



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 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 at 5:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

Mrs. McWilliams asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance. Afterwards, she asked Mr. Patton to give the Invocation.

3. Roll Call

A. Parks and Recreation Commission Board Members

Luemma McWilliams - Chair Person

VACANT - City Commissioner

Katrina Holt -Member

Bedford Smith - Member

Kathy Pepe - Member

Larry Patton - Member

Anna Arnold - Member

Mr. Grooms performed the roll call, and all members were present except Mr. Bedford Smith.

4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

A. January Meeting Minutes

Ms. McWilliams asked if there were any corrections to the January minutes.

Ms. Pepe made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

A. Update on Bathrooms at Arrow Mines Park

Mr. Grooms stated today was the day for the bid opening for a contractor for the construction of the new restrooms at Arrow Mines Park. Unfortunately, there were no bids submitted. After some discussion with staff, we are going to advertise request for bids one (1) more month. If we do not get any then we are going to move forward with our staff constructing the restroom facility.

B. Current progress on the CCF Grant

Ms. Busby stated the city has not officially signed the contract for the CCF grant. Each of the members were emailed a copy of the grant proposal for their review.

Mrs. Knowles stated she thought the only concern at last month's meeting was the industrial kitchen.

Mr. Grooms confirmed the city has not signed the contract. He said he wanted to keep this business item on the agenda each month so we can continue to review and discuss the proposal. There are some requirements in the plan we must keep in there but there are some design plans we can make changes.

C. Update on Movie Night Event

Ms. Busby stated that the last movie night went well. She said it was the biggest crowd they have had in quite a while.

Ms. Arnold stated she received several comments from parents who said they heard about the event via messaging system with the school system.

Mr. Grooms asked Ms. Busby when the next movie night was scheduled.

Ms. Busby replied she was looking for a date sometime in March. She said several people have mentioned they would like to see movie nights each month. She is considering that following through with that suggestion and begin having monthly movie night at the community center. If they are not well attended, then she can just return to holding them at the parks like we do now.

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

A. New fencing for the land purchased near the Dixie Youth Fields.

Mr. Grooms stated he failed to mention the appointment of the City Commissioner to the Recreation Commission at last month's meeting. He said Ms. Knowles already served on this Commission and asked Ms. Knowles if she had been appointed by the mayor to continue to serve on the Recreation Commission.

Mrs. McWilliams asked for a motion to support the mayor's appointment of Ms. Knowles to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Patton made a motion to support the appointment of Ms. Loree Knowles as the Representative from the City Commission to the Recreation Commission. Ms. Pepe seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Grooms stated that we will add the election of the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary at next month's meeting.

Mr. Grooms stated the city purchased some adjoining property at the Brewer/Barker field on First Avenue. He stated the first improvement that will be made to this property is the city will add a fence as a safety precaution. He discussed the plans for that property in further detail with the Recreation Commission.

7. New Business

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

A. Daddy Daughter Dance Event

Ms. Busby stated preparations for the Daddy & Daughter dance is underway. Ms. McWilliams brought quite a bit of food for the event and Ms. Pepe donated the Hawaiian Punch for the event.

Ms. Busby discussed the plans for the Daddy & Daughter dance in further detail. She confirmed the Daddy & Daughter dance would be this Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 5-7 pm. She asked anyone wanting to volunteer to be there around 4:30 pm.

B. Easter Event

Ms. Busby stated the Recreation Commission members should have a copy of a letter that was sent out requesting donations to help with the Easter Event on April 19, 2025, at the Community Center. Several of the local businesses have been a lot of support in the past to help with this event.

Mrs. McWilliams stated she would donate prizes again this year for the event.

C. Fireworks Event

Mr. Grooms stated that he has been in contact with a pyrotechnician about a contract for our firework show that is scheduled for Saturday, July 5, 2025. We had one last year and it was a huge success. This year the plans are to hold the event at the community center. We have received permission from the Maury County Schools to use their property behind the middle school for the pyrotechnician to set up for the fireworks display.

Mr. Grooms stated will be starting the planning on this huge event soon. Ms. Busby will be heading the event and Main Street has been invited to help. He discussed some of the ideas he had to make this year's event even bigger and better.

D. Scarecrow Festival

Mr. Grooms stated the city will be partnering with the Main Street Association this year to hold what was once known as the Scarecrow festival. It has always been a big draw to our community, and we want to continue the tradition.

Ms. Knowles and Ms. Busby both agreed they had received a lot of feedback from people who wanted to continue this event annually.

Mr. Grooms stated we have a tentative completion date on the downtown renovations of June 15, 2025, but they have indicated it may be complete sooner than June 15th.

Ms. Pepe asked if the city would be having the mother and Son dance this year.

Ms. Busby confirmed the mother & Son dance was scheduled for March 22, 2025 from 5-7 pm. The mother and son dance normally does not have a big turnout as the father and daughter dance.

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

Mrs. McWilliams confirmed there were no citizens present.

9. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment

Ms. Knowles asked about the Juneteenth event this year.

Ms. Busby stated the city will be having the Juneteenth event again this year at Gardenia Park. Normally, we have hold a "water day" in conjunction with the Juneteenth event. We rent an inflatable water slide and set it up for the children to play on.

Mr. Grooms asked Ms. Busby to add the discussion on the Juneteenth event on next month's agenda.

Ms. Knowles said that she would be glad to help with this event.

Mr. Grooms stated Ms. Busby would reach out to you on the dates and times for planning sessions on the fireworks, scarecrow festival and Juneteenth events so this commission can be a part of the planning process.

Mrs. McWilliams stated that once we know what we want to do as a part of these events, then we can reach out to some in the community who help make this successful.

There being no further business, Ms. Knowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Patton seconded the motion and the vote in favor was unanimous.