

**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, March 13, 2026**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Vice-Chair, Mr. Cody Danastasio, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Park Board Members Present:** Leslie Carrier, Don Chenevert, Jr., Cody Danastasio, Curtis Jared (via-Teams), Dr. Dale Moore, Dr. Dianna Parker

**Park Board Members Absent:** Mark McNay, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

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

**Guests:** Robin Helsel, Developmental Center of the Ozarks, Marisa DeClue, Developmental Center of the Ozarks, Ali Pool, Ozarks Food Harvest, Angi Rowe, Ozarks Food Harvest, Dan Dawson, Railroad Museum

**2. READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1. Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2026, Park Board Meeting, seconded by Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

2.2. Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2026, Park Bard Retreat, 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

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

5.1. **2025 Turkey Trot Report and Check Presentation** Assistant Director, Jill Simmons, presented a historical background of the Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K in Springfield, noting that the 2025 event marked the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the race. The event was originally established through a partnership with Developmental Center of the Ozarks and has grown into a long-standing community tradition, with Ozarks Food Harves joining as a continued partner. The race is coordinated through a cross-functional planning committee that includes representatives from the Park Board, Springfield Police Department, Springfield Fire Department, Public Works, Ozark Mountain Ridge Runners, and the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management.

Staff noted that participation declined during COVID-19 years when the event was held virtually, with attendance dropping to approximately 1,500 participants. Staff has seen a steady increase with 6,507 participants in 2025, the largest turnout since the pandemic. As in previous years, proceeds from the event are evenly distributed between the Park Board Youth Scholarship Fund and Developmental Center of the Ozarks, with each receiving \$47,809.32. Staff expressed appreciation to the numerous staff members, volunteers, sponsors and partner organizations whose collaboration continues to make the Turkey Trot a successful community event.

Ali Pool of Ozark Food Harvest and Marisa DeClue of the Developmental Center of the Ozarks each expressed appreciation for the continued partnership and shared updates on the positive community impact resulting from the 2025 Turkey Trot. Both echoed the sentiments of Assistant Director, Jill Simmons in thanking staff, volunteers, and community partners in their efforts in making the annual event a continued success.

**5.2. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Fees & Charges** Director Schneider presented the FY 2026-27 Fees & Charges, previously reviewed by the Park Board, citing no major changes from the last presentation. Donald Chenevert, Jr., made a motion for the Park Board to approve the FY 2026-27 Fees & Charges, seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.3. Approval of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Parks Budget** Director Schneider provided a review of the previous budget presentation from the February 13, 2026, Park Board meeting sharing that staff was facing a deficit of approximately \$630,000. Staff worked diligently over the last several weeks to decrease that deficit, now approximately \$500,000, with staff still working to find some additional relief from the City at a later date when the budget is presented to City Council in May and June. Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2026-27 Parks Budget, seconded by Leslie Carrier. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.4. Superintendent of Park Business Operations Report** Superintendent of Park Business Operations, Jerry Mitchell, presented an overview of the Business Operations financial report, including projected revenues and expenditures as of February 28, 2026. The Parks operating funds are projected to generate approximately \$37.5 million in revenues and \$35.9 million in expenditures, resulting in an estimated net income of approximately \$1.06 million, an improvement from the previous report. Increased revenues were attributed in part to higher property mill tax collections and stronger-than-expected sales tax revenues.

Staff also noted several unanticipated maintenance and repair expenses that occur throughout the year and are addressed as needed. The Golf Enterprise Fund continues to perform strongly, with significant increases in both revenues and rounds played, including an unusually strong February with 5,692 rounds played, substantially higher than the same period last year.

The Capital Projects Fund projections were also reviewed, with revenues and expenditures reflecting ongoing capital investments, including work related to the Cooper Park ARPA project. Staff noted that projections within the capital fund will continue to be adjusted as project expenditures occur and interest revenues are received.

**5.5. Director of Parks Report** Director Schneider referred the Board to review the written comprehensive reports submitted by staff included in their packet. Mr. Schneider extended his

appreciation to the entire Park Board for a successful and engaging Park Board retreat on March 2, 2026, sharing his takeaway from the retreat provided confirmation that the Park Board is unified in their strategic vision. Based on the strategic objectives identified at the retreat, a staff retreat is scheduled to be facilitated by Habitat Communication & Culture for Tuesday, March 24, 2026. The results from both retreats will be presented to the Park Board at an upcoming regular meeting of the Board.

The Park Board's Nominating Committee met on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Committee members reviewed several applications from Springfield residents interested in serving on the Park Board. They plan to meet again to interview top candidates and formulate a recommendation for 1 nominee, that will replace Leslie Carrier at the end of her term in June. The Committee's recommendation will go to the City Manager and City Council for consideration. Greene County is also working on an appointment for their delegate who will replace Curtis Jared when his term ends in June.

Director Schneider shared long time Park employee, Vernon Armstrong celebrated his 15-year anniversary with the City of Springfield, citing Vernon's dedication and service to the community and stewardship of our parks should be applauded.

Mr. Schneider and Superintendent of Park Business Operations, Jerry Mitchell, met with the Greene County Commission on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, to present the draft Parks budget for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year and provided an update on current financials. Schneider and Superintendent of Park Business Operations, Jerry Mitchell, met with the Greene County Commission on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, to present the draft Parks budget for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year and provided an update on current financials.

Director Schneider concluded his report by sharing that funding has been secured for five master planning projects. Staff developed a request for qualifications that was advertised and sent to prospective planning consultants on January 30, 2026, with submittals due on Friday, February 20, 2026. Staff received 13 responses from firms submitting their statement of qualifications. A review team of 5 including representatives from Parks administrative staff, a Park Board member, and a representative from the City's Quality of Place Department will select 3 firms that will be invited for interviews on March 30, 2026. Following those interviews, the top firm will be selected.

## **6. CALENDAR**

- 6.1. Park Board Meeting: Friday, April 10, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Office, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- 7.1. Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Leslie Carrier. The motion to adjourn the open meeting and move into closed session passed unanimously. The open meeting ended at 9:01 a.m.