

MINUTES
Goshen Parks and Recreation Commission
April 22, 2025 at 6:00PM
Goshen City Hall, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen Parks and Recreations Commission was held on April 22, 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: Linda Moore added Email from Ken Smith (herbicide usage and cleaning of the park)

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

Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2025

Mike Nimmo made a motion to approve the minutes as prepared; Linda Moore seconded. All in favor; none opposed

Old Business

Herbicide and Clean Up of the Park - Danielle Edwards stated her understanding/position of the Parks and Rec Committee; as a board, we/she doesn't know all that goes on. Labor intensive of the park (she does volunteer along with Mike Nimmo) but other than that we are an advisory committee. Danielle suggested that Ken go to City Hall and cc them on email(s).

Mayor Stroud added that he had not seen the email until 4/21; Mayor met with AR Dept of Agriculture because there was an anonymous complaint that there was spraying going on in the park. Mayor instructed Dave and Ivan (Maintenance) to spray the poison hemlock along the north side of the north entrance (it's very toxic to children). The plant is a concern because a visitor might have a neurological impairment from the hemlock, whether ingested or touched. The seed/dust is a big issue.

Dave and Ivan have also been instructed and cleaning up the side of the creek with mowing and brush hogging. When Mayor met with the plant board, they went over pictures taken; there was no spraying on the actual embankment - some of the photos showed leaves that were curled; not that they had received direct spray but had spray that evaporated and gotten on those leaves. Mayor has not heard back from Little Rock yet - hoping to hear back next week. Mayor was told that the city would probably receive a warning due to the spraying being done under Mayor's chemical license; Dave and Ivan (unfortunately) took the wrong course to begin with (for the chemical licenses) but they are on track to finish the corrected class by end of May, 2025. Mayor is unsure what will happen to the current chemicals that were purchased under his license but Mayor says he can reimburse the city and use it himself. The City can re-purchase new chemicals when maintenance has their licenses. Mayor's main concern is the poisonous plant (toxin).

Linda Moore looked up Park Maintenance and Improvement Plan - if the State Plant Board is having an issue with City spraying close to the bank, the maintenance and improvement plan says "the creek and surrounding area spray up to the edge of the creek but not into it" and would that get us into trouble? Mayor Stroud said, initially, the city thought they could spray w/in 50' but when they went back to the Environmental Assessment, it's actually 300'. Even at 300' your chemical can still vaporize and end up close to the creek. Mayor and Plant Guy from Little Rock that there is no other way to remedy that. It takes 3 years of spraying to make the poisonous hemlock go away (if you're lucky) and the seed stays in the soil and keeps going for many years after. Linda Moore asked about the reference of the Beaver Watershed Alliance- a comprehensive environmental assessment; Mayor Stroud says it's referenced in the parks master plan (and maintenance plan) but it's not a part of the master plan.

Ken Smith (public) - Disagrees with Danielle Edwards about Ordinance 175 and the purpose of the parks commission and where to bring issues to. Mayor says city staff is responsible for the maintenance of the park. Ken Smith says he will cc City Hall moving forward but that it's his understanding that (in the past) the parks and rec took public input (at parks and rec meetings) regarding parks management issues and those were discussed at the meeting(s). He felt it was appropriate to come to the parks and rec first and raise the issues to give the committee a chance to know what the concern is before it was elevated elsewhere - but agreed that if City hall preferred, then he would take it to City staff and/or cc City Hall on email. Mr. Smith also suggested a policy from the parks and rec as to how citizens may raise issues (receive guidance on this process). Mayor Stroud re-iterated that if there's an issue with the maintenance that is being done by city staff, it should come to city hall and should go to the staff that work there and the Mayor.

Mr. Smith also addressed the stream side issue - the comprehensive management plan prepared by Beaver WaterShed Alliance was a fundamental document that we asked for on behalf of the city (Mayor Poe) for assistance in preparing a management recommendation for the Mills Branch property. That document was also used in the preparation of the environmental review required by HUD to receive the \$880K Grant monies. The document allowed the city to receive almost \$900K to buy 50+ acres as well as to build that north side parking lot. Within those documents it stated specifically stream side zones and that was covered in the memo to the committee; he (Ken Smith) hears what is being said about poisoned hemlock and that herbicide should be used but not along stream side, particularly w/in 15-20' of each side of the stream. There is volatility with it evaporating and getting on to adjacent crops. The main point Mr. Smith wants to make is that herbicides should be used BUT NOT up to stream side (that is a mistake).

The second item is that the stream side areas are the most important habitat for wildflowers and wild life. The roots go deep into the soil and hold the soil in place during flooding - we need vegetation in order to maintain and protect those stream banks. Ken Smith asks that these two key things be kept in mind. Mr. Smith says he's sent out documents over the last year for city hall and committee members - he asks that you (parks and rec committee) read the documents as they are educational. Mr. Smith would like to work together with the parks and rec committee as to how to rectify together with the committee.

Mary Smith (public) - In this effort to build the park, Mrs. Smith and others feel that cleaning out the stream side riparian zones is best to protect the water quality. Mrs. Smith urges that we (committee) review and not clear to the creek and maintain a minimum of a 15' barrier. BeaverWater says we've got to keep the disturbance in the stream to a bare minimum. Habitat and foliage to hold the soil needs to stay; if we are not protecting it, we can default our funds.

