STATE PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAVEL COMMISSION
State Parks Committee
Batesville
May 14, 2025, 1:30 PM

Commissioners Present
Blair Allen, Chair
Mitchell Allen
Eric Jackson
Bob Connell
Gary Vernon

Commissioners Absent
Austin Albers
Jim Shamburger
Rebecca Baker
Clint Gaston
Shash Goyal
Kalene Griffith
Molly Houseworth
Marshall Ney
Randy Wolfinbarger
Jordan Wright

Staff Present
Shea Lewis, Secretary, ADPHT
Suzanne Grobmyer, Chief of Staff, ADPHT
Kori Bull, Project Coordinator, Tourism
Jami Fisher, Chief Financial Officer, ADPHT
Dalaney Thomas, Tourism Director, Arkansas Tourism
April Kiser, Deputy Chief of Communications
Jeff King, Deputy Director, Arkansas State Parks
Mike Wilson, Assistant Director, Arkansas State Parks
Chris Myers, Planning and Development Manager, Arkansas State Parks
Zack McGill, Planning and Development Chief Planner, Arkansas State Parks

CJRW
Katherine Vasilos

Welcome and Call to Order
Chair Blair Allen called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Kori Bull called roll.

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

Eric Jackson made the motion to approve the agenda, and the motion carried.

Approval of November 2024 Minutes
Chairman Blair Allen asked for a motion to approve the November 2024 Parks Committee minutes.

Eric Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes, and the motion carried.

Planning & Development
Historic Washington State Park -2025 Draft Master Plan

Chris Myers reviewed the new Historic Washington State Park Master Plan with the Committee. They explained that this is the first update to the Master Plan since 2006 and that it's more of an overall assessment of the health of the park than a regular CIP project list like the Petit Jean Master Plan. The new document reflects State Parks' new goals for the park and can be used to help plan for future revitalization and maintenance.

The parks committee reviewed the plan and made a motion to accept as presented. All agreed there will be a 30-day period for full commission review of this item and the final plan will be considered at the June SPRTC meeting.

Mena Trails Project Update
Jeff King reviewed the Mena Trails Project document and discussed the status of the project overall and the expected impact. He explained that the project won't just cater to mountain bikers, it will provide a variety of recreational opportunities for guests.

Eric Jackson made the motion to recommend support of the draft permit agreement by the full SPRTC, and the motion carried.

The permit agreement will be presented as Agenda Item 12.A. for the Mena Trails Project during tomorrow's full SPRTC meeting.

Hobbs & Jacksonport Temporary Firewood Permits
Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area and Jacksonport are doing temporary firewood permits through December 31, 2025, to help with cleanup of downed trees from recent tornadoes. Jeff King asked the committee to approve the permitting of temporary firewood collection for both parks.

Eric Jackson made the motion to approve firewood permitting, and the motion carried.

New Business

The committee recommended recognition of the work of Congressman French Hill on the expansion of the Flatside Wilderness Area at Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Eric Jackson made the motion to recommend the full SPRTC send a letter of thanks to French Hill, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Allen 2:37 pm.

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