



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2023

The Centre at University Park

Attendance: Matt Buie, Lauren Eldridge (Virtual), J.T. Ferstl (Virtual), Samuel Ellis (Virtual), Cannon Fletcher, Linda Smith, Mike Bernardo, Ben France, Director Capi Peck

Absent: Director Andrea Lewis, Ron Bara

City Board of Director Liaison: Director Andrea Lewis, Director Capi Peck

LRPR Staff: Leland Couch, Angela Nelson, Shawanda Robinson, Justin Dorsey, J.P. Rogers, Briana Hatfield, City Attorney Beth Carpenter

Welcome, and Introductions: Chairman Buie called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. He then proceeded to roll call and the approval of May's minutes.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes: Briana Hatfield called the roll, and Chairman Buie reported that a quorum in attendance was six (6) members. Chairman Buie thanked everyone for coming; Chairman Buie then asked for the May 24th minutes to be approved. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Citizen Communication: Chairman Buie yielded the floor to Mr. Don Evans so that he could tell the commission about the Little Rock City Parks Conservancy, of which he is treasurer. He also added that Chairman Buie is also the Chairman of that organization as well. Mr. Evans explained that the mission of the Parks Conservancy is to provide resources and support to the Parks and Recreation Department to help beautify and improve parks throughout the city. In that vein, he was at the meeting to announce that they are gifting \$15,000 from the Parks Conservancy group to go towards the betterment of Little Rock Parks. The gift was made possible by citizens and visitors that have contributed to the organization. He mentioned that many of the commission meeting attendees were among those that donated, and he offered his thanks. He also noted that they would have a press release coming out shortly, and it will also be on the website, with specific pages to provide information on the progress that's being made on Parks projects. Just for reference, the website is cityparksconservancy.org. If you want to keep up on what's happening, that will be a great site to reference. He presented the check to Leland already, and he thanked the Commission for allowing him time to speak. Mr. Evans hopes this is the first step toward getting the organization back up and running as a meaningful part of Little Rocks Park and Recreation. Chairman Buie thanked Mr. Evans for his time. Chairman Buie then introduced Mr. Cody Lorge who was visiting and taking in all things Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Buie then called for any staff reports.

Staff Reports: Director Couch asked Deputy Director Angela Nelson to begin staff reports with Resource Administration.

Administration

Deputy Director of Administration, Angela Nelson, informed the commission that they are gearing up and starting their Summer Playground program. She continued that supervisors have been really successful in filling positions for all assigned areas and made sure that everyone was within their appropriate budgets. The department is also interviewing for an Administrative Assistant and filling other positions. Maintenance and Recreation are moving forward with their positions, with a few being filled. The department is also working on the Parks handbooks, which we try to update every two years, if possible, with the participation of all managers on board. The department has to deal with changes and make sure that everything complies with the city's policy and procedures guidelines. On the payroll side, we are adhering to change and are making a few changes in that area, making sure that everyone is on the same page. They will be conducting site visits to make sure that everyone complies. In the finance area, they are staying abreast of the outstanding invoices if they run across any. This is very important for the department, because it is such a large department they get between 500-1000 invoices a month. They are continuing to work on the Statement of Value Inventory. This appears to be non-ending; however, they are going to try to finalize that this week. The department is also focusing on professional development. They had a chance to go to a Supervisor's Bootcamp on June 13th, they had five staff members to attend and learned some valuable information about conflict resolution, ADA, and diversity. This concludes Deputy Director Nelson's report.

Chairman Buie thanked Deputy Director Nelson for her report and then called for questions. There were none, so Chairman Buie gave Deputy Director Craig the floor.

Recreation

Recreation Programs Deputy Director Shawanda Craig greeted the floor by discussing the Summer Playground Program that started June 12th. They have about 207 children at the Dunbar Community Center, 120 at Stephens Community Center, 51 at the Baseline location, 27 at J.A. Fair, 19 at Washington Elementary, and 12 at East Little Rock Community Center, and the Summer Laureate Program has 100 children. The Therapeutic Recreation division's summer camp started, and that location is at War Memorial Pro Shop with 20 campers. This week they are focusing on all the rules and regulations of the program, making sure everyone gets acclimated to the staff and groups they are in. Next week they will be out in the community doing various field trips and activities. The baseball program started Monday night, and we have about 21 teams that are playing at the West Central Community Center. The concession is selling various things, like nachos. Tennis had the Little Rock Open from May 28th through June 4th. The Mayor spoke at the opening ceremony. There were about 75 players from various countries and states to participate. It was a major upset: Mark Lajal from Estonia was in first place. A 20-year-old not seeded player and that was a huge upset. It was a great tournament. Yesterday they just wrapped up the Southern 16s in the Rock. They had 225 boys and girls from 9 southern states play in that tournament, which is an important summer championship tournament for their tennis season. Jim Dailey has upcoming events. They are having the world's largest swim lesson on

