



TULSA PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2024

The Tulsa Park & Recreation Board met at Jane A. Malone Community Center on February 6th, 2024.

A meeting agenda was filed with the Tulsa City Clerk's Office on February 5, 2024. Teresa Meinders-Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Teresa Meinders Burkett	Present
Lauren Landwerlin	Present
Rodrigo Rojas	Present
Brandon Oldham	Present
Shane Fernandez	Present

Others Present: Marci Rose Rhonda Soules, Karri Hartman, Stacie Martin, Kacie Ryal, Chivas Miller, Constance Murray, Steven Lassman, Ellen Averill, Jason Boyd, Andy Fusco, Briana Shepard, Brian Bovaird, Heather Michaelson-Hale, Paul Stratton, Donald Snow, Amanda Fisher, Zoe Hale Dustin Jagers, Remi Jackson, Nicole Brannon, Anna Moore, Kaci Ryal.

Approval of minutes: Rodrigo motioned to approve and Brandon seconds. Minutes approved.

Directors Report

Anna America - As a reminder this will be awhile but once we get a final design, we will bring it to Park Board for Chamberlain and Berry renovations. 12 million was contributed to that effort. 5 million from IOT 3 will go to that and additional fundraising will raise 16-17 million for that process.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – and where's it going? (the pool)

Anna America – it will be North of where the building is now. We will rehab the trail. Berry pool will be rehabbed and the trail as well. It will be the biggest project by far. We had some pipes freeze in the last storm, one of them was at Lacy, so now when we look at the designs, we look

at that kind of stuff. Updates on a few other things. We are fully online with RecDesk. If you haven't gone online go there and take a look at it. You will see it's much easier to access the information. We are pleased that that's working and doing what it's supposed to do. Another update and Steve will do a presentation in a minute, the sports courts updates, it took longer than we hoped due to contracts, but we are getting ready to rehab several courts. Some will be rehabbed some will be converted. Pretty soon we will also start work on playgrounds. Something interesting some of us went to Redbud recently. Our plan was to open twice a year on a limited basis, we couldn't do more due to so much tree damage. It's been such a challenge. We can't get the equipment back there. One thing that was really cool when we were there, we closed it because we were seeing the ecosystem damage and now the moss is growing again. We want to get some of the trails open, we are aiming for March. We want to do a VIP opening – Park Board members, City Council etc.

Teresa Meinders Burkett - I had an outreach for green country outdoor club saying they would be willing to help.

Anna America – yes can you make that connection with Maggie; they are going to be very hands on. There will be levels for every ability. There are huge trees that need to be cut etc. And safety issues to consider. One of the areas we were trying to get around I grabbed a pole, and it came right out. I'm really excited it should be getting posted this week the Community Resource Planner positing for writing grants and working with volunteers etc. Steve has been doing such a great job thus far, but this job will be a really big help. We are working on a big grant that Steve is working on now for the renovation of Dream Keepers it's a trust for public land, National Park Service the initial feedback is great it's one of the first on Native Land. We are working with Cheryl Coenhour. It's a one-to-one match. If you have any ideas on anyone to participate on that let us know. We are hoping that one of the parts of that is closing that piece – Boulder Park Dr. We think that's an essential piece of this. Any opportunities there.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett - I didn't understand that part – the road.

Anna America – getting to that triangle there is deadly. It's dangerous. There's actually 3 parts of the park, green space, the triangle part with the monument, then the part with the park, the only way to get to the park you have to cross the middle of the street and from both directions people are coming from around a curve.

Teresa Meinders Burkett – are we moving the monument?

Anna America – no we will close the street. We close it all the time for events. This has the potential to be really significant there. Speaking of money Rodrigo and I were talking about this, we just submitted our budget. We have asked for additional money around graffiti, we just can't keep up. We need additional resources. Another is around trees; we hope to add another tree crew. The storm highlighted a few things, if we can do more maintenance on an ongoing basis we may not have lost as many trees. We also need to plant more. We are really hoping to ramp up our tree area. Reminder to everyone the way IOT 2 is structured we have to come back to council with plans, and there was unspent money from IOT1 for playgrounds. Steve rolled all of that into these updates. A ton of work went into this. This has already been presented to the Council, you don't have to approve, we want you to know what's going on.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – last I heard our graffiti cost is 13k what is our cost?

