

Sherwood Parks & Recreation Meeting  
October 10, 2022  
6:00 pm

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

Minutes:

September 12, 2022, minutes were read for approval. The motion was made by Bruce Mason to approve the September 12<sup>th</sup> minutes. Scott Gann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by Charlie Harmon, Bruce Mason, Denny Tipton and Scott Gann. Charlie Harmon signed the approved minutes.

Park Study Update:

Darren Austin told the committee if they were on the steering committee they should have received a copy of the near final draft late last week. He asked that they take a look it, if they have any comments to let him know, if you don't have any comments please let him know that as well. He will need to turn in all the comments early next week. They will make any changes. They will make a presentation to this committee and then to the city council.

Bruce Mason asked about the trail, he has people asking him about it. They are concerned about people coming in their backyard. They said they haven't heard anything in a long time. Darren asked if he knew what neighborhood they were talking about. Bruce said he would find out. Darren said the reason he asked, there's no imminent things going on, nothing is happening right now. The 2040 Bike and Ped plan is under way. He thinks there's a grant that has been fulfilled to design some of that trail work that will take some of the power line trail accessible through Brockington. Darren said he doesn't know what the status is right now. Bruce said he had been asked a couple of times and he told them it was in the study. They are really concerned it will increase the traffic and they're afraid someone will wander in their backyard. Charlie told Bruce, he might mention to him that nationwide not just Arkansas but pretty much nationwide that having a pedestrian biking and pedestrian trail adjacent to your property increases property values.

Projects:

Soccer – The soccer project is done. The last payment will go out in the next day or two. They're playing soccer. We just need some rain. Charlie asked if they've gotten some feedback. Darren said just a quick thank you. There has been no negative feedback. Darren gave a shout out to permits and planning, Richard Penn and his guys who helped with all the design elements that went into it, they stamped the drawings and met multiple occasions out there to make sure we were getting what we wanted. They overlooked at the end to make sure we did get what we wanted. Bruce asked how many were playing soccer. Darren said he talked to Shane and he was getting back with him tonight. Don't know for sure, but thinking there's about eighteen to twenty five teams. Blake Calloway said it's for all ages. Bruce asked if the younger kids were playing on the new field. Darren said they are still figuring all that out. The 13 and up are practicing down there. He hasn't received a game schedule just yet. Because everything is painted on the old field the younger ones will play there for now. They may get a plan and play this spring or late this fall.

Parking Lot at the Greens -

Darren is waiting to hear back from the design firm on the renovation of the parking lot, front entryway and handicap accessible ramp. They're trying to give us some budgetary type numbers. They're putting

pen to paper and trying to come up with some estimates. When this project comes to fruition it's really going to be nice. They will redo the front parking lot and the entryway. Charlie asked if we're maintaining the integrity of the historic 1960 structure. Darren said yes, the architects know that's something we desire. The front will be demoed and the handicap ramp will be moved to the other side. Darren said it's going to look like a period piece, it will fit in very well. Charlie asked if they were keeping the sign at the highway or will that be part of the new design. Darren said he would have to check on that.

#### Dungeons and Dragons:

Darren said the Dungeons and Dragons night was a hit. We had ten people the first night and we're looking at picking up a second night. Because it was received so well we are looking at Tuesday or Thursday along with Wednesday. Darren said he thinks it's going to take off in such a way that we probably won't have to have a staff member in there, because they're fairly independent. We're giving them a space to play.

#### Basketball Registration:

Basketball registration is currently open. As of this morning we've had 175 sign up. Darren said he thought we would probably sign up a few more. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are almost full. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> are still open. Blake Calloway said the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> started at eight teams and they've had enough interest to increase it to twelve teams with eight kids per team. All the games and practices are played here. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade play lower goal on the cross side and the games are played 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 on Friday nights. All the other grades play all day Saturday. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fill up every year. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> depend on some of the kids playing on their school team. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> have around six teams and the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> usually have 4 teams. Practice will start in November; first games will be in December and wrap it up in February. We try to give them ten games plus a tournament. Darren said if they know any officials send them our way.

