

MINUTES
Goshen Parks and Recreation Commission
March 25, 2025 at 6:00PM
Goshen City Hall, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen Parks and Recreations Commission was held on March 25, 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, Day Crowne, Nathan Snipes

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Stroud added Park Clean up day under New Business, Item D.

Mike Nimmo made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Linda Moore Seconded;
All in Favor - None Opposed

Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2025 - AND

Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2025

Linda Moore asked about the Master Plan and will there be an ordinance (as Mike Nimmo had suggested) to make it answer any questions that might arise (brought up in minutes) that it would be simpler if we had an ordinance incorporated into the Master Plan. Mayor Stroud responded that the ordinance would encompass both the Adoption of the Master Plan and Adherence of the Master Plan will be in one ordinance. The Master Plan will be the appendix that is referred to by the ordinance, essentially. Mike Nimmo added that City Council was ok with combining those two ordinances at the last City Council Meetings

Linda Moore asked for clarity on page 2 of January minutes in regards to Ken Smith (Public) comment, 'how is the park treated'? Linda Moore believes it was in regards to pesticide. Gina Swanson will go back to audio to clarify.

Mike Nimmo made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for January and February; Linda Moore seconded. All in favor; none opposed

Old Business

Master Plan Revision - Danielle Edwards spoke with Abby (office) and the only thing that has changed is how it is organized (the index); none of the contents has changed; Table of Contents now matches what's in each page.

Mike Nimmo says page 6 has a sentence fragment (Priority 4/Accommodation), 'future development of walk/bike paths providing improved.....Mike Nimmo suggests period after 'bike paths' and deleting 'providing improved'.

Danielle Edwards added that the only thing the City Council had to say/add about the Master Plan (Revision) was that the Table of Contents match and that everything else was ok. Mayor Stroud added that will be fixed.

Outreach Paperwork/Opportunities for Grants - Danielle Edwards was unable to get the paperwork to the committee due to personal timing issues but the paperwork should be done the week of March 31 and she will get that emailed out so that if the committee does have an Outreach opportunity, they will have the correct paperwork to do so.

Danielle Edwards asked about a Citizen Survey - Mayor Stroud says he believes it's a good idea to do a survey every year, if possible. There was difficulty with last year's survey because it was the first time it was put together. He'd like the committee to take a look at last year's (the way it was worded) and see how it can be improved upon. Abby (office) has it in Google Forms and can send the link for committee to access it to review. Mayor Stroud says it's challenging/difficult to tabulate, given the way it's currently set up and wants it to be more user-friendly and for people to pick options. Mike Nimmo and Danielle Edwards agree that it should be shorter - Mayor Stroud suggested about 10 questions and make them easy. Linda Moore asked for clarity (from past minutes) that the questions can't be 'suggestive' questions. Mayor Stroud suggested ranking from 1-10 (where would you like to see the money go to?); he also suggested that open-ended questions (what would you like to see once we have a pavilion - as suggested by Linda Moore) but difficulty is with tabulating the answers and they are anecdotal.

Linda Moore is hopeful to receive an approved survey at the April meeting so that Linda Moore will have it for her meeting that she is attending shortly thereafter. Danielle Edwards indicates that should be able to be done.

Danielle Edwards discussed a \$100,000 non-matched Grant (called a fun park) for any parks in the State of Arkansas (no-match) but we can't apply for it if we've received it in the last 5 years. The last time we received funds was in 2022 so we are unable to apply for the Grant.

New Business

Maintenance of Park - Emily Jost (Public) in attendance to discuss the Hay Contract. Mayor Stroud says that part of the requirements is that we don't affect any of the public area and run off from chicken litter is an issue (b/c of phosphorus); we can do other types of commercial fertilizer that wouldn't have run off. Ms. Jost asked about maintaining a buffer around it (where there's an incline). They hay down on the south side toward the pond and Mike Nimmo added that fencing is being removed (w/in the month) and that would possibly make it easier/safer for Ms. Jost to get over there and clear out some of that underbrush.

Mayor Stroud brought up Prairie Restoration and he is not comfortable with it, as Mayor, until we have better water supply at the park; he doesn't want that fire to get out of hand (too close to The Knolls). The purpose was to burn off a section and then go back in with natural prairie grass. There is still the ability to plant but it needs to be decided what is the right timing. Mike Nimmo asked Ms. Jost if this has been worthwhile for her as she's been the contract for 3 years and she says, yes. She says the access on the south side is much safer and hauling a trailer down the hill toward the chicken house pad is easier; it's been a learning curve and she appreciates the opportunity. Mayor Stroud added that Lacie (office) has a meeting on Friday (with Game and Fish) to discuss dredging the pond - they do not pay for it but we are going to get suggestions on how to dredge the upper and

lower ponds and what we need to do to be able to complete that in those riparian zones. Mayor Stroud further stated that we just have to go through Game and Fish for approval and get corroboration as part of the EPA requirement.

