improve or repair, things that are damaged during an act of God emergency. If we do anything to that area that is seen as an “improvement” the money will be taken away from us.

Design Excellence Grant Application

In our Parks Master Plan our downtown parks were discussed as needing improvement. There is a need for open space. The Walton Family Foundation has a Design Excellence Program that allows anyone to present their idea to the foundation in an effort to better the city. If you are selected and are awarded the Design Excellence Program project, the Walton Family Foundation will fund the project, from the architects until the project is shovel ready. They have asked every city in Northwest Arkansas to submit an application of a park related project if the city wishes to. We have submitted a Quilt of Parks project to the foundation and are awaiting approval. This project would begin with Dave Peel Park. We look to hear if this is approved in December 2017.

Other Business

Bentonville Parks Conservancy

Jon Terlouw shared information about Bentonville Parks Conservancy. The conservancy began six years ago to help fund projects in the Parks Department. Approximately a year ago the Walton Family reached out to the conservancy and wanted create a “tree” arm and a “parks” arm to the conservancy. The Bentonville Parks Conservancy has a nine member board. The first grant from the Walton Family Foundation will be used plant trees near the Two Cities Trail and Citizen’s Parks Trail. They will also help with the spring tree giveaway. Currently the group is creating volunteer work force to work with our parks department to volunteer and maintain existing trees throughout the year. If anyone is interested in helping with this volunteer group let Jon know.

Introduction

David introduced Councilwoman, Stephanie Orman who attended the meeting.

Epic Rides

David Wright informed the group about the group named Epic Rides. Epic Rides is the largest group of mountain bike events. They will host the Championship Series in Bentonville in October 2018. The group will cap the event at 800 riders the first year. The following years will have about 2,000 – 3,000 riders at each event they sponsor.