

MINUTES
Goshen Parks and Recreation Commission
January 28, 2025 at 6:00PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen Parks and Recreations Commission was held on January 28, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Goshen Community Center.

Call to Order: Danielle Edwards @ 6:00

Roll Call: PRESENT - Danielle Edwards, Mike Nimmo, Linda Moore,

6:07 - Nathan Snipes

Approval of Agenda: Danielle Edwards made a motion to approve; Mike Nimmo Seconded;
All in Favor - None Opposed

Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2024 - Danielle Edwards made a motion to approve and Linda Moore seconded. All in Favor - None Opposed

Old Business

Master Plan Revisions - Mayor Stroud and Abby (Office Staff) - Tried to make Master Plan more concise and clear and to where City is at now and where City has been and incorporates all of the things the City has already accomplished. Instead of redline changes, most of the sections have been re-written and comments (of the Commission members) have been taken into account.

Mayor Stroud says that it's still pretty broad; for example, pickleball courts (as stated in the current master plan) may have their location moved and the Master Plan was written with directive for Application For Grant(s) but we also want to have a broader vision of the things 'we want to see' and 'where we want to go with the vision of the park'.

Mayor Stroud indicated that the city would like to have surveys of the park done every year to draw information as much as we can to see if there's change in perspective from the community or priorities we see that we really want to focus on. Danielle Edwards suggested that it doesn't seem so choppy and flows much better. Mike Nimmo added that it can be cut in half if it weren't for the repetition and it has to meet the requirements of grant applications.

Linda Moore asked about stocking the fishing pond (pg 20 of master plan) as being repetitive as it is mentioned on several pages. Mayor Stroud says, yes, it can be mentioned in several places because there can be several different avenues that can bring us to that topic. Mayor Stroud further explained with HUD funds, we can't go in and change things like riparian zones/rights because we have to work and coordinate with Game and Fish and remain in compliance with our environment plan. Mayor Stroud further explained that the master plan is a guide to see where we want the guide to go (in 10-15 years) and a tool to be used to apply for grants as well as a historical view.

Public Comment by Mary Smith contributing that the shallow pond is so prized because it's a spawning pond and she (Mary Smith) is hopeful we can maintain that; she suggested the larger pond (w/dam) for fishing. Mayor Stroud said that the ponds are already covered in the environmental plan.

Abby asked about the last page of the master plan and asked if any questions/concerns. Mike Nimmo indicated that if we can get some ordinances in the Master Plan, it would be simpler, moving forward, without having to go through City Council. Mayor Stroud suggested the Commission add them to the Master Plan now before it goes to Council.

Mike Nimmo asked about what is considered regular maintenance vs. new construction as he feels it is a gray area and would like to see clarity to prevent issues/conflicts in the future. Mayor Stroud brought up the example of a couple of trees currently in the park that need maintenance and agrees that they (trees) are considered 'regular maintenance'.

Linda Moore felt that some of Mike Nimmo's comments/questions written on the master plan were contradictory to ordinances already in place and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mayor Stroud would like a notation on the agenda stricken - "Review Ordinance Ensuring Master Plan Adherence" - indicates it's illegal and says it's a poorly constructed ordinance/way to make someone adhere to the master plan and believes the ordinance is bad. The Master Plan is a living breathing document that changes over time, which is what we are doing currently. Mike Nimmo agrees that these ordinances are redundant to what we already have in place. Danielle clarified that the maintenance of the park and the clearing of the trail is what we already have in place (maintenance program). All agreed that Abby will make a running list (w/in the master plan on pg 24) that has updates to each item (not complete, complete, not started, etc).

Vote to Pass to go to City Council was discussed but it was recommended (by Mayor Stroud) that if there are changes that the commission wants to see, it should not be submitted to City Council until that is completed and that once they approve the changes, they can do that via email. Commission is good with this.

Public Input by Ken Smith asked the question: how is the recreational park area treated (is it covered in the Master Plan)? Is it included w/in the master plan? Mayor Stroud says, yes, the 2.8 acres is BUT the 10 acres (on the South Side of Fire Tower) is not. Mr. Smith further asked if there is a design for a multi purpose court incorporated into the master plan (adjacent to the fun park)? Danielle is not sure if it'll be in that exact spot but it is incorporated into the master plan and the concept is covered in the master plan.

There is a Mills Branch Park South (Fun Park); Mills Branch Central (south entrance) and Mills Branch North (north entrance). Mr. Smith suggested that the 2.8 (fun park) acres be considered as a separate park from Mills Branch and that would help in distinguishing it for future grant requests (City Center Park or City Community Park - making 2 parks in Goshen - as suggested by Mr. Smith). Mayor Stroud added that it's been considered 1 park so that we could get the 'linear trail/connector' grant, connecting fun park to the middle south entrance.

Ordinance Establishing the Master Plan Process

Danielle asked for comments/concerns/statements. Mayor Stroud clarified that it goes to Parks and Recs for review and then master plan approved, then to Council for approval. Mayor Stroud also stated that looking toward future growth of the park, there are things that will need to change as those projects change and grow in scope.

