

**MINUTES**  
**Goshen Parks and recreation Commission**  
**May 20, 2024 at 6:00PM**  
**Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street**

**Call to Order:** Kyle McGurk called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Roll Call:** Kyle McGurk, Caleb LeBow, Mike Nimmo, Danielle Edwards were present. Adam Walker was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mayor requested to move FY2024 Parks Budget Report from Staff up under Old Business above A. ARDOT and B. HUD Updates. Caleb LeBow motioned to approve the agenda with changes. Seconded by Mike Nimmo. All in favor? Yay (4). Opposed? (0). The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** February 27, 2024, March 25, 2024, and April 22, 2024 minutes. Caleb LeBow motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mike Nimmo. All in favor? Yay (4), Opposed? (0) The motion carried.

**Old City Business:**

**FY2024 Parks Budget Report from Staff:** Mayor Stroud presented. We have for roads and parking lots \$20,000. We used \$1,390 for gravel is what we've used so far for parks. So, we have \$18,610 to use to get this project completed on the south entrance. We've spent \$11,724.32 this year. And park maintenance, we've already spent \$6,723.86 out of the \$6,000 budget. So, we've gone over the budget for maintenance so far. Portable toilet rental, we have \$2,000 in the budget. We're at \$4,696. And that's going to be for park on par. And this is as of April 30th. And so that's going to be on par for our \$2,000 budget because we must pay for that toilet that's at the north entrance. Tree surface expense we removed because that got moved to Arbor Board because they volunteered to do that. And then the lease of the land, we put \$10,000 in. We reduced that in the budget to \$5,000 because we know that we're not going to end up using all of it. We don't think we'll use all of it because we should have the land purchased by the end of June at the latest. So, we budgeted for all the way through until July. So, \$5,000 was the budget. We're at \$4,000.75. So, he's allowed us to pay every month. The Parks budget went \$56,000. To \$48,000.

- A. **ARDOT Grant Update:** Mayor Stroud presented. Luke was supposed to have the 100% final draft to us on Friday. We didn't receive it. So, I have asked Lacey to reach out to him today to see if we can get it today. I'm waiting on that to submit to Ashley and Menwa. So, once we get that, that's the only thing we need for ARDOT. So as soon as they get that 100% engineering design plan, then we can move forward.
- B. **HUD Grant Update:** Mayor Stroud presented. HUD grant. The only thing we're waiting on right now, there was a form that had to get sent. We initially had put out before the meeting, but somehow it wasn't done in a correct way. Somehow, I don't know exactly. So, Lacey and Ken got together and resubmitted that public hearing. That ended last week. And then immediately after that, she sent the form that was submitted down to Little Rock for them to approve it. Once we get it back from Little

Rock, then it goes to the feds. And once we get that approval from the feds, then we're ready to submit for the funding. So, it should be, both of those hopefully will be before the end of the month. So, Phase 2, Luke had agreed that he would try to help with some of the engineering drawings. We haven't received anything. I put it together on Google Earth and just drew it out and measured how many feet it is. And we went off some of the bids from last time. You know, excavation, surfacing, all those things that came in with kind of a price. So, we are applying for their part \$380,000. That would include a 1,400 – 1,500 foot – it was 1,500-foot paved trail that goes from the chicken house pad up to the entrance of where the pedestrian access is on easement. And then it cuts back and goes around the bottom of the salamander pond and then back up to where we hopefully will build a trailhead slash pavilion bathroom. So, that's going to be the Phase 2 that we're applying for, the ARDOT TAP grant Phase 2. And that is due at the end of the month. And we have we've already filled out most of the paperwork that's needed for that. It's all online.

- C. **Academic and Research and Plans:** Kyle: Mary's come and has had conversations with everyone with regards to collecting plants for academic purposes. I think, as I understand it, they've all been told to coordinate with City Hall. Danielle: The main thing is that they're checking in with City Hall. They're letting them know what they're doing, what they're taking. The city knows what's going on, the police know what's going on. That's it. That was my concern. Caleb: If they coordinate with City Hall, it doesn't seem like it's a big enough deal yet to necessarily make it a resolution.
- D. **Group Use Guidelines:** Kyle: I think the same that covers group use guidelines. They're the same thing. The discussion divulged last month or two months ago from the collection to, well, all these groups are here. The process should be for groups using the park to notify City Hall as a courtesy and to use the park.
- E. **Highland Gravel Classics Lessons Learned:** Kyle McGurk presented. I thought it went very well as a whole. There were some things that we learned and some things that we would have done differently. Danielle: I thought it went well. It was great. I don't think that as the city it made any money, you know, as far as, you know, that's something that we need to learn from is how can we pull money into the community or into our park's funds with something like this, whether it's a t-shirt sale or games for the kids that they're playing or some kind of income that the city's benefiting from. That was my concern. But, I mean, I didn't expect that to happen this time. It was kind of let's see what happens type thing and then go from there. Kyle: From the standpoint of the meal prep or anything, is there anything you guys would do differently? Danielle: I thought it went well. You know, they were talking about, because the city had to, you know, buy all that product, we got a little bit of grants from Sam's. Sam's gave us like \$80 or something like that. I don't think it was a whole lot. We ended up spending like, don't quote me on this, but \$600, something like that along those lines. You know, so I don't know how we could offset those costs or, we have food trucks out here and they give, the riders a discount price and everybody else buys their favorite. I'm not sure how that works but offsetting the cost. Kyle: The food truck struggled to make it worth their time being here as it was. Mike: Yeah, I think at one point they were ready to roll it up and go and then they got, there were a few people that went over there but, overall, I don't think it was worth their time and given the circumstances that we had that day, I doubt we could probably get them to come back for the next one unless we weren't serving a meal. It sounds like we're taking it for granted that we're going to do food next time and lesson learned is that we had a few

