



City of Warner Robins Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday January 16, 2025,

North Houston Sports Complex

Presiding: Vice Chairperson – Andre Carr

Board Members Present:

Sophia Schmidt, Hoy Thurman, Sherdan Crawley, Misty Carnell, Daryl Vining, Andre Carr, Jay Noble

Members Absent: Tracy Lemasters, Edgar Carson

Others Present: Michael Harp, Dedrick Early representing Warner Robins Parks Department
James Drinkard, City Administrator for the City of Warner Robins

Regular Meeting of Parks & Recreation Board

Call to Order: 5:07 pm by Vice Chairperson Carr.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Prayer

Approval of the Minutes from Regular Meeting on December 12, 2024:

- Motion to adopt by S. Schmidt, Second by J. Noble, unanimous approval.

Adoption of the Agenda:

- Motion to Adopt by S. Schmidt, Second by J. Noble, unanimous approval.

Announcements:

- S. Schmidt announced/acknowledgement of Michael Harp as acting director for the Parks & Recreation Department
- Question from J. Noble regarding flow of information, transparency within the department
- Acknowledgement of James Drinkard's attendance as City administrator
 - o Mr. Drinkard thanked Michael Harp for taking on role as acting director.
 - o Process to begin for identifying a permanent director, internal, external, nationwide search for candidates.
 - o Advised of goals for the city, based on his time with the City of Alpharetta
 - o Increased innovation, park spaces, park for each neighborhood, improving overall mobility for city residents, sidewalk connectivity to parks/library.
 - o Increased efficiency, communication
 - o Convention & Visitors Bureau to become own organization (501(c)(6))
 - o Proposed creation of Parks/Recreation/Cultural Services Department

- Overall improvement of the lives of the 87,000 citizens of the City of Warner Robins
- Reaffirming the Parks & Recreation Department as the department focused on the people.

Old Business:

J. Noble reviewed with the committee the recent recommendations that have officially been submitted to Mayor & Council

Access Card for Recreation facilities, had been set up for a Pilot, results of this are unknown at this time.

Ferguson Park ribbon cutting for renovated event space.

Dedicated law enforcement officer(s) for the Parks & Recreation Department

Public Safety Amendment for event reservation contracts

Additional fencing at Tanner Park

New Business:

Expiring terms of Committee members, it was advised by J. Noble that the names of M. Carnell, D. Vining, & E. Carson had been submitted as desiring for reappointment to the committee.

- Discussed meeting dates for 2025; motion **made to move the date of September meeting from 9/11/2025 to 9/18/2025**, by D. Vining, second by S. Schmidt, unanimously approved.

Nominations for 2025 Officers

- Nomination of Jay Noble for Chairperson by S. Schmidt, second by M. Carnell, unanimously approved.
- Nomination of Sophia Schmidt for Vice Chairperson by J. Noble, second by Hoy Thurman, unanimously approved.
- Nomination of Misty Carnell as Secretary by J. Noble, second by A. Carr, unanimously approved.

2025 Officers – **Chairperson – Jay Noble, Vice-Chairman - Sophia Schmidt, Secretary – Misty Carnell**

- Calendar access for the public to see when facility rentals are available.
 - Reaffirmed that rentals must have 3 weeks advanced notice.
 - Potential to use already required log in to access this information (potential recommendation)

- Safety Material to be installed on slides at parks (referenced to child seen climbing the outside of a slide at Ted Wright Park), tabled for future discussion.

Board Member Comments:

- Mr. Drinkard was thanked for his meeting attendance.

Next meeting: Thursday February 13, 2025 – N Houston Sports Complex

Adjournment: 6:12 p.m.

Name: Jay Noble
Secretary