



TULSA PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2024

The Tulsa Park & Recreation Board met at Owen Community Center on April 2, 2024.

A meeting agenda was filed with the Tulsa City Clerk's Office on, March 28, 2024. Teresa Meinders-Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others Present:

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

Directors Report

Anna America - First thing we want to introduce a few new changes – Destinee Love is our new Senior Administrative Services Officer she will take over as Park Board Secretary. She's been getting us organized. Anna Moore, who has been serving as secretary, has moved into the new Community Services Manager role. This role will be doing volunteer, donations, and grants. Really need pull in our volunteers. Really looking at getting volunteers at dedicated areas. Also really doing a better job at our donations. She will also be doing grant writing. Steve has been doing that and Anna will be helping. We also have Tarah Moutray who's our new Sports Facility coordinator. Rhonda, who's been doing a lot of this, has got a lot of relief and help now that these new positions have come in. It's been interesting to see all these things that were written down on paper and that have expired or that we didn't know about that we can get straightened out. Tarah has really been working on the sports complexes and contracts. So many things change over the years so it's important to look at those things and re do those contracts. We are working on an RFP for Carl Smith, and we will do one for the volleyball courts

at Helmerich as well. We have started construction on Swan Lake fountain. We will get it done before the Mayor leaves office. There were two bodies found at Mohawk. One was skeletal remains, the other was one that had a health incident. Neither had anything to do with the park, it was just incidental. We had some really cool events. Nick who does aquatics, recently did an all inclusive egg hunt at Whiteside who worked with Little Light House. They made sure that all the kids and families could do the hunt together. We also had a nice Arbor Day last week and planted trees at Turner Park with Street School. Some events coming up. The Urban Campout at Oxley, the Jr. Triathlon, also here at Owen in June the Regional ISA Tree Climbing competition. We are working with the sports commission and Visit Tulsa. Some changes coming we are meeting next week at GCC to discuss their agreement. They have grown past that and are expanding; we are not renewing their contract so they will be out on their own from now on. They will not be reporting at PB any longer. The City's new NPDES permit, for parks, we will meet with S&SW and engineering in regards to our splash pads and water playgrounds that are not tied into sewer we will have to figure out how to dechlorinate the water and there is a concern around bacteria. Another one is around dog waste. Biscuit Acres is one where we need to possibly do additional clean up. It's an area where we can do additional education. We can look at doing more education on geese and their waste and how bad it is for the water quality. It's against City Ordinance to feed them so we are hoping this becomes an opportunity to push that message. Steve was going to be here to talk about Dream Keepers. We are excited to talk about the proposal and to really renovate that park. The opportunity came up for a federal grant and Steve is working on that. He is working on that now; he got a grant for the Trust for Public Lands. The grant goes through the Tourism Dept. It's the first one from OK and through the Tribes. It's a 1 to 1 match. We are scrambling to get as much committed right now. It will be the trail, the tribal gardens – with the Cherokee Nation funding, to include all the tribes of OK languages. The whole project is around 10 million. We have roughly around 3 million so far invested. We have talked a lot with the neighborhoods already. There is a lot of good stuff going on there now already. One of the big things proposed is closing Boulder Park Dr. The piece between the park and the parking lot and expanding the parking lot, because it's really unsafe. The money won't need to be spent until 2026. It's early but there is another project we are working on is a community collab around Ben Hill. We talked a little bit about Redbud.

Maggie Regan – We are opening Redbud for a limited basis this weekend. It's in response to public interest. We opened last week. It sold out in hours. We also know from spending time out there; we are witnessing a lot of benefits from letting it rest. There are new groves of smoke trees and blue ash. The plants are thriving. We know this was a good step that we took.

Anna America – the problem with Redbud wasn't that people were abusing it, hacking etc. But that you just can't have people out there touching it etc. We are really debating opening it more, but the amount of staff time and monitoring it takes is a lot. There were a lot of parts of the trails were taking over that we may not get back. As Anna comes in working with volunteers, we may be able to open more times, so that we don't have to close Oxley. We will work with staff so we could do a PB and Council visit.