June 22nd from 10 am-11 am, and it is free to attend. Jim Dailey is also having a late-night basketball program starting June 14th until August 11th. The cost is \$3 for 16 & 17-year-olds and \$5 for 18 and up. Also, they will have a Summer at the Pool on June 17th. They will be showing The Minions. On July 15th they will be showing Puss in Boots, and on August 19th they will be showing Top Gun. The cost is \$5 per person, and the gate opens at 7:30 and the movie will start at sunset. Anyone can go and participate in that. Make sure you have your swimming trunks and follow all the rules and regulations.

That concludes Deputy Director Craig's report. Chairman Buie called for questions. Commissioner Linda Smith commented that it was a great report and that the Recreation Department is so busy this time of year. She asked if the Summer Playground numbers were near what they were pre-Covid. Deputy Director Craig responded no, they were not at the school locations. However, at the Community Centers, they are nearer to those numbers and are still taking registrations. People have been slow to register, but they always wait until the first week passes and when they come back we will have higher participation in the activities. Director Couch added that Darryl Marbley, who is over at Summer Playground, mentioned that the school locations that are most popular with parents are actually under renovation and construction at this time, and this has thrown off our numbers a bit. Deputy Director Craig then mentioned that in the past they had about ten locations, but since renovations and other things going on, they were unable to get all the school locations that they needed. Commissioner Cannon Fletcher then asked if the locations that had low attendance were normal. Deputy Director Craig responded that it was because almost everyone likes to go to the Community Centers first. Once all those slots fill up then people trickle in to fill up the other locations. She also mentioned that they do have a few that are on a waiting list, but that they are trying to push them to go to another location instead of having them wait for a spot at an already full location. With no more questions, Chairman Matt Buie first issued a reminder that the proceeds from the golf tournament that the commission organizes go toward Summer Playground Program. He thanked Deputy Director Craig for what she was doing and then handed the floor over to Director Couch. He mentioned that West Central Community Center is still being utilized by FEMA and it will be used until the end of June. They will be looking to open that location in July after some cleaning and maintenance work. That also offset some of the numbers for their summer programs.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Buie acknowledged that Commissioner Ellis had joined virtually, and wanted the record to reflect that. He mentioned that Commissioner Eldridge was also on the call, and asked her to turn her camera on. Director Couch then handed the floor over to Operations, Deputy Director Justin Dorsey.

Operations

Deputy Director Dorsey started his reports by covering maintenance. He mentioned that this division is busy during this time of year with typical summer-type stuff. Since Memorial Day we have been operating and maintaining all the splash pads in the park. He has been seeing a lot of use, and it's been doing really well. Another big challenge that we have had this year is more recently they have been having to up how often they run their garbage truck from two days a week to three days a week. And that's still with the typical staff shortages that we have seen, we have been seeing a lot more usage in a lot more parks so we are trying to overcome that. We are up to running that truck three days a week through all the parks. We have been maintaining urban forestry in Murray. We actually have all our Operations division there doing a final push-

through this week. We met with FEMA the week before last to do a final walkthrough and finalized some of the final project lists with FEMA. So now we're doing the final push-through and tidying up and getting ready, and the next step will be bringing in contractors to do the rebuild and all of that. It is exciting to see progress on that.

The Design Division has been working extensively on, and I see that it is an agenda item later which we will talk about, a lot of the bond and ARPA projects have been pretty busy with a lot of meetings. It's been pretty time-consuming meeting with a lot of those different groups of engineering and architect firms getting ready to kick off and starting to kick off a lot of different projects.

With the Operation and Improvement crew, some of the projects they've completed since the last commission meeting: they've installed a new sign at Pankey Park, that new sign's complete. There's also a new picnic area at Riverfront. The only thing it lacks is paint, and that was supposed to be done this morning. It was primed, and it was supposed to be painted this morning, but the rain may have delayed that, but paint and waiting on the picnic table to actually be installed. It's a really nice area if you haven't walked down there and seen that, I encourage that. Also the Mud Run, I think they're going to talk about the actual event, but the guys completed the actual Mud Run course. That was a little bit of a challenge, but overall I think it worked very well. They'll be putting that back in place and making the area sustainable. Currently, they're over at Murray going through phase 2 of the banana sculpture, actually finishing out the plaza and sidewalk. Really dressing that area up so that'll look really nice. I know with the date change it was a bit shorter month, but if anybody has any questions?

