



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM

The Tom Hardin Room – 100 Public Square, Mount Pleasant, TN

1. Call to Order

Mrs. McWilliams called the meeting to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

Mrs. McWilliams lead both the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation

3. Roll Call

A. Luemma McWilliams - Chair Person

Bedford Smith - Co Chair Person

Kathy Pepe - Secretary

Loree Knowles - City Commissioner

Larry Patton - Member

Katrina Holt - Member

Anna Arnold - Member

Mrs. McWilliams preformed roll call and everyone was in attendance but Mr. Smith.

4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

A. Regular Session - July 9th, 2025

Mrs. McWilliams stated everyone was emailed a copy of the minutes from last months meeting and asked if there where any corrections and if not asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Ms. Pepe made the motion to accept and Mrs. Holt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

A. Water Day

Ms. Busby stated that the Water Department would be joining the event. They would provide hamburgers and goody bags for the kids and the Bank was bringing cool pops. The Parks department would provide waters and chips for the event. The event would take place Saturday the 16th, start time would be at 9 am, hamburgers would be served at 11am and the event would end at 1pm.

B. Movie Night

Ms. Busby stated that the Bathrooms where almost finish and that the only thing left was the electrical to the pavilion. She stated that the commission would do popcorn, snacks, and drinks. The movie night would be on the 20th of September and would start around sundown.

C. Haunted Trails

Ms. Busby stated that around September she would be sending out the business letters for this event. This event will be at the Community Center and set up will start at 2pm, event will start at 4pm and end at 6pm.

D. BBQ Festival update

Ms. Busby stated that they had went live on the webpage, and had received 32 vendor applications and 5 cooks. She stated she got a bounce house for the kid zone and and spoke with several that will be helping out there. She also spoke with the Band, the Cheerleaders, the Mayor, The Middle School Dance team and Art of Grace about preforming. Mr. Groom pulled up the lay out for everyone to see and went through the layout for the event and gave the Commission an chance to state their opinions and ideas on how things should be set up.

Ms. Busby went over the schedule for each day and the commission discussed it in further detail. The Commission was ask for ideas, changes and ways to make the layout and schedule better for the event. From the car show to the placement of the vendors the Commission discussed the event as a whole and came up with some great ideas.

Mr. Grooms pulled up a new design for a banner and a t shirt design for the event. Everyone was in favor of the idea. They further discussed advertisement and types of ways to get the word out.

Ms. Pepe asked about the pole decoration contest, Ms. Busby stated that she hadn't put that together but that there where decorations left from years past that we can use. Ms. Busby stated that there would be a Miss Mid-South BBQ Festival Pageant and it would be hosted by the Mt. Pleasant Middle School Cheerleaders as a fundraiser. The Queens would come to the pageant and present awards help with the kid zone and costume contest.

6. Special reports from other City Departments or Committees if applicable

A. Parks Department Report

Ms. Busby asked was there anything from the Juneteenth event that anyone would like to add. The prior meeting this event was overlooked and only talked about briefly, so she wanted to come back to it just to make sure that nothing was over looked. Mrs. Knowles stated that Juneteenth will be on a Friday in 2026 and maybe adding an extra day to the event.

Ms. Busby went on to talk about the Back to School Bash, it went great and had a great turn out. Mrs. McWilliams stated that she had purchased 500 bags and had about 50 left over. She talked about filling more bags to hand out as the event went on. What was left over was sent to each school for the teachers.

Mrs. McWilliams talked about the only thing she saw an issue with was the grass left by the mowers and the street sweeper that came over while kids where there and doing a better job next time blowing the grass away from the area.

B. City Manager Report

Mr. Grooms discussed the Arrow Mines bathroom project and stated that it had failed the power inspection with minor issues. He went on to talk about the vandalism that took place there over the weekend. Tables had been over turned. He hoped that with the placement of cameras the the issue with vandalism would no longer be an issue.

He went on to say that the grant we where applying for to move the playground equipment at Barker Field, we where not awarded. He would like to work on up dating our Strategic plan and feels like this will help with future grants such as this one.

7. New Business

(Comments from citizens may or may not be included, dependent on the issues.)

A. Craft Day

Ms. Busby spoke about the event. The date is set for November 15th from 10-1. She asked the commission to be on the look out for new crafts to do for this event. They have a bead station, a painting station, a Christmas ball painting section and any other thing that they can come up with. She mentioned that they did hot chocolate and cookies last year and the kids enjoyed that and asked for help for that day.

B. Breakfast with Santa

Ms. Busby gave details about this event. The date set is December the 20th from 9-12. She stated that she would need help with this event cooking and serving. There will be pancakes and picture with Santa. Last year the Fire Department helped out with the cooking.

8. General comments from citizens (May be limited in time and/or number of comments.)

Mrs. Alderson asked if we would add the Mount Pleasant Housing Authority to the list of businesses for the Haunted Trail. Ms. Busby said she would add them to the list. Mrs. Alderson went on to ask if we would be airing the Tennessee vs Alabama game on screen. Ms. Busby stated that the Bass Team usually has it playing and Mr. Grooms recommended that we play it on the big screen as well.

Ms. Pepe asked what time things would start on Saturday for the Festival. Ms. Busby stated that the event would be from 10-5 and that staff would need to be there about 8am to start allowing in vendors. Mrs. McWilliams asked that we had a list of what vendors will be in what spaces and that list handed out to the ones helping that Saturday morning. Mr. Grooms recommended that the Commission have a meeting before the regular meeting about just the BBQ Festival. Everyone agreed.

9. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment

Mrs. McWilliams asked about parameters of Clark Mini Park. Mr. Grooms said that he will get that for her. Mrs. McWilliams stated that she had something in mind and needed to know where the borders are for the park before she went further.

Mrs. Knowles ask about a bench that had been brought over to Arrow Mines Park and left that was old and broken.

Mrs. McWilliams asked if there where anymore comments or business and if not asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Knowles made the motion and Ms. Pepe seconded.