

# PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

September 19, 2023

---

## In Attendance

---

Councilman Isiah Hester, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Council Chair Raquetta Dotley, Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Darrin Ledford, Carol Berz, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Councilman Ken Smith was not in attendance at this meeting. Other participants present were Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Kyana Grady, Council Administrative Assistant.

---

## Others in Attendance

---

Mayor's Office: Jermaine Freeman, Interim Chief of Staff; and Parks and Outdoors: Scott Martin, Administrator.

---

## Approval of Minutes

---

On motion of Councilman Ledford and seconded by Council Chair Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (August 22, 2023) were approved as published.

---

## Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6E – 6G

---

E. Case No. MR-2023-0120

F. Case No. MR-2023-0070

G. Case No. MR-2023-071

Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

---

## Resolutions – Agenda Items 7J – 7M

---

Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

---

## Resolutions – Agenda Item 7P

---

Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

### ***NEXT WEEK'S AGENDA:***

***September 26, 2023***

---

## Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Item 6B

---

Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

---

## Resolutions – Agenda Items 7D & 7E

---

Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

---

## **Parks and Outdoors Advisory Commission**

---

Councilman Hester opened the floor to Mr. Martin, who gave a presentation *[see attached]* on the creation of the Parks & Outdoors Advisory Commission. His presentation covered the following:

- POP Implementation- Four Immediate Actions
- Why Have a Resident Advisory Committee?
- Proposed Commission Goals
- Proposed Commission Governance
- Next Steps
  - September 26<sup>th</sup> - Vote on Creation
  - End of October – Make Appointments
  - November 2023 – First Meeting

Councilman Henderson inquired on the following: department assignment and oversight, language, requirements, qualifications, and Council governance. Upon no further questions or comments, the presentation was closed.

---

## **Adjournment**

---

There being no further business, Councilman Hester adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.





# Chattanooga PARKS & OUTDOORS PLAN





# **POP Implementation – Four Immediate Actions**

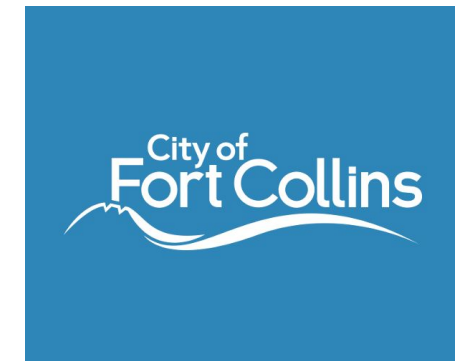
- **Focus on Asking our Existing Public Parks & Programs to Perform Better**
  - New Donated Playground for Harris Johnson Park
  - Initiated RFP Process to Create a Community Informed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Recreation Program Plan
  - Completed a new Strategic Operational Plan for Outdoor Chattanooga – Refocused for 2023
  - New Master Plan for Montague Park lifting it to Signature Park Stature
  - Rebuild Existing 25+ Year Old Skatepark to Serve 21<sup>st</sup> Century Guests
  - Kicked off the TPL Funded Equity Accelerator Project to Create a Practice of Principle for Council Consideration
- **Manage Select City-Owned Properties as an “Urban Ecology” Network Conserving Green Space Across the City**
  - Secured a \$6M grant to build a resilient, resident supported community forestry program
  - Interdepartmental site selection analysis underway –Pilot to Council in November
- **Be Declared the First National Park City in North America**
  - Selected for Accelerated Status by the National Park City Foundation
  - 20+ Resident Lead Steering Committee Initiated Application Development
  - Over 200 residents have signed onto the idea
- **Create a Parks & Outdoors Advisory Commission**



