

**Parks & Recreation Board**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 16 – 4:00pm**  
**Parks Recreation & Civic Facilities Department**

- Members Present:** Wonda Berry, Valerie Brandt, Larry Douglas, Karen Foley, Joe Houts, Jerry Wilkerson
- Members Absent:** Bob Hatten, Keeran King, Jeremy White
- City Staff Present:** Jeff Atkins, Assist Director Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities  
Julie Noel, Special Events & Communications Coordinator
- Call to Order:** Meeting called to order Chair Joe Houts.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes reviewed, no changes, approved.
- Updates:**
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| <b>CIP Project Discussion</b>          | A draft list of possible CIP projects was distributed (they are listed alphabetically.) These ideas came from staff, community comments, and from the strategic planning survey. Jeff Atkins stated that our department would like the Board to review and rank the possible projects. These would then be discussed at March's meeting.   |
| <b>LWCF Grant for Playground</b>       | Park staff has submitted a grant application (\$250,000 matching grant) for playground at Bartlett Park. Unsure of LWCF's timeframe for awarding these grants will be hopefully we will hear by Fall.  |
| <b>RFP Monument/Statue Restoration</b> | This has been placed out for bid and we should have the bid results this week. Hopefully work will be able to be completed this spring. There is \$20,000 and plans are to complete as many of the statues within that amount as possible. Statues on project list are: Law Enforcement Memorial, Iraq War Memorial, Planting America, Chief White Cloud, Catch Me If You Can, Journey West, and Ft Smith Cannon's. The cannon's at Ft. Smith had been spray painted last year and we were removing the finish with the paint remover we were working with. Ideally we would like to have the statues done annually and are hoping to work on a plan for the future. |
| <b>MPRA Conference – March 7-10</b>    | Chuck Kempf and Jeff Atkins will be attending the conference this year in Branson, Missouri. Jende Smith, Aquatic Supervisor, is also attending as well as instructing a session.  |
- Upcoming Events:** List of upcoming events will be distributed along with minutes to members.
- Winter Month's Meeting Schedule** Board Members were surveyed, received 8 out of 9 responses. Most board members will be in town. The only issues may be February, March, April, and December. No changes to the schedule will be made at this time.

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CITY CLERK

**Open Discussion:**      **Miscellaneous**      Blacksnake Creek Project – city has obtained the land needed by imminent domain. The project will be all underground.

Kenny Reeder – Mr. Reeder stated that Blacksnake Creek Project is horrible and should never be done the way it is being done. Antiquated programs and we should give us back the open waterway. This had been proposed and shot down. Clean water at Karnes diverted 3 miles doesn't have anything to do with flood control. Sewer bills are \$40-\$50 in a vacant property and will double rates within 5 years. Petition started to put to a vote on this project.

**Adjournment:**      Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**Next Meeting:**      February 16, 4:00pm, Park Administrative Office

Respectfully submitted – Lori Frederick, Administrative Specialist, Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department