

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

July 2, 2024, at 9:00AM

Centennial Center in Veteran’s Park | 1028 East 6th Street | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

Attendees:

MEMBERS		
<i>Name</i>	<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
Meinders-Burkett	X	
Reese Tipton	X	
Rojas	X	
Savage	X	
Fernandez	X	

OTHER		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Destinee Love	City of Tulsa	dlove@cityoftulsa.org
Anna America	City of Tulsa	annaamerica@cityoftulsa.org
Stacie Martin	City of Tulsa	smartin@cityoftulsa.org
Tim Thornton	City of Tulsa	tthornton@cityoftulsa.org
Tarah Moutray	City of Tulsa	tmoutray@cityoftulsa.org
Marci Rose	City of Tulsa	mrose@cityoftulsa.org
Steve Lassman	City of Tulsa	slassman@cityoftulsa.org
Dustin Jagers	City of Tulsa	djagers@cityoftulsa.org
Elizabeth Shawgo	Trysted Pages	Trystedpages.bookshop@gmail.com
Chris Shawgo	Trysted Pahes	Trystedpages.bookshop@gmail.com
Laura Chalus	Tulsa Garden Center	lchalus@tulsagardencenter.org
Andy Zanolovich	Tulsa Garden Center	azanovich@tulsagardencenter.org
Ellen Averill	Tulsa Zoo	eavenill@tulsazoo.org
Leah Mueller	City of Tulsa	lmuellet@cityoftulsa.org
Kacie Ryal	City of Tulsa	kryal@cityoftulsa.org
Caroline Guerra Wolf	City of Tulsa	cguerrawolf@cityoftulsa.org
Jennifer Plaster	City of Tulsa	jplaster@cityoftulsa.org
Corey Seaton	City of Tulsa	cseaton@cityoftulsa.org
Mike Carder	City of Tulsa	mcarder@cityoftulsa.org
Constance Murray	Oxley Nature Center Board	Murrayconstance7882@gmail.com

- I. Chairperson Meinders Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:14AM

- II. Introduction of new Board Members.
 - a. Construction background – Reese
 - b. Former Mayor of Tulsa, Susan Savage. CEO of Healthcare.

- III. Chairperson Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of May 4, 2024, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Board Member Rojas moved to approve the minutes; Chairperson Meinders Burkett seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Report – Anna America

Parks rescued a pair of puppies from Joe Station that were dumped. Board Member Savage suggested having spay and neuter information at the front desk.

Introduction of Steve Lassman, Parks Capital Improvement Project Manager. Steve was formerly in our Parks Planner position, which has been filled by Dylan Siers. In process of hiring the Urban Forester position. Hoping to have them onboard at the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

Pop up Park events with Miguel Hernandez and the Rec and Roll Van.

Trying to expand the number and variety of different events going on in the Parks Department. Moth Night at Oxley Nature Center had 125 people where the identified more than 100 species of moths.

New Adult Swim Lessons program geared towards parents that are not comfortable with swimming. The goal is to be able to swim back and forth, play with their children, etc.

Collaboration within our Day Camps, OU Tulsa, Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa Fire Department, etc. Kids went out to Tulsa Glassblowing School for a field trip.

Aquatics: 31 splash pads up and running. Pools are open. District 3 Dawson Parks splashpad is now operating.

Jason Boyd working on transitioning lights at parks to solar lights. Experimenting with timers on solar lights.

Capital Improvement Projects, more than \$60M worth of work in IOT2 and IOT3. Massive projects at Berry and Chamberlain parks, over \$30M.

Started work on our sports courts at McClure and Hicks. Pickleballers are extremely excited. First round will add 32 Pickleball courts. Hicks had six tennis courts, they are now basketball, pickleball, volleyball, and tennis. Adding five new basketball courts, repairing cracks in the courts and replacing nets. Working on new signage for parks. Signs with QR code for feedback, enhancements to the park, etc.

Golf Update

\$8M at gold courses to focus on irrigation. Paige Belcher pays their own water bill. Currently trying to get a line from the wastewater treatment plant to reclaim wastewater. Mohawk uses the lagoon but the irrigation must be replaced do to age.

The improvements made at Page Belcher have been incredible. Golfers are taking note of the changes and updated to the courses.

Completed the fundraising for the bike race at Bales Park.

Swan Lake repairs are going well. Board Member Savage noted that stormwater flows there, so stormwater should assist with the funding for the repairs. This was tied to flood prevention during its initial design.

Going out for bid to hiring the consultant to design filter placements.

Eight of our splashpads drain to stormwater. NPED says it is prohibited. There are currently no funds from stormwater to assist in the updates needed for the splashpads to become compliant.

Board Member Savage noted that the City is behind in collaboration efforts between Parks and Stormwater in comparison to other large cities.

Board Member Savage noted that her grandson participated in the McClure Triathlon and really enjoyed it. Many volunteers were present. Nick Pond organized the Adult Swim Classes, Eggcessible Egg Hunt, Day of the Dead "Dead Sprint", Mayfest, etc.

Board Member Savage asked if there is data on how people recreate these days. Most kids typically stay within 15 miles of their own home.

Director America noted we have received demos from Placer AI. Trail interest has increased- one of the most cost-effective ways to get people into parks. Added a ramp to the Whiteside Tennis court to make it more accessible. Widened the entrance to the court for sports wheelchairs, now there is a large wheelchair tennis team that plays at this court.

