



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, May 4, 2020

Meeting Called to Order: 5:01 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:07 p.m.

Meeting Location: ZOOM

Attending Board Members: Chris Sooter Mike Power Cortney Carlson
Justin Hundley Eileen Patrick Craig Gilbert
Dan Grover Michelle Malashock

City Council Members: Aubrey Patterson

Attending Staff Members: David Wright Josh Stacey Crant Osborne
Wade Tomlinson Tracy Acosta

Old Business

Approval of February 3, 2020 Minutes

Motion to Approve by: Justin Hundley
Seconded the Motion: Dan Grover

New Business

BPR Update – COVID-19

Josh Stacey presented a POWERPOINT presentation as well as discussed in detail the current status of the facilities and programming due to the COVID-19 situation. Below are the highlights of this presentation.

Status

- All facilities are closed
- Parks/Trails are open
- Memberships are suspended
- Select Part-Time Staff Have Returned (All PT Staff are Still Being Paid)
- Spring Programming Has Been Cancelled or Suspended

Bentonville Community Center

- We are targeting a Monday, May 18th reopening for the BCC Fitness Center
- Members will sign up for session blocks between the following times/days
5:00 am-7:00pm Mon-Fri and 7:00 am-7:00 pm on Saturday (Closed Sundays)
- Memberships will be reactivated once a member requests to reserve a time slot
- The BCC Fitness Center will be reorganized to allow for 12-foot spacing between members while exercising
- Group exercise classes will be offered in the Gymnasium and Studio at select times
Members will register for these classes
- All other areas of the facility will be closed including locker rooms.
Cabanas will be open for restroom use only. Showers will be turned off per ADH regulations
- All members must answer ADH questions prior to entry and wear a mask when not exercising
- Staff will wear masks and gloves and have appropriate spacing and sneeze guards in place when interacting with members
- Staff will be present in the Fitness Center to clean equipment between member use and to help enforce 12-foot distancing

Downtown Activity Center

- The lobby area will reopen on May 18th
- No fitness classes, conference room rentals, or bike rentals
- Locker rooms will be open but showers closed

Tennis Courts – Memorial and Citizens Park

- Tennis courts will reopen on Tuesday, May 26th
- Every other court will remain closed
- Two people per court capacities
- Restrooms will open w/ additional cleanings scheduled

Programs

- Spring Programs including Youth Soccer, Tennis, Swim Team, Swim Lessons, and Enrichment Programs have been cancelled and participants have been either refunded, moved to a new season, or made a donation for BPR scholarships
- Baseball/Softball Tournaments through May have been cancelled
- Youth Softball and Baseball, Adult Soccer, and Sand Volleyball are suspended and may resume in June if possible
- June summer camps will be cancelled and moved to July/August. Campers will be moved to new camps or be refunded

Virtual Programming

- Our team has created a virtual recreation page at Playbentonville.com to offer at-home and individual activities for the community
- We plan to expand these offerings to summer camps and other paid programming this year

Events

- The Run Bentonville Half Marathon Race Bag Pickup will be held at the DAC starting May 11-May 16. Runners still have until Memorial Day to complete their race distance.
- The Spring Square 2 Square Bike Ride has been cancelled and riders moved to the fall ride. A Greenway Ride Challenge will be offered for free beginning Memorial Day-July 4th.
- The Memorial Park Glow Run has been cancelled and runners refunded.
- The In the Park Summer Series and Evening at Orchards Events are still scheduled to take place but our team is evaluating potential adjustments or cancelations

Aquatic Facilities

- Our team is still preparing the Melvin Ford Aquatic Center and Lawrence Plaza Splash Park for opening this summer
- If allowed to open, our team will need three weeks for staff onboarding, training, and preparation

Quilt of Parks Master Plan

David Wright sent a pre-recorded video of himself reviewing the phases of the Quilt of Parks Master Plan from the time it was approved to current status. During the meeting he briefly discussed the plans as well. He asked for the board to vote on the approval or disapproval of the Master Plan. He advised the members if this was approved, the next step would be taking the Quilt of Parks Master Plan to City Council for their approval.

Motion to Approve by:	Dan Grover
Seconded the Motion:	Eileen Patrick
Voted in Favor:	All
Voted Opposed:	None

Public Art Approval – Bentonville Trolls

Discussion moved to next meeting for time consideration.

Discussion Regarding Funerals in Public Parks

David Wright shared two *events* that happened in our parks over the past week with the board members. He asked for their opinion of the situation and how to address and move forward. There were two funerals/memorial services that took place in our park. One including the actual casket with the deceased child and other including a ritual type memorial around the water. David received several calls and emails from concerned citizens and city officials regarding these events. Due to the sensitivity of this matter, David is asking for guidance from the board members. The members came to the conclusion of allow memorial services in the parks as well as cremation memorial services, however no caskets or body will be allowed.

David will draft a policy for our legal team to review before the next board meeting. The policy will be shared with members at our next meeting.