



South Side Regional Park Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, February 16th, 2026 | Glencairn Garden Learning Center

Present: Nat Baker, Tommy Ayers, Kimberly Stokes, Branden Stokes, Welvin Simpkins, Dequanta McKnight, Lawrence Brown Sr., Jake Tassy, John Singletary

Not Present: John McBride, Sarah Satterfield

Staff: Brian Jones

Welcome: Brian Jones called meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from July 2025 from Brian. Tommy approved the motion. Dequanta second the motion.

Old Business: Brian Jones

- RHPRT was the recipient of a federal fifteen-million-dollar ORLP grant for SSRP. We are waiting on the funds before breaking ground.
- May 2028 hope to open gates to the park. 80% of the design is done.
- Slide show presentation of the renderings of SSRP Phase 1A.

2026 Goals

- Complete the FAQs for the website
- Host an information session for the Southside community. Most likely location McGirt. Date TBD
- Advisory committee to meet four times this year.

Short Term 2026 Goals

- Tour the park quarterly
- Create policies and procedures for the park. For example: weekend game end times, what is good for the community neighbors, etc.

New Business: Brian Jones

- In 2027, expect to have more advisory meetings - every other month
- Discussion of moving the meetings to the American Legion – close to the park. Tommy A. was taking that inquiry to the American Legion

Questions

Tommy: Do we want to move meeting location possibly to the American legion? Tommy is going to check with the AL if this is possible. Sara will email him the remaining 2026 meeting dates.

Dequanta: Is there going to be a picnic shelter for birthday parties and such at SSRP? Brian to inquire and follow up.



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Can we look at installing a stop light at Heckle/Freidheim for traffic safety? Are they going to straighten that that curved part of Heckle by the creek? There is a lot of speeding in that area and concerned for park attendees' safety pulling out of the park. Brian to inquire and follow up.

Answers email on 2.18.2026 to committee members

Is there a traffic study being done in the area around SSRP? Yes, a traffic study will be completed including accessing a need for a traffic light.

Will there be a picnic shelter at SSRP? A picnic shelter is not in the plans in phase 1a of the facility. There is opportunity for a picnic shelter in a future phase.

Can we move the SSRP advisory committee meeting to the American Legion Building?

Thanks to Tommy for offering to inquire if future meetings can be moved to the American Legion. I'll share this information when it becomes available.

Next meeting: Monday, May 18th 2026 at 6 PM location TBD

Adjourned: 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Sara King