

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri
And via Microsoft Teams for Park Board Members
Friday, January 9, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

Ms. Susie Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Leslie Carrier, Don Chenevert, Jr., Cody Danastasio, Curtis Jared, Mark McNay (via Teams), Dr. Dale Moore, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: None

Park Board Staff Members Present: Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Leigha May, Tim McCrea, Jerry Mitchell, Ron Schneider, Jill Simmons, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Dan Dawson, Railroad Historical Museum, Lance Kettering, Springfield Sports Commission, Stan Adams, Springfield Sports Commission

2. READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Mark McNay made a motion to approve the minutes from December 12, 2025, Park Board Meeting; Chair Susie Turner requested two edits for guest names from the minutes for revision. Mark made a motion to approve the minutes with those edits suggested by Chair Susie Turner from December 12, 2025, Park Board Meeting, seconded by Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

2.2. Mark McNay made a motion to approve the closed minutes from December 12, 2025, Park Board Closed Session; seconded by Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

3.1. None was provided.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1. There was no unfinished business to discuss.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. **Presentation by the Springfield Sports Commission on the Sports Tourism Strategic Plan** Lance Kettering and Stan Adams of the Springfield Sports Commission presented a comprehensive overview of the Sports Tourism Strategic Plan to the Park Board. The presentation addressed recent facility investments, Springfield's competitive positioning, and strategies to strengthen sports tourism and economic impact.

The Sports Commission highlighted major facility improvements since 2019, including turfing multiple diamonds at Killian, Cooper Tennis, enhancements at Lake Country Soccer, and new university athletic facilities, which have improved Springfield's ability to host regional and national events. Springfield's sports tourism index scores place the city in the top 5–10 percent nationally for facility strength and event hosting, despite operating with a comparatively smaller budget.

A SWOT analysis identified strengths such as strong leadership and diverse facilities, along with challenges including limited indoor court space and the lack of owned events. Key recommendations included increased stakeholder engagement, branding the Cooper and Killian Sports Corridor, and developing a distinct sports

tourism identity for Springfield. The need for an anchor indoor sports facility with multiple courts was emphasized as critical to attracting large-scale basketball and volleyball events.

The presentation also reviewed economic impact analysis tools used to estimate event-related revenue, noting that recent facility upgrades have increased both local and regional event hosting. Regional collaboration efforts were discussed, focusing on coordination with neighboring communities and state partners to avoid duplication of facilities and services. Marketing and branding initiatives were outlined, including outreach to event rights holders and development of promotional materials.

5.2. Approval to amend the donation acceptance amount for walkway and landscape improvements at Phelps Grove Park

Director Schneider presented an amendment to a previously approved donation for Phelps Grove Park, increasing the total contribution to \$41,043.14 from Fran Giglio and the Giglio family to support walkway and landscape improvements. The amendment reflected additional funds provided after project costs exceeded the original contingency amount. Don Chenevert, Jr., made a motion to approve the amended resolution and acceptance of donation of \$41,043.14 from the Giglios for improvements at Phelps Grove Park, seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

5.3. Approval of a grant agreement with Abilities First to fund playground improvements at McDaniel Park

Director Schneider announced the Springfield-Greene County Park Board was awarded a grant in the amount of \$160,000 from Abilities First to support the development of an inclusive playground at McDaniel Park. He expressed appreciation to staff for preparing the necessary documentation to support the grant application and thanked Park Board Member Cody Danastasio for bringing the grant opportunity to staff's attention. He explained that the playground is part of a larger master plan, with nearly \$2 million in donations already secured toward the overall project. The Board was informed that a remaining funding gap still exists, and staff are continuing fundraising efforts through the Citizens Advisory Board and other potential sources, with the option to adjust the project scope if needed. Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to accept the Abilities First grant in the amount of \$160,000 for an accessible playground at McDaniel Park, seconded by Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously.

5.4. Superintendent of Parks Business Operations Report

Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Park Operations, presented a financial update to the Board, reporting continued improvement across multiple funds and outlining recent expenditures and projections for the remainder of the fiscal year. He reported that the parks operating fund recorded total revenues of \$36.27 million and expenses of \$35.48 million for FY25, resulting in a net income of \$780,685 and an overall fund balance improvement of \$875,778 compared to the prior year.

Mr. Mitchell also reported strong performance in the golf enterprise fund, with revenues totaling \$5.41 million and expenses of \$4.89 million, producing a net income of \$520,494 and a total fund balance of \$3.35 million. He noted strong participation, with more than 10,000 rounds played, and highlighted recent capital improvements at golf facilities.

The county-wide capital projects fund was reviewed, with revenues of \$584,649 and expenditures of \$1.93 million, primarily related to the Cooper ARPA projects and Dickerson Park Zoo bear boardwalk exhibit, which is nearing completion. Mr. Mitchell concluded by presenting projected revenues and expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year, noting continued positive trends driven by salary savings, operational efficiencies, and ongoing monitoring of major repairs and capital needs.

5.5. Director of Parks Report

Director Schneider referred the Board to the staff written report located in report packet. He reported that work is underway on the Parks budget for the 2026–27 Fiscal Year, with an

increased focus on operational cost recovery for programs and facilities, as well as discussion of capital replacement needs at recreation facilities. Budget workshops with the Fees & Charges Committee are scheduled for January 16 and January 30. A budget presentation is anticipated at the regular Park Board meeting on February 13, with final approval expected at the March 13 meeting.

Director Schneider shared the promotion of Matt Coats to Assistant Director of Parks, filling the vacancy created by the recent retirement of Miles Park. Mr. Coats brings more than 25 years of progressive experience in parks management and most recently served as Superintendent of Special Facilities. He holds a bachelor's degree from Missouri State University in Wildlife Conservation and Horticulture and has a strong passion for environmental stewardship, creative problem solving, and project management.

Five Parks Department employees are being recognized in January for service milestones. Ambur Gossen, Debra Course, Charity Keniley, and Devin Diaz celebrated 5 years of service. Josh Curnutt celebrated 30 years of service and recently announced his intention to retire. Their dedicated service to the community should be applauded!

Director Schneider shared that a preliminary punch list meeting was held at the Cooper Sports Complex on Thursday, December 18th. However, there is still a significant amount of work to complete, including but not limited to the installation of synthetic turf on the stadium field, fence installation, final grading and seeding of disturbed turfgrass areas, and concrete flatwork. A final walk through for the Cooper Complex is expected by the end of January. The Killian Complex is complete with exception of asphalt patching and seal coating of the parking lots and service road. The Missouri State University softball team was cleared to begin practices at the Killian stadium field on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Parks staff has been working with the City's Risk Management Department regarding repair and/or replacement of roofs that sustained damage from the April 2025 storm. We now have estimates for the roof repairs/replacements as well as potential FEMA and insurance coverage. Staff has also been working with the City's purchasing agent to assemble a bid package for the needed repairs/replacements, which is scheduled to be publicized soon. The due date for bids is scheduled for February 25, 2026. The bid package includes 11 roofs at the Dickerson Park Zoo and 6 roofs at other park facilities. Once the bids are received and evaluated, we'll be able to select the individual roofs that we can afford to repair or replace.

Miller Engineering was hired to provide construction documents for the roof structure replacement of the bath house at Grant Beach Park. Since the existing gypsum roof is an obsolete roof system in this area, an engineer was needed to design a new roof structure for this building. Now that Miller Engineering is under contract, we expect a final design by March 2026. This construction project will be advertised for bids, through the City's purchasing agent, once the construction documents and project specifications are finalized. Construction will likely take 90 days once a contractor is hired and a notice to proceed is issued. This results in an estimated project completion as soon as June 2026 but could be as late as August 2026 pending any setbacks and time needed to finalize a contract. Parks staff continues to work with the City's Risk Management Department on potential insurance funding and/or reimbursement from FEMA. The pool was closed for the 2025 season and will remain closed until this project is completed.

Director Schneider announced the upcoming City Council meeting for the second reading of a bill to approve \$500,000 for master plan development for five parks. The Board was informed that the second reading is scheduled for January 12, 2026. He also outlined the RFQ process for consultant selection, noting that Jeff Smith has begun preparing the RFQ and that the consultant selection process is expected to take several months following City Council approval, with project initiation to follow.

6. CALENDAR

6.1. Park Board Meeting: Friday, February 13, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Office, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1. Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Cody Danastasio. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:46 a.m.