Anna America – it's hard to say what our cost is, we are working on a bid right now. Its crazy expensive. Graffiti is hard for us compared to streets for places that are flat. For example, Cyrus Avery there are around a dozen different painted metals, concretes and wood. They all need different treatments to remove. PW added a graffiti dept last year, but they don't do parks. We are hoping to use their equipment though.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett - I just don't think people realize what a cost it is to our city and our park system.

Anna America – we talked about vandalism and graffiti, some of our biggest challenges to our staff, the amount of labor this is along with cleaning up homeless encampments. We have only a team of 4 or so.

Steven Lassmen – 2020 survey on what people want to see in our playgrounds got us a lot of the information. Went through the City to get information on playgrounds where they were in association with schools etc. Looked at where access was needed most to see where areas might not have a playground nearby or one that needed updates etc. We also looked at regional neighborhood playgrounds to see if people came from other locations to play.

Anna America – previously we would hire landscape design who would then sub out to playground design etc. We worked with purchasing, so now we can go directly to the playground manufacturer, and we can work back and forth to know the direct costs.

Stacie Martin – those same park utility workers have shifted work to do the demo on those playgrounds and have reduced our costs by almost half.

Steven Lassman – we've been able to then get a lot more fun and interesting playgrounds in this process.

Tersa Meinders-Burkett - is Carbondale next to the old Robinson elementary I didn't see a sign for that park?

Anna America - I can't remember on that one. We are trying to rethink how to do signs. The old monument signs in stone are very expensive around 12k. We also think they overwhelm the smaller pocket parks. We still have some that have wooden signs. We are hoping to come up with something more affordable. One of the things we look at is if there is a playground across the street and if its accessible to the public and per TPS their playgrounds should always be accessible but the school across from Schlegel we don't think is open.

Steven Lassman – We want to do the same process for the new playgrounds across the board. We have 2 categories – full replacements – higher costs which include tear outs and new playgrounds installed. We will put in signs with QR codes for citizens to provide input for what they want to see. This will also include features like benches, shelters etc. 2nd category is partial enhancement - we want to make there's more fun we will also have QR codes here as well. We can add additional features at these parks etc. to just enhance them. We will roll out the QR codes likely in March around spring break. The code will know what park you are at and you won't have to choose. We have 2 new playgrounds we want to add one is at. Bales that's been

getting a lot of use lately. The other is at Lakeview, it's underutilized and there is a group there that want to see something at that park. Its across 75 from Mohawk.

Anna America – its off Mohawk Blvd there an alternative middle school on the edge of it, really no amenities there, really no access to anything else there. I've been approached several times. It's a really underserved area.

Steve Lassman – in addition to playground improvements adult exercise is something we want to focus on. Additionally, we have a couple water playgrounds we want to replace, some of our older ones that we need to rehab. We also wanted to have a pool of money to pull from for accessibility enhancements, for a playground that has a lot of use but no access, as well as a pool of money for future maintenance costs.

Brandon Oldham – this is cool, great work can you talk about the fun score?

Steven Lassman – Brandon (Hillard) had his fun score.

Brandon Oldham – it makes me think about the Hope playground.

Steve Lassman – it also has a lot to do with the number of elements you have, sensory play etc.

Anna America – we know from the feedback. Everyone wants swings and things that can move, riding things etc. There was a time at one point where we built things at a certain height with slides etc. But now kids want things where they might get a little thrill.

Brandon Oldham - I would love to learn more about that. To a quick point to the schools and playgrounds, I don't see Hawthorne – the school has a playground but not the park.

Steve Lassman – we tried to reach out.

Anna America – it's part of a bigger improvement, trying to do a partnership. Right now, the other ones we know will get funded and updated. If the stadium goes in, we know there will be room for one. It's a unique situation. There is a lot of community engagement there. If that ends up not happening, we can add it back in

Steve Lassman - there are a couple on there that are grant funded, we will keep looking for more opportunities for more funds to keep pushing the costs down.