Mike Nimmo made a motion to approve the Ordinance and Danielle Edwards seconded
All in Favor - None Opposed

Ordinance Ensuring the Master Plan Adherence is redundant (as stated by Mike Nimmo). Ordinance 204 establishes the rules for the park and any destruction of property is a state statute. Mayor Stroud doesn't see the point in this ordinance and there's no real purpose. Parks and Recs doesn't support this ordinance. Linda Moore feels that it ties the hands for doing anything at the park and is 'for' getting rid of it.

Vote taken that Parks and Rec does not support this Ordinance

All in favor - None opposed

Outdoor Parks and Recreation Grant Update

Grant received for \$207K. Mayor Stroud clarified that when the grant was written for the state, we knew this was the City's last chance to get the grant match waiver for the property so the City put in \$75K to purchase the property. So that \$75K is the portion of the 50% that we will not have to come up with. So if you take the \$207K / 2 and subtract the \$75K, the city is still left with \$28,500. The city still needs to come up with \$28,500 as part of this grant and will that will come from Capital Expenditures and is already budgeted.

Mr. Smith (Public) asked how much working capital do we have for a pavillion - Mayor Stroud confirmed it is \$207K. Also confirmed that any additional funds needed would be funds raised by the community.

New Business

Perimeter Around the North Parking Lot

Danielle indicated that there was a lot of activity over at the north parking lot on our snow day; in lieu of fun and trying to keep the grass preserved, there is a need to put a perimeter around the north parking lot. Mayor Stroud stated that there are options to creating that barrier:

Put in a fence

Put in steel post with chain (offering chain removal)

Boulders

Plant trees to create additional barrier

Mayor Stroud's preference is a fence (w/chain) w/additional barrier of trees

Mr. Smith (Public) says we don't have anything that shows Ordinance 204 (only maintenance vehicles with the city are allowed) and there should be a nice sign that addresses the components of that Ordinance so people can read it and know the expectations while they are at the park. Mrs. Smith (Public) and all others of the commission agree that we need signage and some sort of barrier. Mike Nimmo stated that he'd be in favor of steel posts with chain or cable to be able to remove easily for emergency vehicles.

Linda Moore asked handicap accessibility - Mayor Stroud said when the new trail is built, you will still be able to access everything

All agreed that there are many different areas that people can access the park and we can't barricade everything. Mayor Stroud says we can't do anything until Crawford Construction is done in that area.

Parks and Rec need to come up with cost effective measures for the perimeter and present it to Council for approval - Mayor Stroud confirmed - All want it to be aesthetically pleasing

Mrs. Smith (Public) expressed concern about the farm faucets getting hit by all the trucks that are working over there (on the south side) and feels a barricade with a lock will work best (when discussing what perimeter barricade is the best).

Volunteer Opportunities -

Danielle wants a volunteer day or clean up day around the City - thinking early Spring. Fayetteville HS has reached out to Goshen because students have graduation requirements for volunteer hours and they'd like to help. Abby (Office) suggested we can reach out to multiple schools to help with their volunteer hours for clean up around the City. The following suggestions were made where volunteering would be needed:

A suggestion to help at the Highland Gravel Classic;

Mr. Smith (Public) says there's 2 areas of Chinese privet to be removed (north side);

We also have invasive dogwood that sticks out;

The salamander pond has stuff (saplings) sticking out of it that needs to be addressed;

There's also below the larger pond there is still repairs needed (from a year and a half ago) above the ravine;

Rosie (Public/Student) confirmed that there is a platform (at FHS) where students can sign up for different activities and those groups are reaching out to cities to see what they need and then they advise the school.

The next meeting, the commission will bring ideas/thoughts for a spring cleaning day

Public Outreach

The City has to do so many hours of public outreach for Grants and indicated that we have to go to a group and ask them what their needs are. The Groups must be in Goshen. Mayor Stroud says we've done:

Senior Center;

Rust and Rubies

Goshen Farmer Market

A suggestion was made for the Goshen Riding Club

Mrs. Smith (Public) suggested the scout troop and maybe a book club;

The Historical Society

Linda Moore suggested the Homemaker Group

Potential to include homeschooling groups and potential 4H Groups;

Abby (office) said she can print out sign-in and comment sheets (for grant purposes). If anyone from the commission goes to any of these groups, Abby can provide the sheets to take with them so we can keep track so that the information can be provided in the Grant Application(s).

Outreach, by definition, is that the City has to go to the groups to see how we can help each other; not them coming to us.....

Public Input? Mayor Stroud thanked the group/commission for all of the work that is currently being done and what has been done in the past.

Rosie (Public/Student) thanked everyone for allowing her to work on the park entrance sign as her Eagle Scout project. The stone for the sign should be done some time in February (was supposed to be in the middle of January).

All agree that the parking lot looks great!

Mayor Stroud indicated that Fayetteville water was out today and marked the area for meters at the park.

Danielle made a motion to adjourn and Mike Nimmo seconded

All in favor; None opposed - Adjournment at 7:05pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor

