

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

May 7, 2024, at 1:30pm

Greenwood Cultural Center | 322 N Greenwood Ave. | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

Attendees:

MEMBERS		
<i>Name</i>	<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
Meinders-Burkett	X	
Landwerlin	X	
Rojas	X	
Oldham	X	
Fernandez		X

OTHER		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Destinee Love	City of Tulsa	dlove@cityoftulsa.org
Anna Moore	City of Tulsa	amoore@cityoftulsa.org
Nick Pond	City of Tulsa	npond@cityoftulsa.org
Caroline Guerra Wolf	City of Tulsa	cguerrawolf@cityoftulsa.org
Constance Murray	Oxley Nature Center	Murrayconstance4882@gmail.com
Steven Lassman	City of Tulsa	slassman@cityoftulsa.org
Dustin Jagers	City of Tulsa	djagers@cityoftulsa.org
Tim Thornton	City of Tulsa	tthornton@cityoftulsa.org
Jason Boyd	City of Tulsa	jboyd@cityoftulsa.org
Frances Jordan Rakestraw	Greenwood Cultural Center	francesjordan@greenwoodculturalcenter.com
Ellen Avenill	Tulsa Zoo	eavenill@tulsa-zoo.org
Michell Burdex Brown	Greenwood Cultural Center	mbburdex@greenwoodculturalcenter.org
Jack Allen	Citizen	N/A

- I. Chairperson Meiners Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:01AM.
- II. Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of April 4, 2024, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Landwerlin moved to approve the minutes; Rojas seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Reports
 - a. Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Report – Anna America

Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Director, Anna America, started off the department update with introductions for new positions. Destinee Love, Senior Administrative Services Officer II, will be handling organizational and technological needs for the Parks Department as well as serving as the Parks and Recreation Board Liaison. Anna Moore, Community Resources Manager, will be handling the volunteers and donation tracking for the Parks Department. Anna will eventually report to the Board monthly with

any updated for her position. Steven has taken over Gary Schellhorn's role in the Parks Department as Parks Capital Improvement Project Manager. Steve started on May 6, 2024. Gary's position was previously a part of the City's engineering department but has since moved to the Parks Department. Steve's Parks Planner position is open as well as the Urban Forester position. The very first sports court has been completed. Swan Lake has been a large scenic attraction as far as construction is concerned.

Chairperson Meinders Burkett asked if the City Council needs to approve all donations that are processed through the City of Tulsa. Director America noted that grants go through as donations, however, not all donations must go through the City Council.

Director America mentioned that if we are able to better organize, we can attract more volunteers in the Parks Department. Having Anna Moore in this role should increase volunteer participation. Horticulture should also see an increase in participation from volunteers.

Nick Pond, Program Planner I, is trying to increase participation at the Egg-ccessible Egg Hunt at Owasso High School. Nick is currently trying to obtain 50 volunteers for the Kid's Triathlon on May 26, 2024. This triathlon will be held with children 6-15 years old at McClure Park. This is the first time we have hosted this event in 10 years.

Anna Moore is looking at volunteer software, flyers, pamphlets, and QR codes to encourage volunteer participation for events. These items will be out soon and provided to the Board.

Woodward Park is at 100% design. We will be going to bid on this project by May 15, 2024, per the Stormwater Department.

QR code signs on playgrounds will be in the next couple of months.

Council had a discussion over repairing the Skelly Bypass Trail behind the promenade. Listed as the worst condition trail and was added onto the Capital Improvement Project list. Money saved from Improve Our Tulsa 2 will be put towards the rehabilitation of this trail.

Nick Pond – we have been in the best shape that we have ever been in the Parks Department as far as lifeguards. Pools will open on June 1st, excluding Berry Pool. Chamberlain will also be closed due to construction.

May 16, 2024, at 11:30am groundbreaking for the Chamberlain pool construction. Email from City Communications to come.

Many splashpads/water playgrounds were \$70,000 in water bills last year. Eight of our splashpads drain into the storm system currently. This will require major changes to our splashpads, potentially dog parks (bacteria in the water from feces, etc.).

Questions were welcomed.

b. Partner Focus Report – Michelle Brown-Burdex

Frances Jordan joined us at this meeting. Gilcrease has completed the designs for their renovation. Decreased the budget to \$20M. Renovating the Renaissance Hall, creating a theater, interactive exhibits by the Sam and Lucy Maci house to host after school programs. Visited the Smithsonian Museum – Tulsa Room in the museum has many of the same photographs that we have here in Tulsa.

Summer programming – young entrepreneurship will be hosted at Gilcrease. Expecting around 70 children to participate.

Politzer and Lincoln center – free program for Drexel Academy onsite. First time with a new curriculum – if it goes well we will expand that program next year. Over the summer Gilcrease will serve 210 children, hiring 15 additional instructors.

Questions were welcomed.

IV. **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

a. *Surplus – Tulsa Psychiatric Center, 1239 S. Trenton Ave – Roger Acebo

Hilcrest has requested to lease the land until 2059. In order for the City to do this, we will need to surplus the use of this site.

Asset Management. In 1931 land was acquired for Park purposes from a private owner – 24 years later nothing was done on this piece of land. Hilcrest Psychiatric Center is not associated with the hospital. At the same time there was a lease that was approved. The name was changed from the Hilcrest Psychiatric Center to the Tulsa Psychiatric Center in 1960. This lease was \$25,000 for 50 years. Another \$25,000 was paid in 2009 for an additional 50 years. In 2023, Roger Acebo was contacted by a Tulsa Psychiatric Center Board member to see if the City would be willing to surplus this land. Mayor Bynum is in support of leasing the property. This lease currently ends in 2059. This would not impact the park usage, etc. \$38M Psychiatric Center. No intent to flip or sell the land/property – this guarantee will be put into the deed or the contract.

Chairperson Meinders Burkett abstained from this vote.

Recommendation to surplus the legal description from Asset Management

Motion to approve by Oldham, Landwerlin seconded the motion.

Approved.

b. Renaming of Midland Valley Trail – Anna America

No actions were taken on this item IV.b.

V. New Business

[NOTE: "New business" is restricted to any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting. *Oklahoma Open Meeting Act*, 25 O.S.2001, §311(9)]

No new business.

VI. Public Comments – Potential Curfew Change at Whiteside Park – Jack Allen, Citizen (D9)

Jack Allen noted that he is pro park. Whiteside built a playground that backs up to Mr. Allen's home. This has caused children to scream in the playground from 8:00AM until 10:30PM. Mr. Allen has requested to close the playground by 9:00PM. Mr. Allen noted that the Gathering Place closes at 9:00PM. Mr. Allen also noted that there are around 80-90 kids on the playground not including their parents. Mr. Allen noted that he would like an answer in writing on the response to his request. Total comment time was 2:37 minutes.

Terms have expired with Board members Landwerlin and Oldham. Chairperson Meinders Burkett thanked them for their time served on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chairperson Meinders Burkett encouraged everyone to venture out and see Redbud Valley.

VII. Next Meeting, June 4, 2024, at 9:00 AM – OXLEY NATURE CENTER

VIII. Adjournment at 9:58 AM.