



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 08, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

1. Call to Order

Mrs. McWilliams called the meeting to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

Mrs. McWilliams lead the Pledge of Allegiance and asked Mr. Patton the lead the Invocation.

3. Roll Call

A. Luemma McWilliams - *Chair*

Bedford Smith - *Vice Chair*

Kathy Pepe - *Secretary*

Loree Knowles - *City Commissioner*

Larry Patton - *Member*

Anna Arnold - *Member*

Katrina Holt - *Member*

Ms. Busby preformed roll call and all board members were accounted for.

4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

A. Meeting Minutes from February 11th Meeting

Mrs. McWilliams asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes sent to them from the previous meeting on February 11th and asked if there were any changes. Ms. Pepe found corrections, one in new items section C the word.

Mr. Smith made the motion to accept the minutes with the one correction and Ms. Pepe seconded that motion. All board members were in favor.

5. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

A. May Event

Ms. Busby spoke about the May events. She first mentioned the Movie Night event on May 23rd at Barker Field. A Baseball themed Movie will be played, and the Ball League will have concessions open.

Next was the Doggie Play Day at the Dog Park on May 9th from 10am-2pm. There will be music, free treats for the dogs, hot dogs for the humans, and prizes to give away. There will also be a donation box to take up supplies for the local Animal Shelter.

Mr. Smith stated that he would be available for the dog park event but would not be for the movie night event.

Mrs. McWilliams asked if there was anything else and Mrs. Arnold discussed hosting a Cinco de Mayo Celebration. She stated that she and Mrs. Knowles had been talking about an event

on that day for the Hispanic Community. Mr. Smith stated that this type of event had been mentioned many times before but never pulled together. He then asked where they recommended we do this event at and what day would it be on. This year Cinco de Mayo is on a Tuesday and the square was mentioned. Ms. Busby mentioned the back parking lot. Mr. Smith then went on to talk about the things that could be done at the event.

The Commission discussed the details about the event in further detail. Mr. Smith stated that he would talk with a few people about the event. Ms. Busby recommends talking to the people at the 2 restaurants in town and for those people to get back with the Commission by the end of week to see if they should move forward.

Mr. Smith recommended that we hold off to next year and put it on the calendar and having it the weekend before the date with the actual day being during the week. Then have food, music, and crafts.

B. Juneteenth

Ms. Busby stated that the event planning was coming right along. That the subcommittee was working hard to make this event better than before. Mrs. Knowles and Ms. Busby gave a few details about what was going to be there that day. Food trucks, vendors, games, and more.

Mrs. Knowles mentioned that the 3 on 3 basketball tournament had grown and may have to move that event to Saturday.

Ms. Busby stated that on the day the event, it would be from 12-6 at Gardenia Park.

C. Fireworks Event

Ms. Busby stated that this event would be held on July 3rd and asked about a time. From the years previous event, it started at 5 and the commission said that was to long. So they recommended the event be from 7-9.

Ms. Busby made known her concerns about the use of the West Hall parking area and the construction. She then went on to talk about some of the things that she and Phillip had discussed but had not set in stone.

D. Back to School Bash

Mrs. McWilliams then asked about the Back to School Bash.

Ms. Busby stated that the only weekend that would be available would be July 25th. She went into detail about working with Victoria and the Utilities Department. It will be hosted at the splash pad again with music, food and school supplies.

Mrs. Knowles asked about bags and stated that her work had changed some things and had ones that were still good and would bring them if they could use them.

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

A. Parks Report

Ms. Busby discussed the Daddy Daughter Dance and how well it went. The dad's turn out and the place was packed.

Next she went on to talk about Kite Day and the turn out. She stated that even though there was not much wind that day the event had a good turn out and the people seemed to enjoy the event.

She continued on to discuss the Easter event. The event had a great turn out and even having to move to the splash pad side of the community center the day turned out great. She stated that each age group had a grocery sack of prizes eggs, 15 bag prizes for each group, a set of

bikes for each group with helmets and with the extra money from donations each group had two premade basket prizes to give away.

B. City Manager Report

Mr. Grooms was unable to join us for this meeting due to other commitments

7. New Business

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

A. Second half of the year events

Ms. Busby went over the list of events that she had come up with for the rest of the year starting in August with a Movie Night at Arrow Mines Park on the 22nd, then a Movie Night in September at Gardenia Park on the 12th, For October there will be the BBQ Festival on the 16th and 17th and the the Haunted Trail Event at the Community Center of on the 24th. With Halloween falling on a Saturday this year she did not want to do the trail on that day. November will be Craft Day on the 14th and finally for December we will have Breakfast with Santa on the 12th. She did say that the dates could change if needed except for the October Events.

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

Mrs. Knowles informed the Commission that Arrow Mines Park had been vandalized and an active investigation is under way. She stated the doors had been damaged and one of the grills had been broken. Mr. Smith said we needed cameras and was told they had some there already.

She then asked for help with prizes for Juneteenth for Bingo.

9. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment

Mrs. McWilliams ask for a motion to adjourn if no more comments, there were none and Mrs. Knowles made the motion and Mr. Smith seconded the motion.