

**Park Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023
Meeting called to order 5:41 PM**



1. ATTENDANCE:

- A. Park Board Members Present: Board Member, Michelle Musgrave
Board Member, Don Mitchell
Board Member, Lori Wood
Board Member, Gregory Webb
Board Member, Jacob Powers
- B. Staff Present: J.C. Kennedy, Parks & Recreation Director

2. Agenda Approval: A Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mr. Mitchell. Second by Mr. Webb. Agenda Approved.

3. October 5, 2023 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Wood. Second by Mrs. Musgrave. Minutes approved.

4. Department Update:

• **Weekly Report**

Mr. Kennedy asked the board if they had any questions about the most recent weekly report, nothing was noted.

• **Revenue Report**

Mr. Kennedy highlighted current Revenue Status:

AHRC Revenue Year to Date	\$1,260,290.07
AHRC Expenditures Year to Date	\$1,742,435.61
AHRC Subsidy Year to Date	\$482,145.54
AHRC Cost Recovery % Year to Date	72.33%

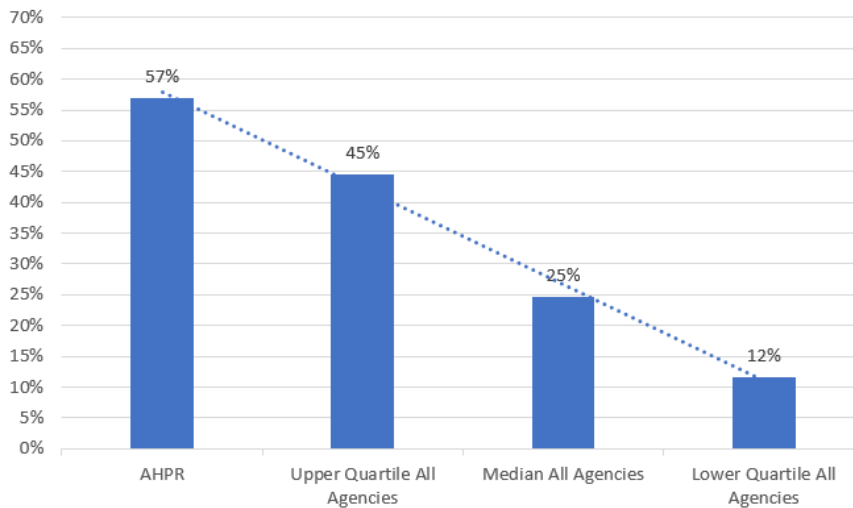
• **Agency Performance Review**

Mr. Kennedy presented the NRPA Agency Performance Review. The report shows real data on how AHPR is performing compared to peer organizations across the country. It contains data from 1000 agencies across the country. Funding sources for park and recreation operations vary greatly by agency; however, support from local jurisdiction's general fund tax base is common. On average, park and recreation agencies derive slightly more than three-fifths of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support. The second-largest source of funding for most agencies is earned/generated revenue, accounting for an average of 22 percent of operating expenditures (AHPR earned/generated revenue, accounting for 54 percent of operating expenditures). In addition, many agencies have access to special dedicated taxes that cover a part of their budgets, while others obtain much of their funding from tax levies dedicated to park and recreation purposes approved by citizen

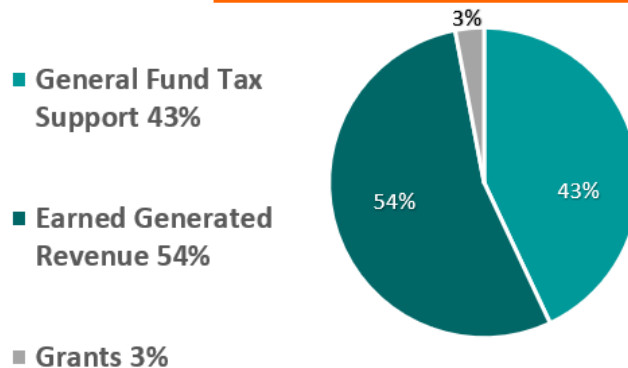
referenda.

Another way to look at revenue generation is by examining cost recovery as a percentage of operating expenditures. The typical agency recovers 24.6 percent of its operating expenditures from non-tax revenues (AHPR cost recovery YTD 57 percent of operating expenditures). The amount of cost recovery differs significantly among agencies based on an agency's portfolio of facilities and programming, the demographics of the populace it serves, the agency's mission and possible revenue mandates from the agency's governing authorities.

**REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES
(AHPR vs ALL AGENCIES COST RECOVERY)**



**SOURCES OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES
(AVERAGE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION
OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES)
AHPR DATA AS OF 10/25/2023**



- **City Managers Preliminary Budget Proposal:** Mr. Kennedy shared the City Managers Preliminary Budget letter highlighting portions pertinent to AHPR.

(From page 3)

The recreation department also made considerable reductions to balance the proposed budget. The department reduced its budget by \$995,054 for 2024, which drastically reduces its budget for part-time personnel to staff the facility. The reduction in staff significantly affects the facility's operating hours and programs.

This statement is not accurate. The original budget we proposed expenditures at \$2,472,700.14 the budget included in the City Managers Preliminary Budget Proposal proposes expenditures at \$1,584,122.73 representing a \$888,122.73 cut. This is \$106,931.27 less than the \$995,054 stated above.

(from page 7)

Recreation Center- The recreation center represents a beautiful asset for the community. The facility also competes for limited General Fund revenues to facilitate operation and maintenance. The increased costs associated with the facility limits the city's ability to use its limited tax dollars for other various priorities like public safety. I recommend the city consider the exploration of various opportunities to collaborate with partners on the operation and maintenance of the recreation center. Such a collaboration could maintain the operation and maintenance of the facility at a high level while also creating financial capacity in the General Fund to support public safety investments.

Mr. Kennedy expressed his concern that this recommendation does not appear to consider the significant investment that the taxpayers made when the bond for the facility was approved or the commitment that the City made to the to taxpayers when the decision to put it to them for a vote was made.

Mr. Kennedy also questioned what are the implications for an independent operator to provide reduced fees for residents that are paying for the construction costs. Is this even legal? Mr. Kennedy referenced previous conversations that happened with the Bond Council DA Davidson where they informed the City that this would not be an option due to the tax-payer funds involved in the project and how the municipal bonds were issued.

5. **Project Updates:**

- **Sunset Park Restroom Removal**

Mr. Kennedy informed the board that the last portion of the project is an asphalt patch from the electrical work that was done that is by the storage shed. The plants are closed for the season so this will have to wait for the spring to be wrapped up.

- **Highland Village Park**

Mr. Kennedy shared a picture of the park taken this afternoon to illustrate why we would not be accepting the project during the winter. We will want to see the turf established weed free before acceptance.



- **Shorty Combs Park**

Mr. Kennedy informed the board that Mr. Bro is trying to secure a bid to remove the remaining dead trees but has not been able to coordinate with the company yet. The table top came in and has been replaced, this completes the install, there is a little cleanup left to do.

- **Landreth Park**

Mr. Kennedy informed the board the bench tops are here but the 4 roof tubes that hold the top up are missing. Steve's Installs is handling the replacements on these. There is a little cleanup left here as well.

- **Sunset Park Pathway**

Mr. Kennedy informed the board that SPVV Landscape Architects sent schematics for the electrical additions and pathway layout for review and comment. Staff will be reviewing them and providing feedback so that they can be finalized.

6. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Musgrave. Second by Mr. Powers. **Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.**