Wheelchair accessible pickleball courts are in our future while we develop our sports court.

Parks and Recreation Magazine during our Park Board Meetings. Accessible trails for deaf, blind, etc. All new bike trails can use the adaptive bikes.

Deputy Director Martin noted that Oxley Nature Center has implemented all terrain chairs and has tested on them on the trails. A donor, ONCA, wants to donate another chair. Deputy Director Martin noted the need to build a Pole Barn before receiving more all-terrain chairs.

Fernandez will be on a panel discussing adaptability at parks.

Questions were welcomed.

b. Partner Focus Report – Laura Chalus, Tulsa Garden Center

Laura Chalus noted that the Conservatory turned 100 this year. In celebration of this, there was a 1920s themed party for the Conservatory. \$42,000 invested in renovating the conservatory.

Andy Fusco and Briana Hefley-Shepard attended the American Public Gardens conference in Boston. Briana was one of 18 out of 1,100 participants that received a scholarship to attend the conference. The Tulsa Garden Center won an award for their marketing campaign for 2023 Father’s Day storm titled, “When the Wind Comes Sweeping Down the Plain”. This was the only award that was won by a public garden.

Event – July 8, 2024 - Tulsa Garden Center is hosting an evening event for the Tulsa Herb Society. The guest speakers topic will be on trees. Free event to the public.

Capital Improvements – Currently replacing the HVAC systems in the barn, carriage house, and mansion. New enhanced entrance, adding all connecting sidewalks.

Questions were welcomed.

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

a. *Deck Addition at Teaching Barn – Laura Chalus, Tulsa Garden Center

Handouts were given that were not provided prior to the meeting. These can be found with the Records Custodian.

Teaching Barn. Was not approved by Director or Board. No building permit was authorized.

Description of handouts:

First Photo:

The bare barn.

Second Photo:

Taken in 2014 and includes the maintenance sheds.

Primarily a pergola, had a deck on top that did not span the entire structure.

Third Photo:

The under portion of the structure. 4x4s were rotted. Prior to Spring Fest in April, a contractor came out to make sure the structure would not fall. A contractor was then asked to come out and demolish the entire structure. Laura Chalus stated that the structure was unable to be repaired. The deck portion of the structure had been gone for nine months. The door remains locked out to the deck, only staff can access. Not for public access.

Current Structure:

Entire top of the structure is a deck to contribute to shade and controls water during storms.

May plant sale picture provided to show shaded area. Chairperson Meinders Berkett noted that this was completely inappropriate to build without any of the proper permitting, approvals, etc. Board Member Savage asked who carries the liability insurance for the Tulsa Garden Center. Director America noted that it is under the City since the City is the owner of the structure.

Copy of the agreement between the Tulsa Garden Center and the City of Tulsa was presented by Caroline Guerra Wolf from Legal.

Structure Dimensions:

30x15 9.5 ft tall, railing is 9.5 ft tall.

Questions were welcomed.

No actions will be taken on this item V.a until permitting has been completed.

- b. *Concessionaire Addition to the Carriage House – Laura Chalus, Tulsa Garden Center

Laura Chalus noted that the RFP process completed.

Trusted Pages Coffee Shop presenters – Elizabeth Shawgo and Chris Shawgo. Elizabeth Shawgo has over 15 years in customer service, and over ten years in the food industry. Chris Shawgo has over ten years of experience with making and serving coffee. Elizabeth Shawgo noted that Trusted Pages is a family owned and operated, LGBTQIA+ Coffee Shop. Their goal is to provide a space for the community to meet where everyone is welcome and to showcase the diversity of inclusivity in the community. Elizabeth Shawgo noted that they aim to provide a place, a cup, and a love story for everyone.

Elizabeth Shawgo noted that the coffee shop would host events for local authors, become a niche bookstore, book signings, etc.

Board Member Savage asked about the hours of operation. Per Laura Chalus, the hours of the coffee shop would be as follows: Closed on Mondays. Open Tuesday-Thursday from 7am-7pm. Friday and Saturday hours would be 7am-10pm. Food service: Baked goods would be packaged and brought in, not be made in house.

Director America requested for additional information before a vote is made by the Board. Additional information would include contracts, parking capacity, revenue sharing, renovations, physical changes occurring to the building, a business plan, permitting licensing, inspection issues, business license, terms of the agreement, etc.

Laura Chalus noted that the Garden Center Board approved Trysted Pages. Director America noted that more information needs to be provided to the Park Board.

Elizabeth Shawgo and Laura Chalus noted that no demolition will ensue. Elizabeth Shawgo noted that the only addition would be extended piping for the espresso machine, and the addition of paint on the interior. Director America noted that any physical changes need approval in writing by the Parks Director and the Park board, if the changes large enough.

Trysted Pages aims to open in Fall 2024, Spring 2025 at the latest.

Need to see:

Physically what is happening in the building, business plan, permitting licensing, inspection issues, business license, LLC, terms of the agreement, etc.

No actions will be taken on this item V.a until permitting has been completed.

Questions were welcomed.

c. NO PARK BOARD REPORTS

VI. 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.

VII. Public Comments – None

VIII. Next Meeting, September 10, 2024, at 9:00 AM – McClure Recreation Center

IX. Adjournment at 10:31AM by Chairperson Meinders Burkett.