#### Sherwood Fest:

Darren said Sherwood Fest went well and we had some really good entertainment. He wishes we could find a way to keep people around longer during the day. The dance crews tend to leave after their performance. The visitation was about the same in the years past. Denny Tipton said some vendors asked him if the hours could be changed to 9 – 2. People start trying to leave around 3:00. Darren said he didn't know. Charlie said we didn't draw enough people to have a two-day event. This event is put together by the A&P commission

#### City Hallow:

City Hallow will be Saturday, October 29th, at city hall 3 -6 pm. We will have a fire walker and a zombie stilt walker. Several vendors have signed up. The booth is no charge, we ask that they provide candy and a game of some sort. Central Arkansas Library will be there reading spooky stories. We will have a costume contest and bring your own decorated pumpkin contest.

#### Trail of Lights:

Trail of Lights will start Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We have all our volunteer groups lined up. There will be a volunteer orientation meeting November 1<sup>st</sup>. We are looking at expanding the opening ceremony just a little bit it won't be much longer. Last year we had a band come play and they will play more selections this year. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at there. Darren said another thing we're exploring, he doesn't know if it will fly or not, having food trucks in the T-ball parking lot. Some weeknights, not every night and not on weekends. We've had a couple of trucks talk to us that want to give this a shot. We're working on the details to see if we can make this fly. They would have to be self-contained and stay the duration of the evening. The cars would be able to come in the t-ball parking lot, get out of their cars, get their food and if we have picnic tables eat there. We have a lot of details to work out.

Christmas Parade:

The Christmas Parade will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The online registration form is out there right now. If you know anyone interested tell them to put their application in. We've already had two or three floats sign up. The theme is Christmas in Toyland. We have the Santa lined up and he's going to bring his wife with him.

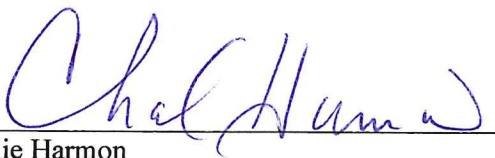
Darren asked if anyone had any questions about parks and rec. Charlie asked about the status of the tennis pro search. Darren said today the full-time program lead started their job. The full-time person we had up there as the program lead moved over to the youth center several months ago. They were trying to keep both places running. Today he and Blake met with a potential tennis pro for about an hour we've got another meeting set up next week for further discussions with this person. Darren and Blake liked their ideas. They liked what they've got to offer. We've just got to get down to brass tacks to figure out exactly how we're going to go with that. We're very positive and looking forward to that. Charlie asked if they had experience. Darren said yes, still a young person but has many years of experience. He is a certified pro. This is one of people that he had reached out to earlier on in the process too. Whatever the reason the times is right now for him to talk to us.

Last week the conference championships were held at the tennis complex. Denny said seven schools attended. Darren said our governor even came to watch his grandson play. This is the second year they have come out.

Charlie asked about pickleball. Darren said it was still around. Darren talked to a man that plays on the courts and says there are quite a few that play pickleball. There are four marked courts and two indoor courts here at the BHRC. Charlie asked if the courts at Henson were dedicated to pickle or were they convertible. Darren said they are convertible. Charlie asked if we looked at a way for access lighting at night. Darren said when we get the restrooms installed in December at North Beverly all those lights will be ready to fully function. It will be like the youth center, if you show up to play the lights will stay on until 10:00 pm and they will go off. If there's no one there you will have to push a button for them to come on and they will stay on for an hour.

Bruce Mason asked if we had any golf programs for kids. Darren said yes, there is a junior program at the golf course is pretty strong. There are 50 – 60 kids playing.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Harmon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Charlie Harmon

Attest: Dianna Price