Chairman Buie called for questions, and Commissioner Mike Bernardo asked about Kanis Park and whether there were any new estimated dates for the bridge. Deputy Director Dorsey mentioned that they had a site visit scheduled yesterday that the contractor had to cancel due to stomach flu, but they were able to get some dates. The footers are poured, and the crane will be onsite on the 27th to actually set the bridge. That's a 2-3 day process to actually set the bridge. The crane's ordered and he can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The crane has been ordered, and that is the date it will be there. Commissioner Bernardo also asked if there was an estimated date for the basketball courts. Deputy Director Dorsey responded that they are holding off because the overall project is still tentatively looking at the end of July or August. They are not pushing the basketball courts at this time. He thinks that it's pretty much ready, minus installing goals and stuff, but they're not really pushing that. He knows that parking is really restrictive, so until the bridge is done and roadways reopen, they aren't really pushing for that to be completed until near the end of the overall project. That's going to be a portion of the project that they save until the end.

Director Couch then added that their goal was to meet with the contractor onsite yesterday so they could give the group a firm and updated report. It was canceled last minute, and they have rescheduled so that they can have a clear understanding of the steps. They really need to move this thing forward. The contractors are discussing the fact that it's near completion that they just don't see it and that once they set the bridge, everything is going to come together. Director Couch is optimistic but is still concerned now that things aren't moving as quickly as they should be, but he is really excited to see it come to an end. He knows that Kanis Park users are looking forward to that as well. He wanted to add that and would like to cover a couple of other quick projects. Interstate Park Roadway Project, they are meeting out there at the end of this month

with a contractor to kick off that project, which is resurfacing really renovating the main park entry road, and the whole road system in the park. Also, a project that he's talked about for years is Boyle Mountain Biking. That's starting this Friday, he's having a kickoff meeting for that, so there will be significant improvements there. And then Western Hills is continually moving forward, they have a restroom that is going to be delivered in August. It is a prefab restroom, and we are continuing all our updates there. The playground and pavilion have been completed and they are all up and operational. Those are just some highlights, we have some other projects that are going to be coming out shortly and we will be able to get some new updates for next meeting. Chairman Buie thanked Director Couch and called for any other questions. He then asked Deputy Director Dorsey about the second phase for the banana sculpture. Deputy Director Dorsey clarified that it is the completion of the plaza surrounding the banana sculpture, which is basically connecting sidewalks to it. There is already the stonework and the pedestal that the banana is on, and now we're working on the actual fence work and sidewalk connections from the parking lot and actually connecting to the rest of the trail. Chairman Buie asked if there would be little bananas trailing behind later on. Director Couch mentioned that the goal when they installed the banana was not just for it to be an awesome sculpture, but it is also an entry location to Murray Park from the River Trail, and it's going to be adjusting the cross traffic that goes across Rebsamen Park road to the trail on the other side. It's going to be a real collection point for the park, and they're cleaning up a lot of little things down there. That whole project got pushed back because of all the tornado stuff, but the staff has been working a ton on the tornado stuff. Contractors are not doing all the work in the park, Parks and Rec staff has been doing a lot of the hand pickup. The utility aspect at Murray is the thing that has created the most challenges down there. They receive, almost every day, requests for Murray Park, and it is the goal to get that up and running as soon as possible. Director Couch knows that it looks very slow, but they lost all power along that corridor, so they are waiting on Entergy to reconnect their main system, which they've had rebuilt. Then the pavilions will come back online and the restrooms will come back online. Now they are moving forward with replacing all the roofs on the pavilions. It's been a long process, and Reservoir is a whole other process. Also Rock Creek corridor. They are working with NRCS, and they are providing funding for them to move forward with that. They will do a complete cleanup with that, but it is a whole other process due to the different parties involved. Director Couch just wanted to include tornado information in the update.

Chairman Buie thanked Deputy Directors Nelson, Craig, and Dorsey for all they have done month in and month out. With no further questions and no other staff reports, Chairman Buie shifted the agenda to old business.