people put in an inordinate amount of time and effort and expense on behalf of the city for something that we really are not getting any return on the investment. My point is that I think, personally, that it's an unreasonable expectation on behalf of the promoter that the city would feed four or five hundred people at their event, which they're profiting from. I mean that's, there's something I'm not seeing here, but I didn't see where the city really benefited from that, and I think it's an unreasonable expectation on behalf of the promoter to even ask the city to do that. Kyle: They did ask, and I think the city did agree to do it for the first year. Mike: The fact that we did it, great, but we're talking about lessons learned and I think maybe that might be a lesson that we could look at for the future and say, you know, no, I mean, whether they're here for the race or not, they've got to eat and most of these guys are from out of town, they're going to have to pay. So, it was a good gesture on behalf of the city. I think everybody that was involved with it had a great time doing it. Kyle: I think it's a tricky call because did the citizens of Goshen benefit from it? Did the city financially benefit from it? It's hard to say for that one-time event, probably not. It had an impact, negatively for community members because there were some traffic delays. I think we could have done a better job to bring people in, but also a lot of people out here just don't want big crowds. So that's a challenge, but I think how I've approached the situation is like it's one of those give a little bit to take a little bit kind of situations where if we kind of extend ourselves into this community a little bit, there are big funders that are out there that see that as goodwill towards the cycling community and it provides us opportunity to use that goodwill in future potential grant matches and that's where I've seen... If we give a couple thousand dollars here or there at a time, that could go a long way. Like what Russell was talking about, the potential grant would see matches from the runway group. That's where that benefit would come back to the city at that time. And is that a guarantee? Absolutely not. But it's still something else you could put on a grant application. I would rather see that if we're going to be doing community events like that, that it's something that benefits the community coming out to participate in it. Caleb: If we marketed it as not just a bike race, but a community event, and, you know, like if there are games for kids, if we even, like, brought in the farmer's market. So, if we were looking like... If we basically set it up in a way where there could be local vendors, even if we talked to the folks that put it on, effectively just said, hey, like, if you raise your prices \$10 to cover food, and then we could have multiple food trucks out, and then all the bikers had selection on what they wanted to eat as well.

### **New Business**

**B. FY2025 ARDOT Tap Grant:** Kyle: I don't think there's really anything that we need to discuss about that, other than there are some amendments happening to the master plan, and if that's going to be included in the grant request, I do think that City should pass that by us before submitting it. So, does anybody in the opposition like requesting that of City Hall? It would be an email. Caleb: So that's our internal grand plan, that's not what John Beneke has to update, so it doesn't require, like, architectural services or landscape architecture? Kyle: So, John Beneke's graphic is the park development plan. Which is, I guess, park development graphic. And that's separate from the document, which is a master plan.

**C. FY2025 Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Grant:** Kyle: I wanted to just be a discussion that, again, that's due in August. If we don't apply for it, we're leaving an opportunity on the table. I don't want to save money on the table because you don't know if you're going to get it. Danielle: We need to submit something, because he said that this is the last time we can use the match. Kyle: The project that had been discussed was the pavilion gateway. I know there's a lot of improvements to this park that we could make with those funds. The challenge is the structure of the application, what the state's looking

for. Caleb: I think that's the biggest question is, my understanding right now is that if it's not a bike project, you may as well not apply. Is that what everyone else has gotten? Danielle: That's what I've seen, who's gotten money. Caleb: So, then I think that really kind of begs the question of, do we want to? I mean, it might still be worth doing something. And just even if we just call it, like, bike paths, you know, or something out in the city and marked up something quick like a PDF. But I don't know. I think what's most wanted is the multipurpose court and the swings. And the second would be the pavilion. And we can start to have a really nice place for schools and folks to be out there and enjoy that. And, I mean, the third is kind of there's not a whole lot else in terms of big picture stuff that fits their guidelines. And neither of those really seem too either. Well, they fit it on paper. I mean, I don't know. We've got 30 out of 32 points that have been shot down. Kyle: I think the branding of the trailhead location, pavilion and bathrooms as a trailhead that would be, like, a recreation roadside. Essentially. We'll need to work with the new city employee on these grants.

**D. Upcoming Outreach opportunities:** Kyle: Let's just skip outreach opportunities.

**E. Goshen Parks /MBP T-shirts/Fundraiser:** T-shirts were discussed, no one was in favor.

**F. Park Rules (Hours) for Winter and Astronomy Uses:** Kyle: So, this is something that's come up quite a few times with regards to astronomy, is that we have stargazing in the park, but you can't use the park after dark. And I know there has been enforcement of winter use for nefarious activities & using it at night, overnight at Mill Branch Park. I don't know if that's really been an issue here because it's more lit and things like that. I know from my perspective, just speaking personally, I like to run, and that's really the only safe place in Goshen to do it. When I get home from work in the winter, I can't legally run in the park, even if it's between hours five and seven, right? I think there's a lot of valid reasons why you'd want to be at the park after dark, in the winter especially. I just want to get the conversation going about, is there a desire, or what are the downsides of saying 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or something like that? Caleb: We just add an asterisk and say you must have a light on you, so that you can't be just out in the field in the dark. You must have a glow light or something on you that's on. Daneille: Just extend our hours, and I'm going to say 10 o'clock or 9 o'clock, there's not going to be anybody running past then. I mean, nobody's going to be running past 10 o'clock, or nobody's going to be stargazing with their family past 10 o'clock. Or just leave then from dawn to dusk as they are now.

**Public Input:** None

**Adjournment:** Mike Nimmo motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Seconded by Danielle Edwards. All in Favor? Yay (4). Opposed? (0). Adjourned at 7:27

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**Chairman Adam Walker**