



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 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 and Mr. Patton lead the invocation

3. Roll Call

A. Luemma McWilliams - Chair Person

Bedford Smith - Co Chair

Kathy Pepe - Secretary

Loree Knowles - Commissioner

Larry Patton - Member

Katrina Holt - Member

Anna Arnold - Member

Mrs. Arnold and Ms. Busby were the only ones not in attendance.

4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

Mrs. McWilliams stated that everyone had been sent the minutes and asked if there were any correction, Ms. Pepe stated that on the second page there was a number 4 in the word may under the BBQ Festival section.

Mrs. McWilliams asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Smith made the motion and Ms. Pepe seconded. The vote was unanimous.

A. Regular Session - August 13th, 2025

5. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

A. Movie Night

Mr. Grooms stated that before he got started that Ms. Busby was unable to attend due to a death in the family. That he would read the notes that she had sent to him in case something happened.

Mr. Grooms read that movie night would be Saturday and that Ms. Busby would start set up around 5:30 at Arrow Mines Park. That the new Smurf's Movie would be played and that she would pick up waters, cookies and would have popcorn. The movie would start as soon as it was dark enough to see the screen.

Mr. Smith stated that he would be unable to help Ms. Busby due to other obligations that night and asked other members if they could help Ms. Busby that night.

B. Haunted Trail

Mr. Grooms read that the Haunted Trail would be on the 25th of October. Set up would start at 2 and the event will run from 4-6. Ms. Busby sent out letters to our local businesses and have already received several signups for the event.

Mr. Smith stated that he had talked with Ms. Busby that morning and all the spots around the front of the center are already full and that there had been several more spots filled and that several people had signed up for the chili cook off. He stated that it looked like this was going to be another great Halloween event and reminded everyone to bring lots of candy.

Mrs. McWilliams asked about popcorn and Mr. Smith stated that Mrs. Diane James stated that the Seniors Center would help again with popcorn.

C. Craft Day

Mr. Grooms read that Craft say would be the 15th, and that Ms. Busby had started to look for new craft ideas for the kids. He stated that she would get hot chocolate and cookies again and that Ms. Busby asked if the other board members found any cute craft ideas to send them to her and she would get the supplies. He stated that Ms. Busby wrote that she was good on paint supplies but may need to get new brushes. She had not been able to find the bin with those in it. Mrs. McWilliams stated that she would take care of the brushes.

D. Breakfast with Santa

Mr. Grooms read that Breakfast with Santa would be December 20th and that Ms. Busby was working to book our Santa and find a new back drop for pictures.

Mr. Smith asked if she had people lined up to help because her Mom was a big part of that event. Mr. Grooms stated that between Commission members and employees like Ted and David, we should be okay on help.

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

A. Parks Report

Mr. Grooms talked about the BBQ Festival, a meeting was held prior to the Parks Commission Meeting. He asked the Commission about fed back for the costume contest. Mrs. Knowles stated that Ms. Pepe would reach out to Donna, the prior Coordinator of the festival, about how they handled the contest. The Commission discussed age groups, prizes, times of signup and arranging the kids, and the time for the contest to start.

Ms. Pepe stated that she would do tags in different colors for each age group. Sign ups will be from 10-11, we will do a parade of kids through the vendors and start judging following the parade.

Mr. Grooms spoke about the Dedication of the Pavilion at Gardenia Park on October 4th, to Mrs. Celestine Wilson. The Parks is working with Mrs. Marva Hudspeth on this event. There will be a speaker and several other things during the dedication. Mrs. Knowles stated that the group helping with the event will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for the public for the event.

B. City Manager Report

Mr. Grooms stated that Arrow Mines Park Bathrooms are open and functioning and the cameras are up and working. The only thing left to do is to run power to the shelter. Mr. Smith asked if power would be done before movie night and Mr. Grooms stated that it was on the list but could not say if it would be done before then.

Mr. Grooms went on to speak about the Grant for the Community Center and that it was almost ready for bids, but that Landmark Tile Co has donated the tiles for all of the foyer and bathrooms for the upgrade. Mr. Grooms stated that bids would go out soon and that he was working on coordinating with everyone on being in the building during the construction process.

7. New Business

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

A. Gardenia Park Shelter Dedication

Mr. Grooms Spoke about this topic during the Parks Report.

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

Mrs. McWilliams asked if there were any comments from Citizens and there were none.

9. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment

Mrs. McWilliams asked if no further business for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith made the motion and Mrs. Knowles seconded it.