



Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM

The Tom Hardin Room – 100 Public Square, Mount Pleasant, TN

1. Call to Order

Ms. Grandberry called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Grandberry led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Mr. Phillip Grooms performed the roll call. Mrs. Jacqueline Grandberry, Mr. Larry Patton, Mr. Bedford Smith, Ms. Loree Knowles, Ms. Kathy Pepe were present. Mrs. Luemma McWilliams was out of town and unable to attend.

4. Approval/Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2024, meeting as presented. Ms. Pepe seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- A. Regular Session - Month DD, YYYY
Regular Session - August 14, 2024

5. Completion/review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

A. Movie Night at Gardenia Park

Ms. Busby stated there was a good turnout for the movie night at Gardenia Park. Everyone seemed to enjoy the movie.

Mr. Smith stated it was time to upgrade the movie screen. We have used this movie screen, that was donated by Ms. Donna Morency, for about 10 years now. It is time we ordered another one, which costs approximately \$100 at Amazon.

Mr. Grooms asked Ms. Busby to get with Bedford to shop for a new movie screen.

Ms. Knowles asked about the other issue that arose at movie night having to do with a cable.

Mr. Smith replied that they were able to find another cable to use with the system. Luckily, those cables can be purchased everywhere.

B. Back Ground Checks for the Coaches

Ms. Busby stated she received a phone call last week from someone asking how the city's background check policy. There is a gentleman who is wanting to help coach his daughter's ball team. However, he has a policy history from 15 years ago. She pointed out she knew this man and he has really turned his life around.

Ms. Busby stated there have been several similar cases whereas these individuals have felony charges that can never be expunged.

Mr. Smith stated the city's ordinance on the current background policy. In order to change the policy, the Mayor and Commissioners would have to amend the ordinance.

Ms. Busby read over the ordinance pertaining to background checks for possible coaches.

Mr. Grooms stated the city does have an ordinance, 2017-009, was put in place by the Mayor and Commissioners. He suggested we could review this policy if this commission would like to, but this commission cannot make any decisions on what changes you would like to see made. Then the commission can make a recommendation to the Mayor and Commissioners.

Mrs. Grandberry stated this ordinance was adopted in 2017, so we may need to review it for possible updates.

There was some additional discussion among the commissioners and Ms. Busby on the current background check policy and a possible review for updates.

Mrs. Grandberry asked Ms. Busby to add this study to the October agenda and make sure we get a copy of the current ordinance. We can review it and agree on some recommendations on changes we would like the Mayor and Commissioners to consider.

Mr. Grooms stated he will need to do some additional research but there is an ordinance regarding the bylaws of this Commission. The bylaws may have the background check policy that we need to review. He said he would email this commission both ordinances pertaining to rules/regulations set forth for parks and recreations.

C. Haunted Trail and Chili Cook off

Ms. Busby stated this is one of our biggest events of the year. We have sent invitations to the local businesses to join us in this event. We are also including a chili cookoff again this year. She will be recruiting the cheerleaders to help. The senior citizens will be responsible for the handing out popcorn.

Ms. Busby asked for volunteers to judge the chili cookoff. She had a couple of people lined up, but she would like to have 5 judges. She verified Chief Hay and Mrs. Henson have already picked up the candy.

6. **Special reports from other City Departments or Committees if applicable**

Mrs. Grandberry stated the baseball representatives have asked for more gravel for the parking lot at the Barker/Brewer field.

Mr. Grooms asked Ms. Busby to check with the street department to see if they have any gravel in stock. We can see if we can get some taken over to the parking lot of the Barker/Brewer field.

7. **New Business**

(Comments from citizens may or may not be included, dependent on the issues.)

A. Our Annual Craft Day for making Christmas ornaments

Ms. Busby stated Mr. Smith started the annual craft day while serving as the parks director and it has grown since then. The kids make Christmas ornaments and have a good time doing it. If any of the commission members have any craft ideas or want to donate some supplies, both will be welcome.

Ms. Busby stated November 16, 2024 will be the day we hold our annual craft day. They will need volunteers to help with the event.

B. Breakfast with Santa

Ms. Busby stated that last year was the first year they had breakfast with Santa. We had a huge turnout for the event. She stated that Breakfast with Santa this year is scheduled for December 21, 2024.

Ms. Busby stated we are looking for someone to play Santa and we need a cook to help with breakfast. She will see if the bass team can help again this year.

8. General comments from citizens (May be limited in time and/or number of comments.)

There were no citizens present.

9. Board/Staff Comments/Adjournment

Mr. Smith stated someone spoke to him about a possible future event at the community center. There are some adults who were playing pickleball on the high school tennis courts, however, they are no longer able to use them since they have been redone. The citizen asked if they could use the community center one night to play. He added they have their own pickleball set, just needing somewhere to set up and play.

Ms. Busby said the only problem is the boys and girls club would have to clear the area of their items, such as a television and couch. The center of the floor is clear though.

Ms. Busby confirmed she did not have a problem with them using the community center for pickleball providing there was nothing else going on.

Mr. Grooms stated he did not have a problem with people renting the community center. We can certainly look into the request further. He asked if pickleball would be open to the public.

Mr. Smith stated the person asking was an employee of the city. They have really gotten into the game and asked to use the community center for playing, if it was available.

Ms. Busby stated she has had several people asking about using the community center to play pickleball, if it is available and open to the public.

Ms. Busby said someone mentioned painting lines on the floor for pickleball, which she opposed.

Mr. Smith suggested they use painters' tape, which works just as good.

Mrs. Grandberry stated someone requested that we have an official dedication for the Willie Baker Pavillon at the Arrow Mines Park. The original dedication date was postponed because of COVID lock down.

Mr. Grooms asked if it would be appropriate to wait until the restrooms are constructed, to hold the dedication for Willie Baker Pavillon.

Mr. Smith stated the Civitan Club helped raise the money for the pavillon so we need to get with them on scheduling the dedication. He did not think we should wait until the restrooms are built before we have the dedication.

Mrs. Grandberry stated she would like to see a lighted reader board at the community center to display our community upcoming events.

Mr. Smith stated that has been discussed before but found out there was a code issue with a lighted board in a residential area.

Mrs. Grandberry stated we need to research the possibility in further detail.

Ms. Knowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smtih seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.