

Arkansas City Beautification and Tree Advisory Board
6/24/21 Minutes

A regular meeting was held **Thursday, June 24, 2021**, at Veterans Memorial Lake. The meeting was called to order at **4:14 p.m.**

Roll Call:

Board Members

Robin Henderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Candace Hendricks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Holman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paisley Howerton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Harrison Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Staff Liaisons

Mike Bellis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Randy Frazer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evan Haney	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connie Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landon West (ACRC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Approve June 3 Meeting Minutes:

Robin made a motion to approve the minutes of the **June 3, 2021**, rescheduled regular meeting as presented. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was approved **3-0** on a voice vote. (*Paisley participated in the vote via telephone.*)

The only Equal Opportunity and Accessibility Advisory Board member in attendance was **Frances “Rags” Smith**. Also present were guests **Kayleigh Lawson** and **Mendy Pfannenstiel**, with the Arkansas City Public Library.

Nancy Holman joined the meeting in progress (and **Paisley Howerton** left the meeting in progress) at **4:16 p.m.**

2. ACPL Solar-Powered Charging Stations:

Mendy would like to apply for a grant through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) to provide shaded tables with solar panels on the “umbrellas” that power charging stations for phones and other devices. (*She can only apply for one project.*)

The existing flower beds will be removed and cemented in. Some bushes can be transplanted to the alley near the dropbox. The Parks and Facilities Division will need to pour the concrete and bolt in the tables, but there are no other City costs.

The Board approved of the general concept and the look of the tables themselves, and urged Mendy to apply for the grant.

Robin made a motion to recommend that the City allow for and support the installation of these “pavilion carousel” tables at ACPL, pending awarding of the grant. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was approved **3-0** on a voice vote.

2.5. “Pop-Up” StoryWalk at Lovie Watson Park:

Robin gave a report on her Juneteenth event on **June 19** in Lovie Watson Park, which featured a “pop-up” StoryWalk. She used it as a demonstration project to help to raise funds for a permanent StoryWalk around the 1/16-mile trail in the park.

3. Adoption Request: Wilson Park (Docking Garden) / Pollinator Project Report

Kayleigh said she would like to turn the dirt-filled, nonfunctional former Docking Garden fountain into a pollinator garden.

She is working on the list of plants she wants to buy, but they will be mostly perennials with a few annual highlight plants.

No milkweed will be planted in this particular garden. She hopes the City will provide water and maybe some potting topsoil.

Mike asked if this will affect the Wilson Park Master Plan. Andrew said the Docking Garden area is not included in changes.

Robin made a motion to recommend that the City Commission approve the Wilson Park/Docking Garden adoption proposal from Kayleigh Lawson, using appropriate plants. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion was approved **3-0** on a voice vote.

4. Adoption Update: Knebler Pond (WVDGA)

Andrew hasn’t had a recent update, but course design remains in progress. Things are going a little slower than anticipated.

He reminded the Board that the Robert Cox Memorial Park adoption will need to be renewed in **July**, but he forgot to put the information in the packet. He recommends renewing it for two years. The Board requested a special meeting with Arty Hicks.

5. Review ADA Transition Plan: Veterans Memorial Lake

The Board and Rags reviewed ADA Transition Plan recommendations for Veterans Memorial Lake. Like many other parks and recreation areas, it was flagged for a lack of designated ADA parking, but this is easily resolved. The new restrooms are ADA-accessible, however. Mike looked at issues with the accessible ramps to the accessible fishing dock on the lake itself.

6. Review ADA Transition Plan: *Charlie Dow Sports Complex*

The Board and Rags also reviewed the ADA Transition Plan recommendations for the West Lincoln fields with Landon, who discussed his long-term vision for the soccer fields at the Dow Complex. The Boards will visit this facility in person in **July**.

7. Comprehensive Plan Discussion:

Andrew said **Chapter 5**, “Parks, Recreation, and Natural and Historical Resources,” will be the main topic for the Board for the rest of summer. It will be split into two chapters. He talked about setting individual, measurable priorities for each park.

Harrison said staff has the right idea by going park to park, spacing out improvements so as not to impact the budget all at once, and seeking to reduce the mowing burden on City staff by planting more wildflowers and plants for the pollinators.

Andrew asked Landon to begin working through the same planning process with the Arkansas City Recreation Commission.

Andrew said the Paris Park Pool report and analysis will be presented to this Board at its next meeting in **July**, after the City Commission, Equal Opportunity & Accessibility Advisory Board, Planning Commission, and Recreation Commission see it.

8. Tacolalah Executive Committee Report:

The next 2021 Tacolalah Executive Committee meeting will be at **noon July 15** at the Water Treatment Facility. Andrew reminded Board members that the 2021 Tacolalah Festival will be here in just a few weeks and urged them to volunteer for it.

9. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Andrew and Mike provided electrical and construction updates for the Wilson Park Master Plan Phase 1 Upgrades project.

Robin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved **3-0** on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at **5:09 p.m.** The next regular meeting of the Beautification and Tree Advisory Board will be at **4 p.m. July 22, 2021**.