Mike Nimmo asked about the gentleman that is supposed to be removing the barbed wire fencing; Mayor said that gentleman is trying to get out there as soon as he can but that 3/3/25 was the last contact. Mayor further authorized Mike Nimmo that he can go ahead and remove as much as they want; Mike Nimmo has been gathering it up and putting it in one place so it can be picked up and haul it off. Mayor says seeing the part that has already been removed (near South entrance), he met with an engineering firm and they'll be drawing up the pavilion CAD designs (for initial bids) - there were 2 cedar trees that Mayor doesn't want them to worry about pulling out those posts (near cedar trees) because the engineering firm thinks the pavilion would sit very nicely there.

Fencing/Signs for Boundaries of Park - Danielle Edwards offered that as Spring/Summer approaches and kids play in the creek and that if we do remove the fencing there's a big cliff, and the people that are driving into the grass (for fun), she is worried about kids crawling up the cliff and falling (some is on her property) - is there some sort of sign or boundary that we can put up (no trespassing / don't play in this area)? Mayor Stroud says he took pictures of signs around Lake Fayetteville and he proposes where the park boundary is and that it is private property. Mayor will reach out to engineer/surveyor and have him come back out and mark it every 100 feet so that it can be further marked with posts (clear perimeter).

Mike Nimmo added that he (and committee members) would like to walk the trails this year and start thinking about directional signs that will lead newcomers to the park as it can be confusing and is easy to get turned around. He'd like to have signs that point back to the north and/or south parking lots. Mayor agrees to set 4x4 posts and get new signs made that identify where the trail markings are and/or what trail you are on. The committee has been tasked with providing input on what type of signs (directional) they want and get that information to City Hall and they will get them ordered.

Preparation for Highlands Gravel Classic - Danielle Edwards stated that when she came down to the Cinnamon Roll race, Bruce (?) asked if the grass was going to be like this (ugly/muddy) - as they plan on using that area as the 'starting point/entrance' for the race - Mayor met with Fayetteville water and went over clean-up plans and as soon as City of Fayetteville wraps up their part, Dave and Ivan (maintenance) will put grass seed and hay so that we can get that to start coming up (hopefully this week and next week). Mayor can't guarantee there will be grass but they will try. Danielle stated that it's out of our hands but hopes it will be better than what it currently is.

Danielle asked is the city doing the morning breakfast/snack for the race (she's been asked about volunteering opportunities)? The city is not as big of a part as we were last year but as far as the meal(s) go.....Linda Moore says she signed up online for the breakfast so that is something that Danielle can pass on to those that ask. As far as the race itself, Goshen is providing the Community Building and then mostly hands off. Mayor confirmed there is still volunteering opportunities but most is being run/handled through the race itself. He also stated that the City is getting more trash bins (that have been ordered) because there's a lot of trash with an event like this.

Mike Nimmo asked about a bike wash being behind the building and Mayor confirmed - also confirmed that port-o-potties will be onsite. The City is also working on getting a food truck to the site for the morning; Linda Moore will follow up with Sabrina (current food truck at corner of Hwy 45 and Blue Springs) to see if she can do it.

Mayor stated that the outlet for the 50 AMP breaker is installed on the pole for the food truck(s) (at community center) and we will no longer have to listen to generator being run. Mike Nimmo asked about more events out here during the Classic but Mayor indicates that we are moving that activity (bounce houses, etc) to 7/3 in conjunction with the Farmers Market and those funds will be allocated for that day/time for more of a Community Event.

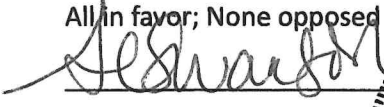
Park Clean Up Day - Mayor added this item because the City is working on a plan for spring maintenance at the park and will go all summer. Identified a lot of dead trees, areas where clean up scrub brush so that it can be mowed from the creek crossing to the north facing slope and that will be our new area where we install our disc golf. This is an area where we can keep the entire bottom area mowed and cleaned up enough so people want to play disc golf. Linda Moore asked about the Arbor Board being opposed to that area because people might walk on the bushes/plants etc., Mike Nimmo added that the Arbor Board said there are pollinator plants down there and that one section is not going to make a difference. Mayor says we are not doing anything to change the topography or damage riparian area(s) - believes the clean up could be a joint weekend with volunteers from local schools and collaborating with the Arbor Board (and they are on board).

Mayor proposes to shoot for the first weekend of May (for park clean up). Mike Nimmo, Danielle Edwards, and Mayor Stroud are available; Linda Moore will be out of town but can assist with prep work leading up to that weekend. Mike Nimmo asked if the City would be open to renting a skid steer to make job easier and quicker; Mayor says he'll talk to Wes McGinnis and ask if we can use his or if he wants to come and do it. Mayor says between now and then, Dave and Ivan will start to clean out that area.

Danielle Edwards asked about posting stuff on the FB Goshen pages (for this event) and Mayor asked for her to get with Lacie and Abby to get stuff on the City Hall webpage/facebook page. Mayor added about the volunteer site as well (the highschool has that). Mike Nimmo pointed out that some students have restrictions on what they can (or what they are allowed) to do (can't get in a car and ride with someone, etc). but he knows that Lacie is on top of it and is working to clarify on those (potential) issue(s).

Public Input - None

Linda Moore made a motion to adjourn; Danielle Edwards seconded
All in favor; None opposed - Adjournment at 6:50pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor