STATE PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAVEL COMMISSION
Fayetteville
October 16, 2025, 8:30 AM

Commissioners Present
Blair Allen, Chair
Austin Albers, Vice-Chair
Mitchell Allen
Rebecca Baker
Bob Connell
Clint Gaston
Shash Goyal
Kalene Griffith
Marshall Ney
Jim Shamburger
Gary Vernon
Randy Wolfinbarger
Jordan Wright

Commissioners Absent
Eric Jackson
Molly Houseworth

Staff Present
Shea Lewis, Secretary, ADPHT
Suzanne Grobmyer, Chief of Staff, ADPHT
Zack McGill, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, ADPHT

Jami Fisher, Chief Financial Officer, ADPHT
Becky Flynn, Deputy Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation
Clay Stone, General Counsel, ADPHT

Dalaney Thomas, Tourism Director, Arkansas Tourism
Susie Cowan, Industry Relations Manager, Tourism
April Kiser, Deputy Chief of Communications
Kori Bull, Brand Manager, Communications

Jeff King, Deputy Director, Arkansas State Parks
Mike Wilson, Assistant Director, Arkansas State Parks
Chris Myers, Planning and Development Manager, Arkansas State Parks
Jeannine Bruner, Revenue & Sales Manager, Arkansas State Parks

Walt Redding, Regional Supervisor, Arkansas State Parks
Susan Donnnangelo, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park Superintendent
Jay Schneider, Devil's Den State Park Superintendent

CJRW
Darin Gray
Jill Joslin
Katherine Vasilos

Wade McCune
Madison Watkins

Guests
Steve Unger, State Representative

Welcome and Call to Order
Chair Blair Allen called the meeting to order at 8:39 am. Zack McGill called roll.

Approval of Agenda
Chairman Allen asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Bob Connell **made the motion to approve the agenda, and the motion carried.**

Approval of September 2025 Minutes
Chairman Blair Allen asked for a motion to approve the September 2025 minutes.

Jim Shamburger **made the motion to approve the minutes, and the motion carried.**

Secretary's Report
Secretary Shea Lewis provided an update for the following items:

- Food Hall of Fame
- Outward Bound
- Natural State Initiative
- Hot Springs Visitation
- Bull Shoals – White River State Park Oakridge Mountain Bike Trial Expansion
- Clinton Library Meeting
- Governor's Cabinet Meeting at Mount Magazine State Park
- Saline River Partnership
- Arkansas 250
- Ad Hoc Meeting

Organization Overview
General Counsel Clay Stone gave a high-level overview of the responsibilities of the Commissioners. Discussion between Clay Stone and the Commissioners occurred regarding consent agendas, quarterly in-person meetings, virtual meetings. It was determined that the Ad Hoc committee would meet and provide a recommendation before the next Commission meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT – September 30, 2025
Chief Fiscal Officer Jami Fisher presented the FY 2026 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the one (3) month period ending September 30, 2025.

Jim Shamburger made the motion to approve the financials, and the motion carried.

STATE PARKS DIVISION

Director's Report

Jeff King, Deputy Director reported on financials and occupancy for August FY25 vs FY26.

Leases, Agreements, Policy Directives

Queen Wilhelmina State Park -Special Use Permit – Trails at Mena- Bike Park Operator Recommendation *

Jeff King requested approval of the Operator selection for the Mena Trails Bike Park.

Jim Shamburger made a motion to approve, and the motion carried.
Gary Vernon recused himself from this agenda item.

Delta Heritage Trail – Uplink LLC – Use Permit Agreement *

Jeff King requested approval for a utility easement at Delta Heritage Trail State Park.

Shash Goyal made a motion to approve, and the motion carried.

CY2026 State Parks Rates Review Draft *

Jeff King requested Commissioners review the draft CY2026 State Parks Rates and provide feedback and recommendations. The final draft will be presented during the November SPRTC for final approval.

Bob Connell made a motion to move this item to the November SPRTC for final approval, and the motion carried.

Planning & Development

Petit Jean Trails Plan Draft *

Jeff King asked for Commission support of the draft Petit Jean Trails Plan with the final plan being presented for approval at a future Commission meeting.

Jim Shamburger made a motion to approve, and the motion carried.

Delta Heritage Trail – Mozart Hunting Club – Use Permit Agreement *

Chris Myers requested approval for the Mozart Hunting Club Use Permit Agreement at Delta Heritage Trail State Park.

Shash Goyal made a motion to approve, and the motion carried.

Pinnacle Mountain – Bench Donation *

Chris Myers requested approval for several bench donations at Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Bob Connell made a motion to approve, and the motion carried.

Systemwide – FY27 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project List Draft
Chris Myers requested the Commission review the draft FY27 CIP project list and agree to revisit the list at next month's meeting.

Systemwide – Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Report
Jeff King requested approval for approval of the Capital Improvement Program Quarterly Report.

TOURISM DIVISION

Tourism Director's Update
Dalaney Thomas, Tourism Director, provided updates on the following:

- Introduction of new employee Faith Carr, PR Sales Manager
- Arkansas Game & Fish Partnership
- Crystal Bridges Update
- Compton Hotel
- Sports Travel
- King of the Crag
- GovCon 2026 Planning

Marketing Update
Katherine Vasilos, CJRW, provided updates on the following items:

- Fall Creative Share
- September Highlights
- Summer Campaign Report
- Co-Op Program Update

MISCELLANEOUS/CLOSING
There were no public comments.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Allen at 11:35 a.m.

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