

Brookland Parks Committee Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
613 Holman at Brookland City Hall

- 6:04 Meeting called to order By David Loggins. Members present were David Loggins, President, Julie Thomas, Secretary, Sharon Hopkins, and Bobby Bishop.
- 6:06 Motion by Sharon Hopkins to accept last month's minutes. Second by Julie Thomas. Minutes approved as presented.
- 6:07 Update on the School Street land. Nix Title is doing the closing. The money is in the bank for closing costs. The corn crop has been removed from the field, harvested, so the land is ready to go. Dirt work will begin in spring 2022.
- 6:10 David Loggins discussed some items relating to the two smaller parks. David mentioned that on October 28, Mayor Kenneth Jones would make a presentation before the Arkansas Department of Parks for grant money that would be used to help fund the two smaller parks. The potential total matching grant amount is \$250,000, or \$125,000 per park, if Brookland is awarded the grant funding.
- David continued some discussion about the two smaller city parks. There will be basketball courts at both parks. He noted that there is money budgeted for Gazebos, however, he feels that open pavilions with picnic tables would be a better choice. He also mentioned that the park on Nelms Street is planned to have a community storm shelter.
- 6:15 David discussed some questions from community members about the possibility of adding soccer fields to the sports plex park. He told the committee that his response to that line of questioning was that he was not sure there was room to add soccer fields with the current plan, however, the committee would keep that in mind for future planning. Discussion continued about the availability of space for soccer fields at the sports plex park (School Street) and nothing was decided about whether or not that is feasible to accommodate at this time.
- 6:25 Julie Thomas asked about the addition of a permanent maintenance shed located at the sports plex park and David Loggins responded that it may need to be included and added to the budget.
- 6:26 David Loggins discussed the proposed size of the baseball/softball fields at the sports plex park. He noted that at least one of the fields would be a regulation field with an outfield distance of 300 feet. He also mentioned that the three other fields may possibly be shorter in distance, but still large. David added that the current plan is to add turf to the infield, if the budget permits, and grass to the outfield
- 6:30 Discussion continued by all members about the retention pond planned for the sports plex park in order to provide enough dirt to build up and level the rest of the land.

- 6:36 Sharon Hopkins asked about the possibility of a redesign of the sports plex park later in the process. David Loggins explained the process for a redesign of the sports plex park.
- 6:38 David Loggins discussed a question from the community about the addition of disability friendly playground equipment. He discussed the cost of adding that type of equipment, installation, ground cover, and more, and mentioned that it is very costly overall.
- 6:42 Motion to dismiss made by Julie Thomas. Second by Bobby Bishop. Meeting adjourned at 6:42.