



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

4:30 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-18:062](#)

Minutes for the Public Services Committee meeting on June 19, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson Bobby Long, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson; Charles Frierson and Ann Williams

4. New Business

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales said, basically, I put together a PowerPoint that is going to be a lot of pictures of things that we have done this year so you can get an idea of what those projects look like at this point. From there, it will transition into some of the needs and goals for Parks and Recreation with a map that we are working on to try to show you what we are doing with the Parks and Recreation website on the City of Jonesboro website, so you can see that we are trying to create an interactive map for everyone.

Mr. Kapales said, to start off, Craighead Forest Park is our biggest park and it takes up 50% of our park land. This park never had flags, so when we completed the roundabout, we landscaped it more with rocks and mulch and added the flags, which made it a center point when you pull into the park. The ATV park was originally a chat parking lot and we added asphalt with a curb lot so people with trailers will have a good surface to unload to get into the ATV park. Another addition to Craighead Forest Park was the pump track and the skills course. I have been out to Craighead Forest Park many times and saw the pump track being used by bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades and people of all ages, which has been really nice. We were given a \$36,000 grant from the Rotary Club this year, which helped replace all the windscreens

and a lot of the play equipment at the Rotary Centennial Playground that had been damaged or wore out. Using capital improvement funds, we were also able to replace all the concrete blocks with a concrete wall and new fencing, which made it much safer for the kids. The older wooden directional signs were replaced with new signs featuring white letters that allow for easy viewing during the day and night.

Earl Bell Community Center has recently gone through a lot of changes. The old precast has been removed and replaced with new precast. New doors have been added that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA. There was an ADA ramp that came from the center of Earl Bell and ran out into the middle of the road. That ramp has been replaced with ADA compliant ramps on both sides of Earl Bell, which allows for a safe location for those in a wheelchair to get up and down the ramp.

A lot of stuff has happened at Joe Mack Campbell Park this year, as well. New turf is in place on many of the fields and it looks very nice. A new concession stand has been completed and we did the final walk-through this afternoon. Southside Softball Complex has also seen a lot of changes this year and in the last few years. The Advertising and Promotion Commission had provided money for Parks and Recreation to go in and put up block walls at the base of all the backstops, new fencing and all new nets. So, it is now a much cleaner and safer environment. City, Water and Light helped us install new lights on the parking lot. Prior to installation of these lights, there were only two spotlights on poles on the backside of the parking lot and that was it. So, it was really an unsafe location for those walking out to their cars. New lights were also installed on the fields to replace the old wooden poles that were bent and twisted.

The Bike/Ped Plan has been given to us and we are planning a public hearing from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on October 30th, in the lobby of City Hall. This plan will provide a clear, connective and safe pathway through Jonesboro for those wanting to walk, run or ride a bike to work, to the hospital, to school or to visit family and friends.

Mr. Kapales said a couple of things that are in the process right now include Craighead Forest Phase 3 Trail and the Earl Bell Dog Park. Work began on the Craighead Forest Phase 3 Trail on Monday. The Earl Bell Dog Park should be done before Thanksgiving. The ground has been broken and leveled off. The plumbing and lights have been completed, and a sidewalk has been built. We are waiting on fencing. Once the fencing is complete, then the sod work will be done and a roof will be placed on the pavilion. We are very close to having this park finished.

Parks and Recreation is working on an interactive map that will allow people to locate the different parks in Jonesboro. They will be able to click on a link that will provide information on the amenities within that specific park. However, there are several areas of Jonesboro that do not have parks, so we need to be looking in those areas for locations to make sure that that part of the community that is not being served, is being served. I know the map is one of the things this committee wanted to see and I'm hoping this map will give you a better clarification of where our parks are located and what our needs are in Jonesboro.

Chairmember Chris Gibson said just out of curiosity, what is the labor savings on the turf we have put in at Joe Mack Campbell Park? Mr. Kapales said as far as an overall number, I couldn't give you a number right now, but I can get that for you. My employees are not having to drag and rake every day for all the events. They are able to put more time into some of the locations that people felt like they were not able to put the time in, such as the soccer fields. They have been working the soccer fields and making sure that location looks better. We always have issues with the soccer