Old Business

Chairman Buie opened the old business by asking if there were any updates or new information regarding the Bond and ARPA projects and gave the floor to Director Couch. Director Couch stated that he had mentioned a lot of it previously, and that if there were any questions, he would be more than happy to answer them. He said that they had moved on to another phase, so all the ARPA projects have been approved by the board in terms of the design process so they're moving forward in the design process with professional consultants looking at all the facilities. The goal is to get all of that designed out this year, with the goal of putting out bids at the end of this year or the first of next. With Bond, they've already started spending a little bit of the money on fleet acquisitions and designing playgrounds for the neighborhood parks and on and on. They

are moving forward and if there are any questions he is happy to answer. At this time Chairman Buie called for questions. With no questions, Chairman Buie moved on to the next topic: Scorecard analysis of park assets.

Director Couch explained that he was giving a vast analysis of the scorecard, but he needed a little more time to review everyone's input, and if you haven't all put in your input or are unaware of what he's talking about, it was just 2 recreational components, 2 programs, 2 facilities, and 1 miscellaneous. He appreciates everyone who already did that, and some of you might not have gotten the information, but he will take all his information and give a better report next month. Chairman Buie thanked Director Couch and then asked if there was anything else they needed to discuss regarding future dates in WebEx and usage. Director Couch said no.

Chairman Buie then moved on to the next order of business: upcoming events. Director Couch mentioned that Deputy Director Craig discusses many of the special events coming up in her report, which are actually dated in her report. They kicked off many big events this month, including the Summer Playground and other events she mentioned. One other big planning event is that Mike Garrity is working on their eclipse planning, if there are any questions on that, Mike can answer them, but they also have a workshop coming up next week on that. A lot of the projects and events that are coming up will have some groundbreaking and ribbon cutting, but nothing is coming up yet.

Chairman Buie also added a quick thank you to the Commissioners that came out to the Dunbar Gardens last month, and they appreciated seeing everyone there. Commissioner Smith mentioned that if they need any volunteers, she is very interested in the upcoming one on invasive species removal. She asked if they could add the upcoming volunteer opportunities to future reports so that we have the opportunities in writing. Director Couch agreed and suggested that they could even have the volunteer coordinator come and give an update on their progress. He then added that that's actually another event, that's not finalized at this date and thus not mentioned, but tentatively looking at July 15th at Boyle Park. The event is based around using volunteers to help remove invasive plants from our city parks. There will be more information about that.

With no further questions, Chairman Buie directed attention to the special guest that Director Couch brought. Director Couch then introduced Courtney Perry, the Safety and ADA Coordinator for the department. He handles many things and is detailed in all analyses. Director Couch asked him to give a report on security. Director Couch has seen parts of it but was looking forward to seeing the whole thing today. There may be more information here than the commission wants to get into or less, but if the Commissioners want to ask questions then they can go from there. At this time, Director Couch handed the floor over to Safety and ADA Coordinator, Perry.

After greeting the commission, Mr. Perry directed them to look at the screen as he ran through the information. The information he gathered was from the LRPD data portal from the years 2014-present. The green tags represent where the data comes from. From year to year, he extracted from that information all the reports from 2014-2023 that had anything to do with all the parks. The parks on the screen were grouped by wards, wards 1-7, and were color-coded for simplicity. Across from year to year, the header lists all the crimes common to all the parks. Breaking vehicles, theft of property, etc. At some point, they've had one or both or a few of these things happen at the parks, some of these more than others. For the parks that look blank, there

was no information to be found. That means those parks are that safe or crimes happened and weren't reported. The next tabs show individual parks, year to year, and list all the various crimes at all the parks. It has the incident number, the date and times, etc. We can use this information and ascertain that during certain times of the year or on certain dates, this park has this type of crime the most. We can use that information to pinpoint these things and look at prevention methods. All the tabs are color-coded by wards for ease of use. Director Couch then asked to see Mr. Perry's bar graph summary report. Looking at the summary report, it has a profile view, year to year, and see what types of crimes spike at the different parks. The different crimes are color-coded for ease of use.

Director Couch mentioned that even though there was not enough time in the meeting to go too far in-depth, he wanted to give the Commissioners time to ask questions and request the information to view later. Chairman Buie then called for questions, and Commissioner J.T. Ferstl first thanked Mr. Perry for the work that he put in to get that information. He then asked what he thought the top three parks he would consider problem areas this year. Mr. Perry mentioned that Southwest was one that really had issues with crime. Director Couch interjected and noted that Mr. Perry had brought Southwest to his attention, and that's their Southwest Community Center. He said that he started asking questions because there is a police substation there. They went into more detail and noticed that the police reports were reported by the police. So there might be a chance that LRPD is pulling back into their substation or something else. That is one example of an anomaly they are wanting to look into. This report allows them to look at the higher areas and see what the issues are and address them.

Commissioner Bernardo mentioned that one report he thought might be useful would be a line graph that shows the years or past twelve months so they can see if there is a trend going up or down with a line for each category. Mr. Perry responded that they can use that data to present information on whatever the commission is wanting to know more about. Commissioner Bernardo then asked Director Couch if there was something that they could do to help with those situations. Director Couch said yes, and then first asked Mr. Perry to create a line graph with the top three parks on it and then use that while working with Chief Hilton and figure out how they offset some of this and discussing whether the police were doing any reports similar to this or how can Little Rock Parks and Rec start providing this data to them and start working on those problem areas. Director Couch mentioned that in his experience so far, typically, once we start addressing those issues, the issues just move somewhere else. They've discussed addressing that with security, license plate readers, and video cameras. They've done a lot of different scenarios, but ultimately they're just moving the problem. So, they even discussed how to almost move with the problem. So studying some of these patterns is helping. However, they can't close every park, they can't put a security guard at every park; it's just way too big, with too many acres. It's a challenge, but this is helpful. Commissioner Smith asked Director Couch if Big Dam Bridge area parking was part of Murray Park. Director Couch replied that it was. She agreed that the crime was cyclic and mentioned incidents near that trail. She noted that since that area is highly used, anything they could do to reduce that and security would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Perry said that they can extract important information and, from there, recognize trends. We can focus on what parks and what times, then address those with LRPD and see what can be done to drive this down.

Chairman Buie thanked Mr. Perry for his presentation. Commissioner Eldridge interjected but her signal made it difficult to hear. Chairman Buie then began addressing New Business.

Unfortunately, Commissioner Eldridge was first up about the golf tournament but her signal was cutting out her conversation.

New Business

Commissioner Eldridge mentioned that the golf tournament was really fun and they had great weather. It has been the third year in a row of great weather. She is unsure of the numbers that will go to the Summer Playground, but she still has a few vendors she needs to collect money from. At this point the call became disjointed, and Chairman Buie requested Commissioner Eldridge send a communication about the update when she has a bit of time. She agreed.

Chairman Buie noted that there were about 13 minutes left and that they did need to hear from the three committees: social media and outreach, which is being chaired by Commissioner France that was absent. Chairman Buie asked Director Couch and Mike Garrity whether the Commissioner had communicated something regarding the committee. Garrity mentioned that they tried to get together but the storm put everything off. Chairman Buie then turned to Commissioner Smith regarding the Master Plan committee for an update. Commissioner Smith mentioned that Master Plan had not met, and also attribute most of that to the storm and her schedule. She did mention that there were so many new people joining and maybe at the next meeting if they could look at the constitution and some of the subcommittees to see if we can add people at the next meeting.

Chairman Buie mentioned that he would normally call on Commissioner Eldridge to give an update on the conservancy's perspective but there are cell phone challenges there. He mentioned that they heard from Mr. Evans earlier about a donation made by the conservancy. This is going to be kicking off a larger effort to increase awareness, that it was about time, and he takes responsibility to see that that happens. In partnership with Director Couch and all the other Conservancy board members, they're excited to move forward, and they think this \$15,000 donation is a great start. Hopefully, more to come in the near future.

Chairman Buie then called for questions and comments or anything that needed to be circled back to regarding any of the committees. Commissioner Ferstl mentioned that it might be board liaison feedback, but he would like to get some info on the curfew situation. Chairman Buie requested that they table that until they get to Director Peck. He then requested to Director Couch and Commissioner Smith that at the next Master Plan committee meeting, they bring up War Memorial usage. He mentioned that is an important park in the city and a high profile park but that they should look at that specific park and some opportunities that they can bubble up at Parks Commission, on up to Parks and Recreation, on up to the City Director level.

Chairman Buie then turned to the next agenda item, which was items for the next meeting. He called for any additional agenda items for next month. If not, then they will turn the floor over to Director Peck for feedback. Commissioner Eldridge requested they keep talking to Perry because she enjoyed his spreadsheet.

Director Peck then received the floor and began by addressing the curfew. She mentioned that the board passed last night curfew for entertainment districts for youths. This was primarily requested by business owners in the River Market area specifically because in the summer months, there are more people carousing, and it appears that a lot of parents are dropping kids off

at the River Market just to hang out. A couple of businesses there have closed lately, there was a threat of one major restaurant leaving if we didn't enact this curfew. That's not why we did it, but we did it for public safety purposes. The curfew is 9 pm, and it's a bad mix when there is an entertainment district where you can drink on the streets, and you have a lot of underage people that are unsupervised. That was one reason. And there's also a homeless problem that she knows everyone is aware of that is pretty aggressive, especially in the River Market. Hopefully, that will also be addressed in the next few months when the Ambassador program is launched here in the next few weeks. It extends not only to the Entertainment district but any park or pavilion that is adjacent. This is particularly targeting River Market. There were a lot of kids congregating there and getting into fights, yelling, intimidating other people. There was some board discussion that it be 10 pm. No, the kids won't be carted off to jail. They will have a citation, it will be a warning. This is an effort to make it a safe and pleasant place for all people, especially visitors and tourists that congregate in that area because we have different amenities. They have gotten no pushback that she knows of. A couple of the directors were a bit hesitant, they thought it was a bit of overreach, but 8 of them voted yes.

The other big item on the agenda is that they are going back to sales tax. It may be a little premature, but she doesn't think so. It will happen, the mayor's in the process now of talking to us all individually about what they would like to see in a sales tax. The plan is to go after a full penny, this would be in November. It is heavy on Parks, he talks about the four P's. None of this has been fleshed out completely, he's getting input from them, and they plan on having 2-3 public meetings to hear what the public. The two big parks that they want to talk about are War Memorial and Hindman. The other P's are Public safety, the port, for economic reasons, and the other P is Potholes, or public works. This is not Rebuild the Rock revisited, this one is more specific, and it won't have the education or the housing piece, it will be focused on those four P's, which makes her excited because she's all about Parks! We should maybe put this as an agenda item. She mentioned that there has been talk about a sports complex in War Memorial kind of on the back side close to the interstate. Some zoo enhancements, talk about disc golf and mountain biking at Hindman as well as keeping the green space at War Memorial. It hasn't been completely fleshed out, but she expects it to ramp up here in July, with public meetings in August. She mentioned that that's a lot of information, but we can't expect our city to grow if we don't invest in it.

Chairman Buie thanked Director Peck for her presentation and then accepted questions. Commissioner Ferstl clarified whether the curfew was just in entertainment districts or is there a midnight for everyone. He read somewhere that it also includes Parks. Director Peck mentioned and asked City Attorney Carpenter for assistance, but she understood it to mean it would only be a park or pavilion adjacent to an Entertainment District. Director Couch added that that was correct. Originally it was discussed to cover all City Parks. There were a lot of concerns and discussions. It was ultimately passed that any City Park that abuts an entertainment district. It's really riverfront and some of the heights and promenades. Director Peck clarified that its Selma, Heights, Hillcrest, and Riverfront. Commissioner Ferstl mentioned that he loved the idea of a sales tax and wished it would have passed the last time. He mentioned that it would be tough. Director Peck agreed that it will be tough. She mentioned that they have such a great park system and they need to take care of it. She mentioned that this is more streamlined and they learned a lot of lessons with Rebuild the Rock. It was just too much. There was a lot of grey area. She mentioned that its rare for a Park's tax to not pass, or Public Safety, or Infrastructure. These are

the things that people care about the most. She is hopeful, but agrees it will take a big team effort.

Commissioner Cannon Fletcher then raised his hand and mentioned that the biggest anti-supporters of the last tax were the owners of the Little Rock Athletic Club and Racket Club. Is there any outreach to them to see what got them up in arms other than they don't want community centers getting better and taking their business. Director Peck mentioned that she and Commissioner Fletcher could talk about offline. She said that she honestly thinks the sales tax didn't pass not because of any one particular piece, but that it was so broad and had not been fleshed out. There were a few things that weren't under any of the P's: the affordable housing piece, the education piece, that people didn't like. She stated that if we keep it simple, the four P's, we have a much better chance.

Chairman Buie then thanked Director Peck and the other Commissioners for joining.

This concludes the Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Park Commission Meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at The Centre at University Park at noon. Buie encouraged all who could attend the following events in person. Chairman Buie thanked everyone for their reports.

Meeting Adjourned.