

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2021
RECREATION & COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Council Chambers**

Members Present:

Mr. Gene Wayne Taylor, Chairman
Mr. Jay Savage, Councilman
Ms. Donna Leonard

Members Absent:

Mr. Chris Bott, Vice Mayor
Mrs. Mollie Cherrix

Council and Staff Present:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Harvey Spurlock, Public Works Director

Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Chairman Taylor opened the public comment. There was none.

Agenda Adoption

There was none.

Update on Brianna's Kindness Park

Public Works Director Spurlock advised the playground is 100% complete. He anticipated adding more mulch within 6-8 months. The leg machine is the only piece of equipment which will be delivered the week of the 8th of November. The parking lot is 100% complete and they are currently working on the restroom building. They plan to prepare the slab for the pavilion.

There was discussion regarding the drainage. There was also discussion regarding the soccer field and relocating the pavilion.

Ms. Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilman Savage to move the pavilion location from the western Smith Street corner to the eastern corner near the parking lot and to turn the soccer field. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ms. Leonard advise of graffiti at the park, which has been scrubbed off. She commented further and asked that they monitor this.

Review of Budget for Brianna's Kindness Park

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the budget to date. He advised that Mr. David Landsberger advised he will be donating \$25,000 for the pavilion. He expressed his appreciation of the donation. He explained additional expenses and advised that the total cost is \$531,056 with \$49,000 left to spend. He stated that he would like to pay a lot of the expenses for the park from

ARPA funds. He is looking into this further as to the wording in the ARPA expenditures requirements and guidelines.

There were comments that upgrades to Memorial Park could possibly be paid through ARPA funds.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they have until December 31, 2023, to commit the ARPA funds.

Councilman Taylor mentioned completing the restrooms at Brianna's Kindness Park as there are other needs such as the outdoor pickleball players.

Town Manager Tolbert commented about the auditors reviewing the budget for Brianna's Kindness Park. He explained the guidance for ARPA and that it falls on the Committee and how comfortable they feel putting the money toward that project. He recommended to stay within the guidelines. He doesn't want anyone coming to the Town in 2027 with an audit advising the Town owes them money.

There were further comments.

Committee Member Comments/Other Discussion

Ms. Leonard advised that November 13th is World Kindness Day, and they would like to do a dedication of the Brianna's Kindness Park which would be more appropriate. They have planned the dedication ceremony at 10:30a.m. Saturday, November 13th. There will be music, prayer, and speakers. The idea is to keep the message of "be kind" going. There will also be a Pledge of Kindness to lead the group and handing out free bracelets. She asked if they knew anyone who wanted to speak or sing. She asked if the Town would post something on the website. She stated that Team Brianna would like to thank the Public Works Department. She announced that on November 10th, as they are gearing up toward the dedication day, lunch will be served to the Public Works Department.

There was discussion about Phase 2, bleachers, fundraising for the bleachers and fencing around the soccer field. They also talked about zoning and fence height.

Ms. Leonard also talked about the upgrades to Memorial Park. She asked about the swings.

Public Works Director Spurlock advised they have been done.

There was discussion about replacing the pirate ship or something else to take its place.

Ms. Leonard also asked for a step at the xylophone for smaller children. She commented that someone who uses the fitness equipment at the Brianna's Kindness Park reported that it is top of the line.

Councilman Taylor asked to look into volunteers to clean and check for graffiti at the parks. He added that the Public Works staff can't clean it after every use. He asked Councilman Savage to close in prayer before they close the meeting.

Ms. Leonard asked to add landscaping to phase 2.

They discussed planting trees at the Donald Leonard Park and placement of the trees and bench.

Councilman Savage closed in prayer.

Adjournment

Councilman Taylor closed the meeting.