# Why Have a Resident Advisory Commission?



NATIONAL  
RECREATION AND PARK  
ASSOCIATION





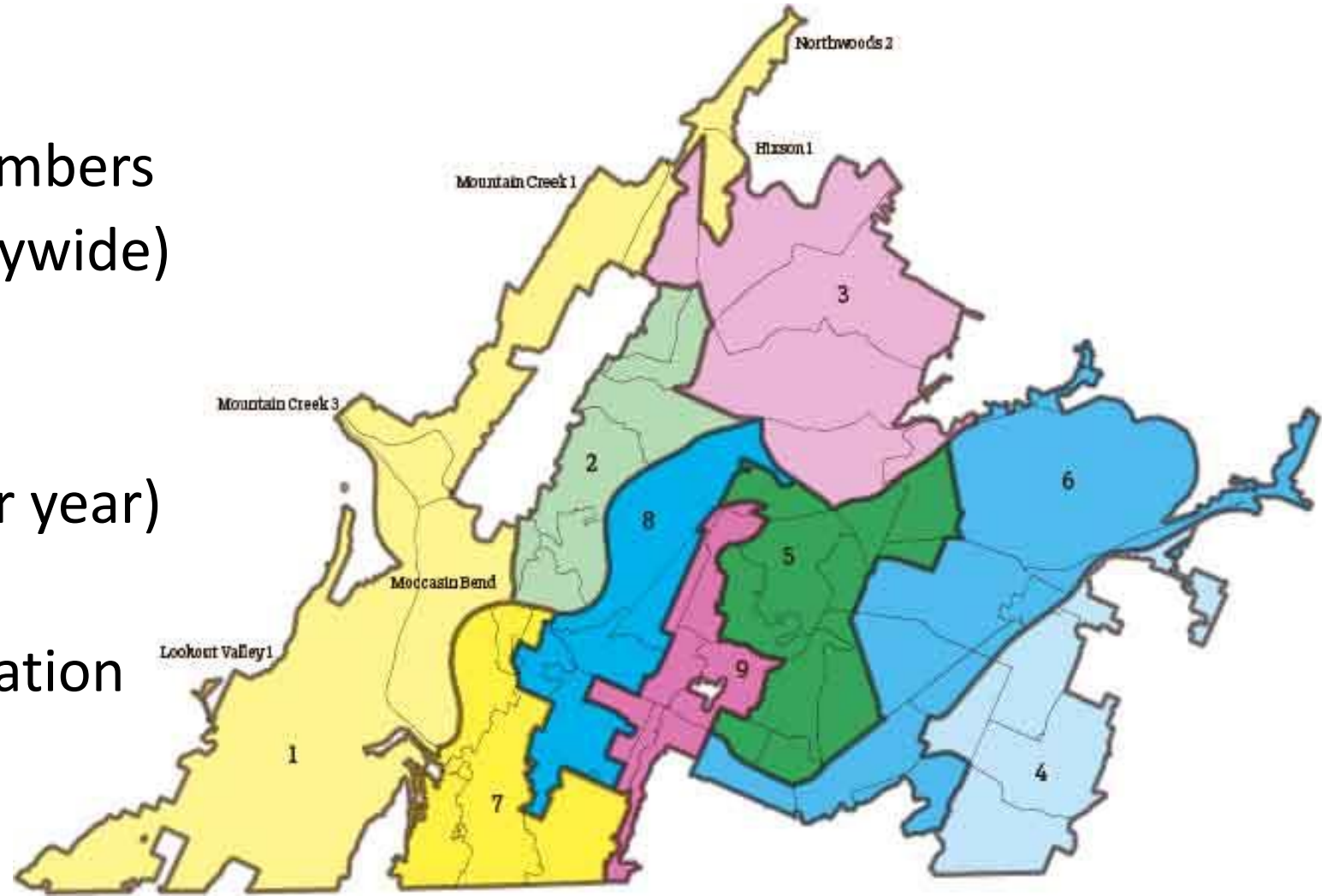
# Proposed Commission Goals

- Increased Resident Engagement and Empowerment
- Improved Competitiveness for Donor, Grant, and Partnership Initiatives
- More Structured, Focused and Vetted Policy Support for City Council
- Link Precise District Knowledge and Know-How with Broadly Shared Community Objectives
- Advise the City on Implementation of POP, Rec Plan, and Equity Accelerator Deployment



# Proposed Composition & Governance

- 9 Members by District –  
Appointed by Council Members
- 6 Members by Mayor (Citywide)
- 3 Year Terms
- Advisory in Capacity
- Monthly Meetings (12 per year)
- 1.15 Hour Meetings
- Staffed by DPO Administration
- All Public Meetings





# Next Steps

- September 26<sup>th</sup> Vote to Create Parks & Outdoors Advisory Commission
- Post Information on Application Process for Residents
- Towards end of October Make Appointments
- November – First Organizing Meeting of Commission
- Build a #cityinapark

