

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

November 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM

Tulsa Zoo – Helmerich Discover Center | 6421 E. 36th St. N. | Tulsa, Oklahoma

Attendees:

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

OTHER		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Jennifer Plaster	Parks	jplaster@cityoftulsa.org
Destinee Love	Parks	dlove@cityoftulsa.org
Rhonda Soules	Parks	rsoules@cityoftulsa.org
Dustin Jagers	Parks	djagers@cityoftulsa.org
Heather Michaelson-Hale	Parks	hmichaelson-hale@cityoftulsa.org
Brian Bovaird	Outdoor Classroom	brian.b@octulsa.org
Claire Harkness	Oxley	charkness@cityoftulsa.org
Dylan Siers	Parks Planning	dsiers@cityoftulsa.org
Nick Pond	Parks	npond@cityoftulsa.org
Geoffrey Braga	Parks	gbbraga@cityoftulsa.org
Jason Boyd	Parks	jboyd@cityoftulsa.org
Steve Lassman	Parks	slassman@cityoftulsa.org
Maggie Regan	Parks	mregan@cityoftulsa.org
Anna Moore	Parks	amoore@cityoftulsa.org
Caroline Guerra-Wolf	Legal	cguerrawolf@cityoftulsa.org
Stacie Martin	Parks	smartin@cityoftulsa.org
Raelynn Butler	Muscogee Creek Nation	raebutler@muscogeenation.com
Marci Rose	Tulsa Parks	marci.rose@cityoftulsa.org
Mirah Hupp	Tulsa Irish Fest	execdirector@tulsairishfest.org
Don Burdick	Tulsa Irish Fest	president@tulsairishfest.org
Erica Grayson	City Legal	egrayson@cityoftulsa.org
C.J. Maclin	Parks	cmaclin@cityoftulsa.org
Sarah Bowen	Zoo	sbowen@tulsazoo.org
Ellen Averill	Zoo	eaverill@tulsazoo.org
Joe Barkowski	Zoo	jbarkowski@tulsazoo.org
Lindsay Hutchison	Zoo	lhutchison@tulsazoo.org

- I. Chairperson Meinders Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:05AM.
- II. Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of October 1, 2024, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Board Member Rojas moved to approve the minutes; Board Member Fernandez seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Reports
 - a. Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Report – Anna America

Director America noted the popularity of the new pickleball, basketball, and tennis courts. Noted we are getting ready to do the next round of playground and sports court replacements.

Swan Lake Update – November 20, 2024, scheduled ribbon cutting.

Tulsa Garden Center – Pergola – Received report back from permitting, multiple corrections are needed to bring this pergola up to code. Director America noted that the Tulsa Garden Center should have received Director approval as well as Board approval before moving forward with the construction of the pergola. Director America noted that this building is not listed on the historical registry.

**Director America to schedule an upcoming meeting with Tulsa Garden Center regarding arboretum.

Director America noted the success of Sparky Spooktacular's Trunk or Treat.

Director America noted the continued efforts of improving ADA accessibility across City Parks.

The partnership with Up With Trees to continue planting and maintenance in multiple City Parks including, Chamberlain and Celebration Park.

Maggie Regan noted that the 2025 Artist Residency at Oxley Nature Center will open on November 18, 2024. Also noted that the hayrides will be this Saturday, November 9, 2024.

Director America noted a Senior Living Facility went out to Hope Park at Whiteside Community Center and were able to play on the playground.

Director America noted the first meeting of the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Group will be held this week. Director America noted the importance of accessible parks as well as programming.

Director America noted the Parks Department's new Marketing and Community Outreach Coordinator, CJ Maclin.

b. Partner Focus Report – Lindsay Hutchinson

Lindsay Hutchinson noted the WALTZ on the Wildside event where \$488,336 (gross) was raised for William S. Smith African Wilds. as well as the HallowZOOeen. The Zoo recently changed the event to two weekends. There were 24,988 guests in attendance.

Lindsay Hutchinson noted the continued work on the elephant exhibit – expected completion is February/March of 2025. Joe Barkowski, Vice President of Animal Conservation and Science noted the addition of two elephants from the Columbus Zoo – Hank (37) and Connie (50s). When Hank arrived at the Zoo he was 16,000lbs. He has lost a ton and a half during his time at the Tulsa Zoo. Board Member Reese Tipton asked how elephants are transported. Joe Barkowski noted that they come in large dog crates that are transported by trailers.

Joe Barkowski noted the Lost Kingdom exhibit opened seven years ago. There are currently Nine Malaysian Tigers at the Tulsa Zoo – only Zoo to successfully raise five Malaysian Tiger cubs. There are only around 50 Malaysian Tigers that are in the AZA program (Zoo Affiliate).

Joe Barkowski also noted that there is a new Siamang baby that was born on October 17, 2024.

Lindsay Hutchinson noted the Dinosaur Exhibit will be returning during March – Labor Day 2025. Lindsay also noted the addition of Giant Anteaters are coming to the Tulsa Zoo in 2025.

IV. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

- a. Discussion and possible action on a resolution in support of the transfer of Council Oak and Stickball Parks to Muscogee Nation - RaeLynn Butler, Muscogee Creek Nation

Director America noted the goal is to transfer the property to the Nation and the Nation can enhance signage and cultural programming. The Hope is to create a space that will celebrate and honor this part of Tulsa's history.

RaeLynn Butler, Secretary of Culture and Humanities at the Muscogee Creek Nation. RaeLynn Butler noted that the Nation has been working with Director America as well as Mayor Bynum. RaeLynn noted that a Muscogee Tribe carried ash from a sacred fire in Alabama to the Council Oak Tree. This represents the Trail of Tears as well as the Muscogee Creek Nation tribe. The Council Oak was the first Gathering Place for the Muscogee Creek people. There is a ceremony at 11:00AM on Saturday, November 9, 2024, at the Stickball Park. RaeLynn noted that Mayor Bynum will be present at the ceremony. RaeLynn also noted a potential proclamation for Council Oak Day in the City of Tulsa. RaeLynn noted that the shared interest in updating the park and collaboration with the City of Tulsa and eventually planting a new Council Oak Tree from daughters of the current Council Oak Tree when that time comes.

Vice-Chair Savage noted that this is a wonderful opportunity and the excitement around this transfer.

Resolve was read and questions were welcomed.

Motion to approve Vice-Chair Savage, Board Member Fernandez seconded the motion.

Approved

b. Tulsa Irish Fest – Millan Hupp

Presenters noted that Irish Fest began in 2018 at Guthree Green. The 4th Irish Fest was held at River West. Presenters noted Tulsa is getting a great reputation for its festivals. The host hotel is The Brut. Dream Keepers is convenient and beautiful for a festival location. Presenters noted the Choctaw Nation sent food over during the potato famine to the Irish. Requesting approval to hold the festival at Dream Keepers Park to celebrate the long-time partnership between the Irish and Choctaw Nation.

Motion to approve Board Member Rojas, Board Member Reese-Tipton seconded the motion.

Approved

c. Board Member Reports – Board

Board Member Reese-Tipton noted the popularity of Whiteside/Hope Playground. Vice-Chair Savage and Board Member Fernandez noted visiting Zink Park.

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)]

VI. Public Comments – None

VII. Next Meeting, December 3, 2024, at 9:00AM at Hicks Community Center (3443 S. Mingo Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74146).

VIII. Adjournment at 10:09AM.