Maggie Regan – Artist in Residency poet and artist Sasha Martin. Her work has been published in National Geographic. Her poetry will be based on Oxley specifically. There will be a visual component to her work as well and a theme for each month. We are also working on making it very inclusive as well. This month we are working on Spanish translation and will have a Spanish interpreter.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – Blue to green is seeking applications now. Can you speak on that now.

Maggie Regan – it's a water quality assessment program in June. They take water samples and collect samples.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – it's free for grades 8-10 grade. Transportation from NSU

Maggie Regan – One more thing we work with TPS Science manager with every 7th grader. Our staff visits every school on how they can attract more bird species. It's having a tangible effect on their neighborhoods. Students are learning they can be agents of change.

Tom Wolff - Had a good Feb. The weather was good. The averages over the years, there's no such thing as an average. This past Feb was our 2nd best 219k in rev. 2.25 million so far in rev. We lost 15k for the month but were expected to lose 58k. We are 26k ahead. 6k rounds in Feb. 59k rounds combined so far. 372k in rev to finish the month. Courses are starting to wake up. We are starting to fertilize and should start mowing in the next week. We didn't have to cover any greens. The tree removal from the storm is almost complete. Still having staffing issues. We have enough staff to cover basics. New agreement with youth on course to make golf affordable for youth. Golfers pay \$5 then the organizations pays the difference at Mohawk and PB its \$10 that's reimbursed, and a guest pays \$2. There are a handful of HS teachers who want to bring back the TPS golf program. They can come to Mohawk to practice one day a week, any other day it's \$2 to practice. Booker T is more interested in taking it to the next level. April and March we will host 7 HS tournaments.

Brandon Oldham – for the families that come out its \$2, do they pay for clubs.

Tom Wolff - \$30 for nice clubs, we recently upgraded. If you get cheaper ones they just break.

Anna America – Do the kids in first tee get clubs.

Tom Wolff – yes, they do. They confuse us with first tee, when people donate so we just take them down for that.

Anna America – we talk about this a lot we had xx million going to golf. They are working on the irrigation now at mohawk and bunkers at PB.

Tom Wolff– yesterday sprinklers were going off for the first time in months.

Anna America – If you guys remember one of our favorite things was the mural at Ben Hill.

Scott Stulen – 2018 several users got together to form the Sandlot baseball group. 5 official teams now. They reached out and started using Reed backfield. We've done a lot of work, dug out the bases, bought new bases and put a tarp out. During the storm we had 40 players come out and clean off the field. I go out during the off season to check it as well. The backstop is

painted but it's peeling. My concern is it will get worse. My ask is to sandblast it and paint it. We have a lot of artists on the team. We ask for help with labor in clean up and we could provide the rest. We would go through the proper channels and approvals. Arts Commission

Anna America – He's asking for PB support. He will go through the Arts Commission. One thing he didn't mention that's been wonderful as well is people that don't go to Reed and Lacy is for them to see those parks that wouldn't normally see them.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – and the money you're asking for where is that coming from.

Anna America– it would come from general maintenance. It's not an additional budget request. We would use our existing resources.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett - you just need approval of the backstop.

Scott Stulen - we are doing fundraising as well.

Brandon Oldham – do you see based on your time out there bigger issues if we wait longer?

Scott Stulen – the concern is it will start to crumble further. Not in the next few months but definitely in the next few years

Rodrigo Rojas– I motion to approve the proposed action with the repair.

Brandon Oldham – Second

APPROVED

Board Reports

Brandon Oldham – We started through GKFF northside neighbors – Hawthorne and Whitman. They of course have questions. Our parks get a lot of use. The Lacy ballfield I have come over when they are playing, and people watch on their porch.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett – I get out and walk when I can. It's amazing how well used our parks are used.

Anna America – I forgot to mention, this week we are starting on Zink repairs on those erosion issues. They are going to try to figure out what's causing that.

Teresa Meinders-Burkett adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Anna America, Park Director

Secretary

Teresa Meinders-Burkett, Chair