

Sherwood Parks & Recreation Meeting
February 13, 2023
6:00 pm

The Sherwood Parks and Recreation Committee met for their monthly meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023. Charlie Harmon called the meeting to order. Committee members present: Charlie Harmon, Scott Gann, Shelby Thomas, Bruce Mason and Denny Tipton. Absent: Mike Sanders. Also in attendance: Blake Calloway, Sean Pennington, Mayor Mary Jo Heye-Townsell, Jamie Fuell, Julie Green, Tonya Bell, Leonard Smith and Dianna Price.

Minutes:

January 9, 2023 minutes were read for approval. The motion was made by Scott Gann to approve the January 9th minutes. Bruce Mason seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Scott Gann, Shelby Thomas, Bruce Mason and Denny Tipton.

New Business:

Dog Park – Blake said they have been tasked with looking at the corner of Thornhill and Oakbrooke and the prospects of turning it into a dog park. He and Sean measured the area to compare the size to the dog park at Fairway. They are pricing the black enamel coated fencing. Blake said this project will be completed this year. The Mayor said this was a great location because of the restrooms and lighting. There will be plenty of parking due to the elementary school, Thornhill Park and having the trees for a buffer. Blake said they are looking at putting a bathroom on the front side of Thornhill pool and it will be open year-round. Blake said restrooms are a priority for the parks.

Event Updates:

Blake introduced Jamie Fuell, special events coordinator. Blake said we are changing up the events to make them new and exciting. Jamie said we're moving the Easter Egg Hunt to the Sherwood Tennis Center. This will help bring in traffic to the tennis center. Jamie said Tonya Bell from the tennis center is planning a sensory event.

Sherwood 75th birthday will be April 22nd. We plan on opening the time capsule and replacing it with a new capsule for the 100th birthday.

Kids to Park Day – This event promotes getting kids outdoors.

4th July – Jamie said this event will be at the Greens this year Monday, July 3rd. The 4th is on a Tuesday. The Greens golf course is closed on Mondays so it will not interfere with golf play.

Sherwood Fest – Looking at changing it to October and moving it to City Hall. We're still working on the logistics.

Trail of Lights – The trail will open December 1st and close December 30th. This will help the police department on their overtime for this event. The reason we opened early was due to the pandemic. We were the only attraction that you could drive through. The Christmas Parade will be December 2nd and we might incorporate the two.

Price Increase for Basketball:

Blake said he wants to increase the basketball registration from \$75 to \$100. Jerseys, the cost of officials, and the cost of rings have increased. We give out rings instead of trophies to the first and second place winners. We had forty kids on a waiting list that did not get to play. Denny Tipton made the motion to

increase basketball registration from \$75 to \$100. Bruce Mason seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Scott Gann, Shelby Thomas, Bruce Mason and Denny Tipton.

Age Change on Summer Camp:

Blake said right now the ages for summer camp is Kindergarten through 9th grade. Our program director requested we eliminate 7th, 8th and 9th grade. There have been issues with the older kids on field trips. We would like the emphasis to be more on the younger kids. Ranya at the youth center is doing a great job and we can steer the older kids to her. Denny Tipton said the school is reconstructing, 6th and 7th will be at the north campus, 8th and 9th will be at the middle school. Denny said he thought the program should be K - 7th. Denny said he understands there is a huge difference between 9th grade and 5th. Shelby agreed with having the ages for summer camp being K - 7th. Blake said this would go with the school structure. Denny Tipton made the motion to change the age of summer camp to K - 7th grade. Shelby Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Scott Gann, Shelby Thomas, Bruce Mason and Denny Tipton.

Awards:

Blake said he feels like we have missed opportunities to celebrate our employees. For example, Dawn Darter has been awarded the South Central PGA's highest honor, the 2022 Golf Professional of the Year. She was also selected in 2019 as the first female Golf Professional of the year in the South Central PGA. He would like for us as a City and departments to recognize employees. The basketball program has received the Best Choice for Kids and Families Winner Youth Basketball. This is the 5th or 6th time for basketball to receive this award. The banners are in the gym. The Mayor said they need to recognize Dawn Darter, Tommy Smith and Lindy Shope this is awesome. The Mayor said we have some long-term volunteers that needs to be recognized. Blake said he would like to recognize dates of employment for our employees. There are some coming up on substantial milestones. We have two employees coming up on thirty years.

Master Parks Plan Update:

Charlie said they worked long and hard and spent substantial money on the Master Parks Plan. However, he said, the parks department is going a different direction now. Charlie said they've spent too much money and too much time on it to set it aside. Charlie said we need a Master Park Plan. He's talked to Blake, we are going a certain direction with the regional park, pocket parks, Henson and pickle ball. We have a new vision for our parks department. We need this vision in writing because we won't be here forever. Charlie said that he and Blake need to get with Crafton Tull and discuss the changes we want made and the scope of the modifications. Charlie said it's important to have this plan.

