

Parks & Trees Commission Meeting 01.12.26

Present: Bob Williams, Barbara Cantey, Barb Willens, Rickey Macklin, Lisa Riente

Sitting In: Councilman Phil Elliott

Meeting began at 5:32 pm

Barb made motion to approve previous minutes, Bob seconded motion. Commission approved.

Discussion about 2026 schedule – Commission voted to remove July meeting from schedule

Around the table reporting on park visits. Kat mentioned that signs had been order through Outlaw Signs, who will produce or let know what they can't provide. To include Kendall Lake Park, Rectory Square, City Hall Park, RWVC.

Lisa referred back to azaleas and other vegetation at Kendall Park, corner of East Hampton and Park Circle. Significant clearing took place for safety/security reasons in 2023. Is there a plan to replace small shrubs and bushes, etc. Kat mentioned that Q3 is potentially a good time to discuss, see if there may be small amount of funds to utilize for small plantings. Archives park, light near Penny Pullum's memorial still needs to be replaced. Hampton Park playground is back in rough shape, needs to be addressed, picnic table should be moved closer to road, more accessible location.

Bob made reference to a potential pollinator garden at CREP – already had a conversation with Councilman Elliott as a potential plan, budget, funding for a project, and maintenance. Town Green is looking pretty good. City Arena Park looked pretty good, some trash to be addressed, but not bad. Councilman Elliott has had experts come to walk through park in order to survey and give recommendations – a lot of work has been done to maintain and purchased a remote control lawn mower to maintain areas that would otherwise be difficult to navigate. Adam Wofford is overseeing the park since Kyle Smith has resigned. Birdwatchers and other citizens utilizing the park have made several requests. Soil and Water Conservation District has been down to the park to make observations and recommendations. A potential location was identified, near to parking area and walking trail. Bob mentioned that there is a wealth of knowledge, experts to make recommendations and create a plan. The big issue will be watering and maintenance – will need a watering plan and resource for the first year. Councilman Elliott said there is a hydrant in that area, and there was a pollinator garden of sorts in that same area when the plans for the park were first created. Bob mentioned the CREP was a three phase project, but only the first phase was created with the EPA grant. Barbara asked the question about what species, and what sort of maintenance is required, beyond watering. Conversation around table was that mostly perennials are included, they are relatively self-sufficient once established. Councilman Elliott asked for input and suggestions, and said would take it to Council to see what can be accomplished. Bob said he would also do some research and reaching out to resources, if the Commission feels it is worth pursuing. Councilman Elliott mentioned a significant part is tagging and labeling natural resources and interesting elements – make it an educational park as much as an environmental park. Barb mentioned the Master Gardeners has a number of experts and resources. Bob mentioned Master Naturalists would be good to reach out to.

Rickey visited Edgewood Park, very nicely maintained. Groom Park is OK, not really in need of anything. Kirkwood Park – a community meeting for the grant process was held on December 13. Hoping to get notification of the award.

Barbara has no updates.

Barb said Boykin Park playground has been finished. A lot of limbs have fallen again in Armory Park, bridge needs to be repaired. Scott Park still has missing cinder block, well or electric station? – roof has collapsed, needs to be addressed before February 16.

Legacy benches to be placed – Ed Royall memorial bench placed at Rectory Square, Billy Silver on Broad Street, Penny Pullum at Camden Archives Park near existing.

Kat mentioned Planting Day on February 16 and Tree Giveaway March 14.

Kat also mentioned that the Connect Camden app Park Issue request has finally been fixed.

Barb motioned, Rickey seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 9 and 5:30 pm.