City of Fort Smith
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
August 12, 2026

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the Rose Room at Creekmore Park Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Chris Raible, Madeline Marquette, Sam Hanna, David Roberts, Shawn Kispert, and Nancy Raney

Park Commission members absent: Sandy Sanders

Staff members present: Sara Deuster, Brian Penix, and Amber Plank

Others: Darlin Hall-Kightlinger, Jo Elsken, Jennifer Stevens, Linda Kaelin, Andre Good, and Josh Buchfink

Raible called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. Raible made a motion to approve the minutes as revised to reflect that he was absent for the June meeting and Hanna was present for the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Hanna and unanimously approved.

1. Items of Business

A. Review submission for operation of Kelley Ballfields Complex
A Request for Proposals for the operation of the Kelley Ballfields Complex was advertised on July 5th and again on July 12th. Fort Smith Youth Baseball and Softball (FSYBS) was the sole respondent to the RFP. Raible made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to enter the lease agreement with FSYBS for operation of the Kelley Ballfields Complex with an initial five (5) year agreement with five (5) 2-year terms. The motion was seconded by Roberts and unanimously approved.

B. Review submission for operation of Tennis Center at Creekmore Park
A Request for Proposals for the operation of the tennis center at Creekmore Park was advertised on July 5th and again on July 12th. The Western Arkansas Tennis Association (WATA) was the sole respondent to the RFP. WATA has operated the Tennis Center at Creekmore Park since 2003. Hanna made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to enter the lease agreement with WATA for operation of the Tennis Center at Creekmore Park with an initial five (5) year agreement with five (5) 2-year terms. The motion was seconded by Raney and unanimously approved

C. Girls Scouts Artwork Proposal-Creekmore Wading Pool Pumphouse
Two members of troop 4398, Neveah and Sophie, chose beautifying the pump house at Creekmore Park for their silver award. Since they could not be present in person, the girls made a video to present their project to the Commission. Raney made a motion to approve the artwork as presented. The motion was seconded by Hanna and unanimously approved.