

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 10, 2022  
6:00 PM

The Sherwood Parks and Recreation Committee met for their monthly meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022. Charlie Harmon called the meeting to order. Committee members present: Charlie Harmon, Mary Jo Heye Townsell, Amy Fecher, Bruce Mason and Mike Sanders. Absent: Denny Tipton. Also, in attendance: Darren Austin, Blake Calloway and Dianna Price.

Minutes:

October 11, 2021 minutes were read for approval. The motion was made by Bruce Mason to approve the October 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mike Sanders seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Mary Jo Heye Townsell, Amy Fecher, Bruce Mason and Mike Sanders.

Update - Trail of Lights:

Darren Austin reported that 22,905 cars went through and \$83,703.19 in donations, \$1,313.00 in square donations making the grand total \$85,016.19. Last year 27,268 cars and 94,689.38 in donations. Darren reminded them that in 2020 there was nothing to do, we were the main attraction. 2019 we had 20,095 cars and 56,694.31 in donations. There was one closure this year, December 10<sup>th</sup> with a power outage and tornado weather. Darren said with the new entry on Dee Jay Hudson traffic was manageable.

Old Business:

Park Study - Darren Austin said there are three portions left, 5-3, 5-4 and 5-5. They are working on the needs assessment as we speak. The next step is recommendations and the final step is report and adoption. We are on hold right now. They are working on maybe sending out another survey to see if we could get more input from the public. Darren has a meeting with them tomorrow to see how they can shake it up and take a look at it. Charlie said the council members were visualizing a card going out to all the citizens with a QR code. Mary Jo Townsell said they need to make sure there are no glitches this time. Darren said they are wanting to add some questions to the new survey. Darren said they told him from their end of the deal it would not cost us extra. It would cost us the printing of the card and postage.

Miller Park - Darren said they have not met since October and there is not a lot of change there. In house we have talked about it and how to address things. One of the things we have talked about briefly is how many square feet we would be maintaining or have maintained up to now. There's short of two acres we have been bushhogging over time. If we decide to change how we're looking at how that's going to be maintained, if you come in here with a fifty-foot swath from center of the road out, the full length of the thing you are looking at two half acres roughly. If you look at seventy-five feet, just short of four acres of maintenance area. He's not saying this is what we're going to do, what if we change how we maintain it. Could we reach the goal to make it good for everyone? Could it be good for the city as a whole? If it's maintained a little deeper is that an attraction that all our citizens could drive thru. Conway has a Skyline Drive there, it's nothing fancy but it has a beautiful view. We wouldn't have the view because we don't have the city down below, but we do have country side down below. Is this something we want to do, we're not sure yet. Could we designate this as a scenic road in town. Is there another designation that could be used for this area that could draw some people in to town or our own citizens? Mary Jo asked about a mountain bike trail area. She asked about thinning out the under-brush trees with going in and bush hogging the whole thing. Darren said we might higher a contractor and have them clean the under brush six inches and below inside the zone we're talking about. Mike Sanders asked about the erosion. Bruce Mason said the question is the pricing in how you do this. What about the houses in between. Darren said if we decide to clear this out all the way down, we come in and we replant some native plants and let it go back to its natural state. Darren said he knew this was very unpopular. Mary Jo said just maintain the fifty feet. Darren said he went to Pinnacle Mountain and they are getting a new visitors


center. The visitor center in the woods. We could pull the fifty foot and flag everything under so many inches. Then call a contractor and see what the cost would be to clear it out. Right now, we go out 2 – 3 times a year and bus hog that one spot that takes a few of hours each time. It does happen during the summer when the ballpark is in full swing. When we put flags out there its going to draw attention. If we have a plan it will help. Mary Jo asked where people would park. Hopefully the park study can help us with this.

Announcement:

NWA Bike Tour - Laneshift – Darren said elected officials and city employees went to Northwest Arkansas. Most of them had ebikes. Darren said this gave him a new appreciation for bike trails on their own. Cycle tracks are a new thing. Pump tracks are getting poplar. Mary Jo said when Rogers opened their pump track, the first day had over 30,000 runs. It's a gravity fed course. Mary Jo said Sherwood Forest would be a good place. What if disc golf was a nine-hole course to save on the property area? Mary Jo said we need to keep our eyes open for property to utilize.

Mary Jo asked about soccer renovation. Darren said the notice of award was sent out while he out. They have picked it up and have a few days to return the contract. Mary Jo asked if they could play on it. Darren said yes, if they wanted to. He would advise not to play when construction is active but up to now, they could have played. Mary Jo asked if they have played on it at all, even the little kids. Darren said there has been no request to play. He said remember this is when Covid hit and their numbers went down. When it was first ready to go, they did not want to play.

With no further business, Mary Jo Heye Townsell made the motion to adjourn.

  
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Charlie Harmon

Attest:  
Dianna L. Price