Anna America – and that's one thing we've been advocating to the council. Every time we get additional funds, we don't want to keep spending more, we want to see where else we can put that money – accessibility etc. We are squeezing a lot of assets out of these resources.

Brandon Oldham - I was glad to see Dawson on here.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – you might talk with life senior services.

Anna America - I talked to Eileen on that, with an adult playground, not just doing adult fitness which might seem like work. We don't have anything like that in Tulsa, we can ask kids to see what kind of things they would play on.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett - I wonder about some of those senior living communities what they would want to see for their residents as well.

Steve Lassman – Ya we even consider trees as a play amenity.

Anna - I meant to mention we did the ramp at Whiteside and the sports wheelchairs couldn't fit so we fixed it and now they have wheelchair tennis lessons.

Brandon Oldham – the other thing at Whiteside the slide there is being used by kids and adults, the kids can still push the adults.

Anna America – something we learned in that process, often someone who has a disability will need additional accessibility for things.

Steve Lassman – we are excited to start asking questions and seeing what people want.

Andy Fusco – New Comm officer Brianna – We updated our social media/website and newsletter recently. 2023 presentation in photos and upcoming events.

Anna America – The outdoor classroom has moved to Mohawk at the Old country store. We are working on renovations.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – Can you give us an update on the Outdoor Classroom.

Jason Boyd – We are almost done, we should be completely done with the lights today, we still have a few windows left.

Brian Boivard– they are going to install a wash basin and a drinking fountain.

Anna America – we are working on a contract.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – in conjunction with the Garden Center what's going to take their place?

Andy Fusco – The board is still receiving and reviewing proposals.

Anna America – Any changes need to come to park Board.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – just a pitch, at one point we talked about something that would crack gender/age roles. If we can think about that demographic, the 20–30-year-olds. Great report all around. Are students back in the classroom yet?

Brian Boivard – will be after Presidents' Day – can go to outdoorclassroom.org

Anna America – have you guys talked to them about the campout yet, if not you should.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – next item is park fees.

Anna America – when we change our fees it has to come through Park Board. Marci went and looked through our fees and cleaned this up. This is really refined and got rid of equipment rental.

Marci Rose – to that point we came through the board before a few years ago and talked about camp and shelter fees. Our original fee list had many fees that we never used, so we removed those. Such as rodeo fees, racket ball fees etc. Then we also went through and updated and combined other fees. We removed the filed per game fees as well since most of our fields are

on a user-based contract. A few fees we need to add are the Oxley fees, they do charge different rates than what we charge as a department. As we are improving and buildings, the rec centers, we decided to put all the room rates the same. We also looked at open spaces, we don't have a lot of open space rentals. Those rentals are often combined with special events. We scaled the special event prices from petite events to large scale special events. The impact is different so the pricing will need to reflect that. We have added all of those new rates. Everything in yellow is the new proposed rate.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett- one question is \$125 for Central auditorium 2 hr. minimum is that per hour, the per hour is stricken there?

Anna America – it needs to be clear there if it's a per hour it needs to be clear there. We don't do rentals at Centennial anymore. We do use it during business hours and for other city meetings. We have moved away from private rentals. We are moving toward united pricing for day camps. We used to have different pricing based on locations. We are revamping our scholarship program. We didn't like how it made it feel like some camps were less valuable. We are trying to get more consistency. You may note on the events, there are 2 that may require to come back to the board for approval.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – we need a motion to approve with the additions of hourly and Oxley rates – Lauren moves to approve with those changes – Brandon second the motion – **FEES APPROVED**

Board Reports

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – Teresa asked to be assigned to Park areas for housing solutions and there are a lot of people living in their cars and park areas, any advocacy you can do for them to help move them out of that situation. One thing we saw in Austin was bins for them to store their stuff. That way if they abandon their stuff, it's already in bins and you can throw it away.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.



Anna America, Park Director

Secretary



Teresa Meinders-Burkett, Chair