



# CITY OF NORMAN, OK AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARKS & RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster Ave., Norman, OK 73069  
Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 3:00 PM

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## MINUTES

*It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, relation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5446, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.*

*All AIM Sub-Committee Meetings are not regular meetings of the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, but the Steering Committee will be invited to attend, and this notice is being posted in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act in the event of a quorum.*

Chair Lee Hall called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

#### SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Hall, Chair  
Jennifer Baker  
Dennis Brigham  
Marcus Madlock  
Mark Nanny  
Amanda Prince  
Sara Sancak  
Sherrel Sheriff  
Roberta Pailes, Alternate

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Bailey Aldridge (RDG)  
Charlie Cowell (RDG)  
Amy Haase (RDG)  
Molly Hanson (RDG)  
Brian Trusty (PROS Consulting)  
Amanda Nairn (Steering Committee)  
Patrick Schrank (Steering Committee)  
Andy Couch (Firehouse Art Center)  
Adrienne Gaither (Sierra Club)  
James Briggs (Staff)  
Jason Olsen (Staff)  
Karla Sitton (Staff)  
Wade Thompson (Staff)  
Veronica Tracy (Staff)  
AshLynn Wilkerson (Staff)

## MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONMENT OF THE MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:

AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARKS & RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2024.

**Motion** by Marcus Madlock to approve the minutes from January 9, 2024, AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee meeting, **Second** by Dennis Brigham.

*The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 9-0.*

## AGENDA ITEMS

2. DISCUSSION OF PEER/BENCHMARK CITIES FOR COMPARISON

Molly Hanson, RDG, went over the peer/benchmark cities and said the cities selected for comparison are in-state and out-of-state cities with population numbers and park numbers similar to Norman. She also highlighted "inspiration" cities mentioned at the January meeting and the amenities they offer, including Discovery Green, Houston, and Bentonville, Arkansas. The Committee discussed and would like Norman parks; 1) spur curiosity (have different environments) and have a sense of community when moving through them; 2) include public art, making the parks better and more enjoyable; and 3) parks that are all inclusive and for the young as well as the old(er). The Committee also felt that parks and their amenities need longevity, i.e., be maintained and sustainable throughout the year(s), which may include a larger maintenance budget.

3. SUMMARY OF INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Bailey Aldridge, RDG, recapped the inventory and analysis and said RDG Staff had visited all the City parks and would visit the Recreation Centers on their next visit. She said RDG toured the cultural buildings, including Firehouse Art Center, The Depot, Sooner Theatre, and the Cleveland County Historical House. She said RDG had requested the operators (of those facilities) to list their needs, wants, and dreams that they felt would improve their facility.

4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Chair Lee Hall said RDG has set up many neighborhood workshops and public meetings with groups, including the Sierra Club, Red Dirt Collective, and the Adult and Wellness (AWE) Center. She encouraged the Committee to inform their family, friends, and colleagues to attend workshops/meetings and answer the weekly questions on the AIM website, [www.aimnorman.com](http://www.aimnorman.com).

## 5. INTRODUCTION TO RECREATION AND PROGRAMMING

Brian Trusty, PROS Consulting, said he has been working with Staff on a Recreation Programming analysis to evaluate and assess core and individual programs, identify what the City needs to "grow into" and "grow out of," and identify best practices. The Committee participated in an interactive survey using [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) to answer the following:

Question #1: 10 years from now, looking back, what does this comprehensive plan need to have addressed in order to be successful?

Question #2: What are three guiding principles that should shape recreational programming?

Question #3: Rank the following potential areas of recreational programming from most to least important (Community Events, Outdoor Adventure, Adaptive Programs, Environmental Education, Community Gardens, Teen Programs, Affordable Childcare, and Adult Fitness.

Question #4: What other areas of growth in recreation programming do you feel are important?

Mr. Trusty said he would email the survey results to the Committee and bring survey information to discuss at the April 9 meeting.

## 6. GOAL SETTING ACTIVITY

Prior to the meeting, the 2009 Master Park Plan (chapter one) was sent to the Committee for review. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the 2009 Plan served Staff well by ranking the most critical projects to the residents. The Westwood Pool was at the top of that list and was one of the first projects completed with the Norman Forward initiative. Additionally, the 2009 Plan identified other projects that have been satisfied with Norman Forward funds to include Ruby Grant Park; updating/improving Griffin Park and Reaves Park; identified and allowed grant opportunities for many neighborhood parks; construction of the Adult Wellness and Education (AWE) Center and Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC). Staff said some of the Recreation Centers (12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Irving and Whittier) are aged and in need of improvements. Staff felt the new Comprehensive Plan should identify the gaps between these Recreation Centers and the Multi-generational centers such as the AWE and YFAC. The staff has requested that RDG include funding resources in the new comprehensive plan and funding mechanisms to maintain the current and recently constructed facilities.

RDG highlighted ten development principles and asked the Committee which ones they wanted to explore when providing a strategy for improving the parks system and creating synergy with other Sub-Committees (Water, Wastewater, Housing, Transportation, Stormwater, and Land Use). The Committee discussed and gave RDG the principles they felt were most important. Ms. Hanson said RDG would apply those development principles in the future and provide an update at the next meeting.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Hanson said the next Committee meeting is April 9, but RDG does not want to lose momentum. RDG will email updates every other week, beginning with data from today's interactive survey and activities. Ms. Hanson said the updates would include information on March workshop opportunities, links to a virtual binder, and "homework" so RDG can be more

prepared for the April meeting. Chair Lee Hall said the virtual binder link is a huge benefit that can be used to provide and study many sources of information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lee Hall thanked everyone in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

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Lee Hall, Chair