

Minutes
Special Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Bentley Park Pavilion
October 13, 2014 – 6 p.m.

- Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairman Espich.
- Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.
- Members Present:** Chairman Michael Espich; Commissioners Tim Alderman, Shane Nelson, and Kristen Woodbury.
- Members Absent:** Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig.
- Others Present:** Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development.

Business:

1. Pride in the Parks / Security

Discussion began with recommendation of specific park hours upon recommendation of police chief so patrol vehicles would have definite times to clear the parks. The board preferred a closing time of 11 p.m. Hopkins Lake should be available for fishing 24 hours. Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development will write an ordinance; present it to this commission. Upon their approval it will then go to city council for a public hearing.

Motion by Woodbury, supported by Alderman to write up an ordinance for the park hours.
Yeas all. Motion carried.

Ms. Montenegro will look at other community ordinances and compare their ordinances while writing one for Owosso.

Discussion continued about damage done to the Bentley Park and unaccompanied children. Commissioner Alderman suggested a guest speaker talk to the commission about today's attitude of children so the board could better understand why they behave the way they do and damage park facilities. He also wants to investigate a community watch. Alderman also noted that while researching security measures for his own business with the sheriff's department he was advised not to bother with cameras and to keep his business well lighted with LED's.

Dialogue continued with possibility of flyers distributed to houses around the parks, schools, YMCA, and the Chamber of Commerce to bring about more public awareness. Signs at the parks with a text number that go to police to make them aware of vandals, etc.

The skate rink is to be installed when the weather is cold enough to freeze the water. Conversation about lighting the pavilion and possibly installing a fireplace in the center brick area. Maybe the addition of a pathway from the rink to the pavilion in a year or two. Chairman Espich asked about keeping one of the port-a-jons during the winter months for availability near the skate rink.

The board toured the splash pad, gazebo, and examined a damaged sign.

Approved November 24, 2014

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Nelson and was supported by Commissioner Alderman. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

mms

Susan Montenegro, Secretary