

Arkansas City Beautification and Tree Advisory Board

10/28/21 Minutes

A regular meeting was held Thursday, October 28, 2021, at the Wilson Park rotunda. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

Roll Call:	<u>Beautification Board Members</u>	<u>Staff Liaisons</u>	<u>Equal Opportunity Board Members</u>
	Robin Henderson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Bellis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Baker <input type="checkbox"/>
	Candace Hendricks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randy Frazer <input type="checkbox"/>	JoAnn Bierle <input type="checkbox"/>
	Nancy Holman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evan Haney <input type="checkbox"/>	James Fry <input type="checkbox"/>
	Paisley Howerton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Lawson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anita Judd-Jenkins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Harrison Taylor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connie Moore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tammy Lanman-Henderson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Frances "Rags" Smith <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

0. Approve September Meeting Minutes:

Candace joined the meeting in progress at 1:08 p.m. and later left the meeting in progress at 1:55 p.m. Robin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021, regular meeting as presented. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 on a voice vote. Paisley joined the meeting in progress at 1:10 p.m. and left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

1. OLD BUSINESS: Adoption Request: Wilson Park (Docking Garden)

Andrew asked Connie to explain to the Board the challenges with the fountain area. Connie said the soil had been sterilized, but it can be replaced in time for spring planting in early 2022. The Board discussed the proposed plant species to plant there. Connie said his main concern is maintenance. He can provide access to water, but does not want City staff to have to water it. Several interested members of both boards will meet with the original applicant to form a joint committee and reapply. They also will work on securing donations from local businesses and greenhouses. Connie said the City can provide new topsoil. Andrew mentioned a lady who wants to purchase a bench for installation in Wilson Park in honor of her late father. Because she is paying for everything and City staff will just install it, no adoption paperwork is needed. The Board blessed the project.

2. OLD BUSINESS: Adoption Request: Walnut Park (Jan Miller)

Andrew said this is the busiest time of the year for Pike Construction. Carlla doesn't think they will get to this project until December or maybe early next year. He currently plans to take the adoption proposal to the City Commission in December.

3. OLD BUSINESS: Fall Cleanup Day Report

This year's event ended up focusing on property cleanup again due to a low number of volunteers. We will look at cleaning and beautifying the underpasses on Spring Cleanup Day, which may involve some form of traffic control and coordination.

4. Land and Water Conservation Fund Project No. 20-00785

Long before COVID-19, the original intent of this project was to fund the splash pad/interactive fountain and new restrooms as part of Phase 1 (now Phase 2) of the Wilson Park Master Plan. Absent matching funds from the V.J. Wilkins Foundation, decisions will need to be made soon on the disposition of this \$300,000 LWCF grant and whether to proceed with the project. Possible ideas discussed included just building the restroom portion. Andrew will contact Jeff Best for an updated cost/O&M estimate and LWCF for clarification on the reallocation process. Anita suggested contacting the Warrender Trust for funds. Several members of both boards expressed hope that this phase can still proceed in the future, but acknowledged the financial challenges. Harrison reiterated his opposition to the project. No consensus decision was reached and discussion was tabled.

5. Review ADA Transition Plan: Wilson Park

Like most other neighborhood parks, the playgrounds and picnic areas both need ADA-accessible connections to sidewalks. ADA-accessible parking stalls and ramps will be addressed soon with the Phase 1 (Farm and Art Market) improvements.

A lift was installed following the 2006 ADA Transition Plan to provide ADA access to the rotunda stage. The new restrooms also are ADA-accessible. But ADA access may need to be improved to the tennis courts as part of the Phase 1 improvements.

The ADA Plan identifies the central drinking fountain as non-compliant, but it is no longer functional and the new one on the restroom building is ADA-accessible. The Wilson Park Master Plan includes lots of new ramps and 10-foot-wide pathways.

#### **6. Wilson Park Master Plan Update Process:**

The Board agrees with staff that some modifications need to be made to the existing Master Plan. This discussion will be continued at the **December** meeting. More community engagement is needed and the Paris Park planning may affect this.

#### **7. Other Miscellaneous Items:**

Paisley and Andrew will work to complete the annual Mayor's Monarch Pledge report prior to **December 1**. Goals for next year include applying for seed grants, working with ACHS to grow more starter plants and starting demonstration gardens.

Andrew said there have been very positive and productive conversations between the City, Cowley College, USD 470, and the Recreation Commission about the Paris Park Pool area. The scope is expanding beyond just a simple pool renovation.

The next meeting of the 2022 Tacolalah Executive Committee will be at **noon December 16** at the Water Treatment Facility.

Andrew said Wilson Park Phase 1 should begin construction shortly after Thanksgiving and is expected to finish by **April**.

Nancy 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 **2:02 p.m.** The next regular meeting of the Beautification and Tree Advisory Board will be at **1 p.m. Dec. 2, 2021**.