goals getting wore out. Now, they have time to actually go in and re-sod those locations because baseball doesn't have to be drug that day. As far as an overall savings, I can't give you that, but if you go out to the parks, you can see it in all the extra projects we are able to do to make the parks look much nicer.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said I just have one question and Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway might have to weigh in on this, too. For areas such as where the old YMCA was and where the city pool is located now, I think it would be great to have that place back open. Mr. Kapales said I agree. Councilmember Hafner said growing up near there, it kept me out of a lot of trouble because I had somewhere to go to get all my energy out, positively instead of negatively. Hopefully, we are looking at grants to get the old YMCA back open. I think there are grants already being used for Northside ballpark. Above and beyond Northside, in that part of town, if there are grants available for recreation in places that don't have it that need it, hopefully, we're not leaving any stone unturned. Mr. Kapales said I don't think that Ms. Calloway is leaving anything unturned. I think she is looking into all aspects. I do believe that the old YMCA is what I would consider a community center in an underserved location that we need to at some point figure out how to get that facility open and right for the community. Councilmember Hafner said I don't know what it would take to get it back in condition to be open for basketball, but I know that there's a basketball court in there right now that could probably be renovated for maybe not a whole lot of money so people wouldn't have to go to Earl Bell, Allen Park or Parker Park.

Chairmember Chris Gibson asked JET Director Michael Black to give the committee an overview of JET services. Mr. Black said we had a very good year, so far. Our actual ridership numbers were about 5.9% above where we were last year. That kind of surprises me since we were like at almost 19% above the year before. Our paratransit is up quite a bit. We are 19.5% above where we were last year. Of course, we did not advertise this, but we did open paratransit to the entire city. This stopped calls to Mayor Harold Perrin's office with people needing rides to doctor's appointments, dialysis and things of that nature. We do have several projects going on. Our lighting project is beginning to wind down. We have got most all construction done. I think we have 11 yet to certify, as far as ADA compliant on the stops. We have three signs to move and one sign to completely remove and that will be pretty much a wrap up on that. We have kicked off our 10-year transit study. We have done the surveys and had them out for about 45 days. We got those back in and sent back to the Alliance Transportation Group. They are in the process of analyzing the surveys and putting all the information together. We should have that information late this month or early next month. I met with them at the Arkansas Transit Association, ATA, conference last week and we went through several scenarios, primarily cost-neutral scenarios, to make the system more efficient, and they have some very good ideas. I think the cost-neutral scenarios in the beginning, of course, would be the way to go. They're going to have about seven different scenarios that will cover expected growth within the next 10 years. We hope to have a full report from them by the end of December. We have our Red Wolf Express that we run for all the Arkansas State University home football games. For the three games so far, we've transported 689 passengers out to the games and back. One hundred sixty nine of those were on a rainy Saturday, which really surprised me. Two hundred twenty six were from last Tuesday. That is very good for a weekday home game. I'm anxious to see what Thursday's numbers will be.

Chairmember Chris Gibson said I made mention at the last City Council meeting about extended hours for the voting polls. Are we going to be able to accommodate that? Mr. Black said yes sir. I have done some checking and there are seven voting polls in Jonesboro. We will be able to service five of those. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to

7 p.m., and we don't go out of service until 7:30 p.m. Another thing we are looking at is that somebody suggested giving people free rides to the polls. We can't really do that because what we do for one then we have to do for all. I did speak with several different transit agency directors and executives at the ATA conference last week and there are quite a few in the state that are giving a free ride day on November 6, for voting. Chairmember Gibson said so everything would be free across the board. Is that what you're saying? Mr. Black said everything would be free across the board. It would be just like the national Dump the Pump Day, but anybody wanting to go vote could get on the bus, ride to the poll, get back on and go home, at no charge at all. Chairmember Gibson said okay.

Councilmember Hafner said if we want to do that, what do we have to do. Do we just announce it? Mr. Black said we would need to advertise it. We could begin that tomorrow. Councilmember Hafner asked if Mayor Perrin had to approve that. Mr. Black said Mayor Perrin would need to approve it. We have discussed it in our Monday morning meetings before. It has not really went any further than that, but that is one option. Chairmember Gibson asked what type of revenue loss would we be looking at for just that one day. Mr. Black said generally, we will take in somewhere between \$450 and \$600 through the fare box in a day's time. Really, if you look at it on the grant side of things, it's a wash, because anything we receive through the farebox, we have to deduct from what we draw down each month. So, it would really be a wash, but it wouldn't show on our farebox revenue. Councilmember Hafner said I think that would be a good idea. I would support that. Councilmember Bobby Long said I do, too. Chairmember Chris Gibson said we'll bring that to council tonight. Do I need a motion for that just to make it clean? City Attorney Carol Duncan said I don't even know that you'd have to bring that to council. I think this committee could make a recommendation to the Mayor's office. Councilmember Charles Frierson motioned that a recommendation be made to Mayor Perrin that JET offer free rides to those wishing to take the transit to voting polls, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams. All voted aye.

[COM-18:069](#)

OVERVIEW PRESENTATION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BY PARKS DIRECTOR DANNY KAPALES

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Parks Overview.pptx](#)

Read

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Bobby Long, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson; Charles Frierson and Ann Williams