Old Business:

Indianhead Renovation – Blake said the pool is gone. Blake and Sean will be meeting with two different companies to go over potential pickle ball plans and get some ideas from them. We have someone coming in tomorrow, we are confident they can give us an overview. We want to acknowledge pickleball at Indianhead, but we would like to have a half-basketball court and get some lighting. Blake said he is confident they can give us a plan, from start to finish with concrete, lighting, and courts. We'll need to get a restroom out there and possibly a trail. One company is from Kansas City and the other is coming from Texas.

City Hall Lighting – Blake said they are still waiting on pricing. We are trying to get some lighting options. He has a couple of meetings lined up with different lighting companies. We are trying to figure out the best way to do this. We have a vision for the trail as well as the lighting. The Mayor said one of the things they are looking at, is making sure we have enough electricity out there for food trucks, events, entertainment, and lights for Christmas. Blake said he's hopeful that we turn some of the area as the destination for our events.

Blake said we need cameras. We are looking at rotating cameras at the ballpark. We are also looking at how to extend our Wi-Fi to other parking lot facilities to where we can have more security for our parks. Denny said he has seen cameras where you just set them up for events and you can move them around. Blake said we need to act on the break ins, especially at the sports complex. You don't want it to affect a tournament director's decision to not play at our facility due to break-ins. When we are trying to get ready for tournament, we forget about the security. When people come to play at our complex or parks, we need to make them feel safe.

Sports Complex – Blake said they've had quotes come in on the restroom renovation at the softball and baseball. The quotes aren't as bad as they thought it would be. We are ready to get this approved and get started as soon as possible. We will start at baseball and then softball. We'll put out portable toilets during the renovations. There should be enough money left to potentially look at concession stands and looking at using brick or block. We'll have some quotes coming in on that. Blake said this has been a month of discoveries. We've had a lot of issues out there, we discovered there was no hot water in some of our restroom facilities and issues with the concession stands. We have a long list of things to get done before the season starts. The Mayor said Blake will be putting together a baseball only focused committee for the sports complex that will focus on bringing people together.

Old Henson Park – Restroom and Pickleball Updates:

Blake said the restroom is here. It was dropped off and we have some work to do. Sean said the power and plumbing are done. He's having the guys put in a storm drain. The PO has been approved for concrete, he'll call the man and get that done. Then the restroom will be complete and functional.

Pickleball – Blake said the same man is meeting with them on Wednesday. They do resurfacing, pull the poles out and set the new poles. Charlie said we were supposed to be getting the back courts resurfaced for tennis. Blake said they are looking at all options. They have talked about the small playground across the way, it's super small and we may be taking it out, two bridges need to be repaired. Charlie said he has been asked twice this week about the tennis courts at Henson being resurfaced. Blake said one company is geared on the resurfacing.

The Mayor asked Blake to explain for anyone watching how the restrooms work as far as security goes. Blake said they will not be open all the time. Sean Pennington said the locks we have can be programmed to unlock and lock at certain times. The lights will go out at 10:00 on the courts. Restrooms will lock at the same time. If anyone goes up there, they cannot get in. They will not be able to sleep in there or vandalize it. The Mayor talked to the Police Chief and they will be incorporating security checks at all parks, especially after 10:00. Blake said they are going to put this lock on all the restrooms in the parks as well as the sports complex. Charlie also recommended these locks to be used at Hughes Park once those restrooms are reopened. Sean said they will be putting up night lights to light up the area. Charlie said he would recommend not closing the restrooms at the same time as the tennis court lights go out.

Charlie asked if there was there any old business they haven't talked about. Scott Gann said he saw on Facebook that the youth center had a bingo night. He noticed in the comments that the people were excited about it. Blake and Ranya are excited about doing more activities like that. Blake said they were talking about building these programs up so big that we would need to use multiple locations at one time and spread out our staff. Sean said he attended and so did the Mayor. The place was packed.

Blake introduced Julie Greene who is our facility manager at the BHRC and is doing a great job. Blake said he thought it was neat that our staff wants to come to the meetings.

The Mayor asked Leonard Smith to introduce himself. He is one of the nominees that will come before the council for one of the vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Committee. He said he talked to the Mayor on the campaign trail and he told her we would like to get more involved with the City.

Charlie thanked Scott Gann about the email on a destination park in the Tulsa area. This is one of the reasons he brought up the master plan again. We have talked about putting parks in but never a large destination park. Now that we have taken the area that has not been utilized by the city since it became city property. He's glad the Mayor brought this to us. Blake said we have big lot of land that we can do so much with. The Mayor said there is a hillside that can be made into a mountain bike run. Blake said he took the crew out there and it just got bigger the more we walked it. Everyone was excited and throwing ideas out. It could bring people into our area. The Mayor said this could be an economic stimulant to that area.

With no further business, Bruce Mason made the motion to adjourn.



Charlie Harmon

Attest: Dianna Price