

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 9, 2022

6:00 PM

The Sherwood Parks and Recreation Committee met for their monthly meeting on Monday, May 9, 2022. Charlie Harmon called the meeting to order. Committee members present: Charlie Harmon, Mary Jo Heye Townsell, Scott Gann and Denny Tipton. Absent: Bruce Mason and Mike Sanders. Also, in attendance: Darren Austin, Blake Calloway and Dianna Price.

Minutes:

March 14, 2022, minutes were read for approval. The motion was made by Mary Jo Heye Townsell to approve the March 14th minutes. Denny Tipton seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Mary Jo Heye Townsell, Scott Gann and Denny Tipton. Charlie Harmon signed the approved minutes.

Old Business:

Memorials – Darren said we are looking at a memorial tree program. We have had several requests from the public to plant a tree in honor of their loved one. Darren presented a three-page document. There is a letter explaining the guidelines on the program. If they want a particular park, we will check to see if that park is in need of a tree. Mary Jo asked what if the park already has an abundance of trees. Darren said we would guide them to a park that needs a tree. Darren said they can put a plaque on an existing tree if they prefer. Page 2 has the suggested program fees; a new tree planted and plaque \$500 or a plaque only \$100. Darren said the gamut runs \$100 - \$5,000 for a tree. Little Rock Zoo charges several thousand for a tree. Darren asked the committee to look over the documents and send him suggestions over the next month. Mary Jo asked about the plaque. Darren said it would be a bronze plaque that would fit over a cap block 8 x 16 and buried at ground level so we can mow over it. Planting the trees will probably be in the fall.

Darren said we have also picked out some benches to be considered. We can put a plaque on the back of the bench. Darren said the benches and trees will not have to have an ordinance.

Youth Center Opening – We will reopen the youth center on June 13th. We intend to publicize at least 2 weeks in advance if not sooner. There is somebody lined up to head this up. This will be public knowledge soon. Charlie Harmon asked about the art room if it was still going to be available for classes. Darren said yes but possibly use for other things as well. Darren said the big change is, he couldn't remember if this was state or federal, when you have an independent contractor, they are supposed to bring their materials in and take them when they leave. We are not going to store supplies for the instructors, we do not have the room. The only thing different, we will ask the contractors to bring what they need and take it home when they leave. Charlie asked if this is a law that an independent contractor must take their stuff when they leave, we can't store it. Darren said yes. Charlie said he would get with Steve Cobb to show him this. Charlie said they had designed the art room with storage for the contractors. Darren said the cabinets are portable. Darren said the room is over full and it cannot continue. Mary Jo asked if people was interested in teaching classes, Darren said yes. Charlie said he wanted art classes offered, Darren said yes, they would be. Charlie said years ago kids would come in and use the Wi-Fi to do their homework. Mary Jo said the houses are turning over with younger families.

Disc Golf – Darren said they are waiting on signage. We are working diligently with a couple of different people to get the signage for disc golf. Darren asked the committee to consider what we're going to name the disc golf course. Here are a couple of names we are considering, Woodruff Creek Disc Golf and Billie Goat Trace Disc Golf. One reason for the name Billie Goat was there is a lot of elevation changes walking the course. Charlie Harmon asked about Sonny Janssen Disc Golf. Mary Jo agreed. Darren said that in naming something after someone they must no longer be with us. Mary Jo said it was not an ordinance and Charlie said it was not a resolution. Mary Jo wanted to make a motion; Charlie wanted to discuss it further. Darren said we need come up with a name soon so we can make the signs.

Announcements:

Kids to Parks Day will be May 21st. We will have clues posted on Facebook for a picture scavenger hunt. This is part of a national movement to get kids in parks and is sponsored by the National Recreation Parks Association. On Saturday, May 21st, they can come to the BHRC and show their pictures and receive a little prize. Darren said they have the entire week to collect their pictures to turn in on that Saturday.

Tennis Center – Darren said if you drive by the old tennis center the building is gone. We are waiting for the refreshed numbers for the restroom facility that is going in there. In case you get any questions, it is a concrete block facility like what you would see in a federal or state park. It will be decorative in nature. It will come in on trailer and set it off with a crane and be hooked up shortly thereafter. This will be serviceable and easy to clean. Darren said it will be open until we winterize.

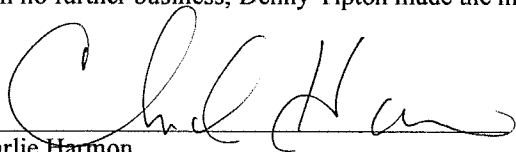
Mary Jo Townsell said she had heard the pickleball courts were lined the wrong way. Charlie said they have been painted twice. Mary Jo said you don't want to go east to west because of the sun being in their eyes. They should go north to south. Darren said the lines are narrow because there should be large blocks of color. These courts do not. The courts are multipurpose, they are tennis and pickleball. We did not want to go to the expense putting the color block out there due to the condition of the courts. To do this right the courts need to be overlaid, when that happens, we will do it the right way. This was a temporary fix from the start. We are gauging what kind of response we have. Charlie Harmon said if we get a mediocre response we will resurface and do two courts in pickleball and two courts in tennis. If we get a phenomenal response, we will do all four courts in pickleball. Mary Jo asked about the courts at the Duran Youth Center. Darren said one court is better than the other and one is larger than the other. We will keep them in tennis. We may stripe one as pickleball or use as a basketball court.

Darren said we are looking for an independent contractor at the new Henson Tennis Center. Charlie said if they are an independent contractor, they can't take all the stuff they are selling in the pro shop every night. Darren said this is not pro shop situation, this is a teaching situation only. We'll get in the pro shop situation later. This will be separate and there would be rent for that facility. We want someone up there teaching tennis to as many people as we can. This has gone out to tennisjobs.com, Facebook page, Indeed and our website. Mary Jo asked why we are not going the traditional route, like Dawn at the Greens and Jimbo at Henson. Darren said it was traditional here. Other facilities have multiple pros in one facility. One might specialize in teaching children, one teaching adults, or teaching different levels. Blake Calloway said the places they have looked have a list of pros and what they specialize in, and you pick the pro that suits you. Darren said it's rare these days to have an on-staff pro. Darren said we have not missed a beat with our leagues. The numbers have actually increased.

Darren reminded the committee that the pools and splashpad will open May 28th.

Mary Jo said we needed to talk about the name of the Disc Golf Course. She wants it to open and if we wait its just prolonging it another month. Charlie asked what names they have. Charlie likes Billie Goat; it goes with the hills and elevation. Darren said some outsiders liked the Billie Goat. Mary Jo said she did not like Woodruff Creek, it reminds her of the other side of town. Denny Tipton said he would like to see it named Forest something. After much discussion the committee decided to name it Sherwood Forest Disc Golf Course. The motion was made to name the disc golf Sherwood Forest Disc Golf. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Mary Jo Heye Townsell, Scott Gann and Denny Tipton.

With no further business, Denny Tipton made the motion to adjourn.



Charlie Harmon

Attest:
Dianna L. Price