Progress of Projects in the Park - Regarding the pavilion bid, the Mayor has contacted a Kansas City company (Cedar Forest Productions) their bid being worked up on a pavilion w/mens and womens baths, fireplace in middle, concession area, cedar posts/cedar arched posts (two different designs and so there will be two different bids) - City will be responsible for septic and running electric and putting plumbing in. Mayor had a meeting with the State (last week) to not incur \$50K in engineering fees, they (Cedar Forest Productions) are fine working directly with contractor. The city will put it out for bid to receive other bids (based on the drawings from Cedar Forest); once decided on a bid we take it back to the State and get final revision of our budget. We can use \$270K to offset cost of the new match (from appraisal of parking lot property). They hope to have a selected bid by the end of next week.

6:24pm - Linda Moore left for her meeting

Water Crossing - Mayor: On bottom side of spring house, update on how we are going to put flat rocks instead of people walking on chocolate rock (dig some of that out) and wide enough to get lawn equipment across there; it looks natural, we don't disturb the water crest that's already growing there, and it's come out really nice. Anytime we do anything with any water way, we have to notify Arkansas Game and Fish. We've already had them out, they've looked at the pond, they've given us the assessment - and they've given us notice and they see the biggest issue is that there's no access to the pond; they want more of a road that goes over to it. Their recommendation is that if we enlarge any pond, we enlarge the upper pond. Mayor has issue with upper pond and topography and we may lose the pond because it may not hold water anymore. Ken Smith offered that the upper pond is critical and has all kinds of salamanders. Mike Nimmo asked if they (AR Game and Fish) were able to take a count or anything of that sort. Mayor says, no, they just give recommendations on if you're wanting to clean out a pond etc. Ken Smith added that UofA has extensive information on species and types and numbers.

Signage for the Trail(s) - Linda Moore wanted to have matching signs for all the trails; current signs are worn out. KaSeana has all the information and new signs will be made and put on 4x4 posts. Park boundary signs are also being ordered; waiting on surveyor to mark every 100-200'. Mike Nimmo mentioned that he still has the metal material that he was asked to haul off and he will bring that back down when they are ready for the new signs.

Update on Rock Signs - Abby (office) reached out to Gibson Monument regarding the north entrance rock and as of this week it should be started and ready and finished by May 1-5. Two additional rocks have been dropped off for the community building and the south entrance. The designs will be similar. Mike Nimmo asked about the other two rocks ETA finish and all are hopeful they will be done w/in the 2-4 week timeframe (June/July).

New Business

Volunteer Clean Up Day - May 3rd - Abby (office) believes flyers have been sent out to the local POAs; it was posted on Facebook and on Goshen website. Lacie (office) has created a volunteer page as well. Danielle will check with Lacie on Monday. It is from 8-3 and just 'show-up'. If students volunteer, it can only be 4 hours. Notation of items needed (gloves, closed-toe shoes etc) are on the publication(s). Mike Nimmo asked if Mayor will be directing what and where work is to be done. Mayor says most of the trees are already down and need to be cut up and hauled off and cleaning out the area for the disc golf. Ken Smith asked about some areas being cleaned out (Chinese Privet); Danielle Edwards says trying to get the area around the story-book tree so that we can get the disc golf set up. Discussion about the book give-away and if it's been active/visited; Danielle said she will stock it up with kids books and try to go every couple of weeks. Mary Smith

goes often also (about 1x per week). Danielle will make sure it's stocked moving forward. Mike Nimmo suggested moving it to the other side of the creek to be more accessible (currently have to walk ½ mile and would it be better to the north entrance parking lot). Danielle says she likes where it is currently as it gets people out of the cars and into the park.

Grant Update(s) - TAP Grant - Mayor Stroud says if we can apply again for Phase II, we can connect the trails to pavilion completely. Abby (office) says application is completed already and, yes, she will send the application. Ken Smith provided Linda Moore with maps of the city for the cemetery/historic society (points for Grants). Danielle asked for a copy of the maps as well. Maps were done by Arkansas Archeological Survey. Danielle will be attending the meeting (historic society in place of Linda) on 4/27 at 6pm and the maps will be a great addition to that presentation.

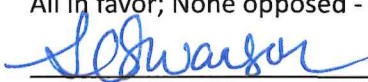
Disc Golf Course - After clean up day, the Committee will have a better idea of how everything will fit and go along the course. Evan Johnson (NWA Local Land Trust) will be a good resource and Danielle Edwards would like to have input from people like him/people that partake in the sport (he's big into disc golf and the community). Mr. Johnson will be at the clean up day so it'll be a good opportunity to visit with him at that time. Mayor would like to make the course permanent with posts, etc. Mike Nimmo offered after visiting the course at Lake Fayetteville, it's a little more involved then setting up baskets and putting flags for t-boxes; construction should be gravel or concrete t-boxes and it depends on how involved you want to get (simple vs. elaborate) and there should be two types of t-boxes, like golf (one for beginners and one for advanced).

Linda Moore returned from her other meeting @6:50 pm

Public Input - Nathan Snipes reached out to Morrell Targets (archery) and if we decide to add that, he'd be a great resource following the disc golf set up.

Mary Smith asked that the spicebush(es) (which are pollinators) don't get removed/taken out (on clean up day).

Danielle Edwards made a motion to adjourn; Linda Moore seconded
All in favor; None opposed - Adjournment at 6:59pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor

