



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

100 W. Rock St. Suite 246
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Rock St. Meeting Room / Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
December 1, 2025
5:30 PM

Members

Chair Stephen Sheely (Exp: 12/25)
Sky Caldwell (Exp: 12/27)
Elizabeth Cunningham (Exp: 12/26)
Yarri Davis (Exp: 12/27)
Sarah Downing (Exp: 12/25)
Dell Hall (Exp: 12/26)
Hugh Kincaid (Exp: 12/25)
Doug Walsh (Exp: 12/27)
Melissa Zabecki (Exp: 12/26)

City Staff

Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs Director Alison Jumper
Recreation Superintendent Lee Farmer
Park Planning Superintendent Ted Jack
Senior Administration Elizabeth Milton

A meeting of the Fayetteville Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board was held on December 1, 2025 at 5:30 PM in Suite 246 of the City Hall Rock Street Annex Building, located at 100 W. Rock Street in Fayetteville, Arkansas..

Zoom Information

Webinar ID: 851 9055 3617

Registration Link: https://fayetteville-ar.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2dpsrj2eRISqerc05KNTPQ

Call to Order

Chair Steve Sheely called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Sheely, Downing, Caldwell, Cunningham, Davis, Kincaid, Zabecki
Virtual: Hall, Walsh

Minutes

November 2025 PNRCAAB Minutes

Approval of the November 2025 Minutes motion made by Kincaid, Davis to second. **PNRCAAB Motion: 9-0-0.**

Link to video archive for further reference: reflect-fayetteville-ar.cablecast.tv/internetchannel/show/9171?channel=1

Reports and Presentations

Fayetteville Disc Association Report: Josh McGee

Josh McGee, President of the Fayetteville Disc Association, gave an overview of Ultimate Frisbee in Fayetteville. FDA is a member-led 501c3 that promotes Ultimate in NWA, and runs four community leagues which total 300 co-ed participants each year from 13 years old to 60+. FDA hosts a weekly pick-up game and tournaments throughout the year, and supports local university and youth teams as well. 30+ years of partnership with The City of Fayetteville is valued by the group, and asked us to continue to value open field space.

Botanical Garden Annual Report: Ashley Wardlow

Ashley Wardlow, Executive Director of the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks, gave an annual report. 2025 has been a year of intentional growth and forward momentum, reporting a balanced budget entering 2026, and strengthening their team by promoting from within. Advanced nature capital and operational upgrades through donations and grants were used to fund a second green house, upgraded restrooms, new irrigation system, new siding, refurbished entry doors, new flooring, and furnishings to upgrade their workspace. Other repairs, a new art installation, and

undeniable growth are expected in 2026. Their Autumn Gala exceeded expectations, as well as facility rentals, the inaugural online bulb sale was initiated, and a retail partnership with White River nursery were just a few of BGSO's 2025 highlights.

Parks Operations Report: Byron Humphry

Director of Parks Operations, Byron Humphry, gave an update on their year of stewardship taking care of operations in City Parks/property. Since merging with Public Works, Parks Operations now manages Forestry Field Operations, including right of way with Transportation. Custodial staff have been increased this past year, staggering their shifts so that there's an everyday presence in parks, as well as adding a soft surface trail maintenance position. The Volunteer Coordinator position was expanded and is also now an Ecological Coordinator. Mowing has begun being contracted out with staff now free to maintain other areas. Restoration of local creeks, Lights of the Ozarks installation, and maintenance of new projects were prioritized this past year. Over 12,000 hours of volunteering were coordinated to pick up litter and remove invasives in 2025.

Active Transportation Advisory Committee: Doug Walsh

Walsh to update that the bridge to Gordon Long Park is waiting for FEMA approval, but could take a year before approval is granted. The 5-year trail plan mentions a new trail along Ash Avenue connecting to Old Wire and Gulley Park. A Pedestrian Safety survey opened on Speak Up Fayetteville to get input from neighbors and residents.

Botanical Gardens Report: Elizabeth Cunningham

Wardlow to give an annual update for BGSO previously in the evening. Winter Glow will be held on Dec. 21.

Art Council Report: Sarah Downing

Downing reported a mural celebration for Tsa-la-Gi, a collaboration with the University of Arkansas Mural Painting class. The YRCC ribbon cutting for the new mural on Dec. 17. The 2025 CAP program was successful and prep for next year has begun. Construction fencing photography murals expected soon.

Partnership Committee Report: Sarah Downing

Downing reported establishing and identifying opportunities in the community where partnerships can be facilitated. For example, local schools, churches, etc. use their available spaces when City spaces aren't available.

Park System Master Plan Project Progress: Alison Jumper

Director Jumper showed progress made since adopting the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation System Master Plan long-range planning tool in 2023. She is very pleased that the Parks & Rec team have accomplished so many improvements in less than two years. Friends of Fayetteville Parks is a product of one of the goals of this plan; several former and current board members serve on this team. She highlighted several projects; the Park Impact Fee study, the aquatics study, many stewardship and maintenance upgrades, and noted that land has been identified for future acquisition.

HMR and Construction Report: Ted Jack

Staff to present construction updates. Trees are being added at Centennial Park, Kessler has grown by 700 acres, trail work continues with the City and local partners, and the Clabber Creek trail is now open. Jack to talk about park/restroom renovations, upgrades, new spaces, enhancements, and additions in 2025. The Lake Fayetteville Bird Blind was opened after reconstruction after the fire. Lights were added to the Square, work on Walker Park improvements continues, Bryce Davis' sidewalks have started being poured and the playground is underway. South Yard has officially been named, and a ribbon cutting will be held. Trail Connection work at Gordon Long continues. Donated sculpture added to the Square.

Park Land Dedication

Box Avenue Cluster Development: Ted Jack

Development Name:	Box Avenue Cluster Development
Engineer:	Bates Engineering (A. Manzi)
Owner:	Box Avenue Holdings
Location:	2906 Box Avenue
Parcel ID Number:	765-03002-000, 765-03003-000, 765-03005-000
Park Quadrant:	NE
Development Size:	2.4 AC
Units:	18 Single-Family
Land Dedication Requirement:	N/A
Fee-In-Lieu Requirement:	\$9,602
Nearby Existing Parks:	Gulley Park, Braden Park, Madison Natural Area
Developer'S Request:	Fee-In-Lieu

Staff Recommendation:	Fee-In-Lieu
Justification:	Proximity To Existing Parks

Box Avenue Cluster Development is a proposed 2.4 acre development for 18 single-family homes. Developers are requesting fees in lieu of land dedication as recommended by staff. Cunningham to motion for approval, Davis to second.

PNRCAAB Motion: 9-0-0.

New Business

Announcements

Upcoming Programs and Events

- December 4 Lights Of The Ozarks Parade: Square Gardens
- December 6 YRCC Holiday Bingo: YRCC
- December 6 Clabber Creek Invasive Pull: Clabber Creek
- December 10-14 USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships:
Centennial Park
- December 13 White Elephant 5K: Square Gardens
- December 24-25 City Offices Closed
- January 1 City Offices Closed
- January 6 YRCC Afterschool Program Starts: YRCC

Next Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Cunningham, Davis to second. Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

PNRCAAB Motion: 9-0-0.

Minutes Submitted by: Elizabeth Milton