

**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, May 8, 2026**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Chair, Susie Turner, called the meeting to order at 8:32 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, Susan Turner

**Park Board Members Absent:**

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

**Guests:** Dan Dawson, Railroad Museum Grant Beach Park

**2. READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1. Don Chenevert, Jr., requested an adjustment for a typo on the last page of the minutes from April, Mark McNay made a motion to approve the minutes from April 10, 2026, Park Board Meeting, pending that correction, seconded by Cody Danastasio. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS**

3.1. Chair, Susie Turner, addressed the Board regarding a proposed transition from delivery of the printed monthly packets to electronic distribution as the standard practice. With this proposal, any Board Member requesting a physical packet would communicate that with the Executive Secretary, Leigha May, to obtain one the morning of the meeting. Board members expressed support for this adjustment, noting that it would allow Park Rangers to dedicate additional time and resources towards addressing safety concerns within the Parks system.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1. There was no unfinished business.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

5.1. Director Schneider presented a draft of the Parks Annual Report, the first since 2010, noting it is intended to become an annual publication focused on transparency, benchmarking, and highlighting departmental accomplishments and services. The report covers fiscal year July 2024 through June 2025 and includes operational statistics, financial highlights, major 2025 accomplishments, and key initiatives planned for 2026. Director Schneider reviewed departmental achievements related to parks, trails, golf, volunteer engagement, staffing, programming growth, capital improvements, partnerships, and financial performance, including approximately \$42 million in expenses and continued growth in golf revenue. Board members expressed strong support for the report's design,

clarity, and transparency, while recognizing the department's continued CAPRA accreditation status.

- 5.2. **Grant Beach Park Pool and Westport Park Pool Updates** Director Schneider provided an update regarding the 2026 aquatics season, advising the Board that operations at two outdoor pools are currently in jeopardy due to significant infrastructure concerns. Staff noted that a consultant report from Water's Edge will be presented on the June 12, 2026, Park Board meeting.

Director Schneider reviewed the status of Grant Beach Pool Bath House, which remained closed following the storm damage from April 2025, noting the final construction plans were completed, bids were received, and Hamby Construction was identified as the lowest responsive bidder at approximately \$221,000. Due to construction timelines extending into August, staff concluded the facility would not reopen for the current swim season.

Director Schneider shared the Westport Pool update, where a major leak was discovered during seasonal startup, resulting in significant daily water loss and further confirming the facility's end-of-life condition. Staff provided repair options ranging from temporary repairs estimated near \$100,000 to a full reconstruction project estimated at approximately \$505,000 with a projected 5–6-month completion timeline.

Leadership recommended postponing any major decisions until after the Water's Edge assessment report next month and proposed expanded operational days at other pool facilities and adjustments to Splash and Sizzle promotions, extending those hours of availability. Director Schneider stated a public communication plan and press release would be issued following the meeting to provide updates and alternative pool options for the community.

- 5.3. **Review and discussion of a mobile food vendor pilot program** Robert Uckele, Concessions and Catering Administrator, presented a proposed pilot program aimed at increasing the presence of mobile food vendors and food trucks at Parks-sponsored events and select facilities in response to ongoing requests from user groups and event participants.

The presentation outlined the proposed process for advertising opportunities to vendors, distributing application and criteria packets, coordinating vendor participation around scheduled events, and establishing an approved vendor list for future placements. Staff reviewed operational requirements, including proof of insurance naming the City as an additional insured, current business licensing, compliance with City and Health Department regulations, professional and safe operating standards, and cleanup expectations. The proposed program would prohibit the sale of tobacco and alcohol products.

Discussion included a vendor rotation process intended to ensure fair assignment opportunities among approved vendors. Staff noted a preference for a flat-fee structure, rather than percentage-based fees,

with proposed fees varying based on the size and scope of events. Clarification was also provided that the pilot program would apply specifically to Parks-sponsored programs and events, while partner organization events and facility rentals would continue operating under their existing agreements or concession arrangements.

**5.4. Nomination of Board Officers for 2026-27** Chair Susie Turner provided a review of the officer nomination process, recommending the continuation of the practice of alternating leadership roles between City and County appointees. Curtis Jared nominated Cody Danastasio for the position of Chair. Cody Danastasio, in turn, nominated Dr. Dale Moore, noting the continuing practice of County and City representation in executive positions. Curtis Jared also nominated Don Chenevert, Jr., for the position of Secretary. Staff noted the formal slate of nominees will be presented at the June meeting, with the official vote scheduled to occur at the July meeting. No action was taken.

**5.5. Superintendent of Parks Business Report and Comments** Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations, presented the financial update, reporting continued positive revenue performance across multiple divisions. Year-to-date golf revenues were noted to be up more than \$900,000 compared to the prior year, with overall strong participating contributing to sustained growth. Sales tax revenue exceeded expectations, with May collections reported at approximately \$147,000 above projections and total sales tax revenue trending approximately \$881,000 over budget year-to-date.

Mr. Mitchell explained that these additional revenues have enabled the department to address approximately \$300,000 in previously unbudgeted critical repairs and maintenance, including improvements at the Chesterfield Family Center, Brightspeed Ice Park, and necessary sewer infrastructure repairs at Cooper Youth Baseball. Mitchell further noted that the increased revenue supports the Board-directed 1% reserve contribution goal of approximately \$465,000, strengthening long-term financial stability.

Additional highlights included positive performance at Cooper Sports Complex following recent improvements, with baseball programming generating approximately \$100,000 in revenue, increased tournament activity, and continued growth in adult softball participation. Dickerson Park Zoo revenue was reported to be up approximately \$48,000 compared to the prior year, helping offset increased operational expenses. Mitchell reported a decrease in payroll expenses of approximately \$664,000 year-over-year due to vacant positions, contributing to overall cost savings. Mitchell concluded noting that a formal budget adjustment reflecting increased revenues and recommended appropriations will be prepared in coordination with the City of Springfield for presentation to City Council, with anticipated action scheduled for July.

**5.6. Director of Parks Report** Director Schneider thanked Matt Coats, Jim Fisher, Jenny Perkins, along with the Standard Team and staff that were involved in the recent review by the Commission for

Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Springfield-Greene County Park Board will be recommended for reaccreditation and recognized at the National Recreation and Park Association Conference in September of this year.

Director Schneider noted two services anniversaries being celebrated in May: Scott Welsh and Ashley Mumm, both celebrating 5-year service anniversaries with Springfield-Greene County Parks. Director Schneider directed the Board to the written reports by staff and noted the addition of a new recurring update prepared by Jeff Smith, Senior Parks Planner, which will provide ongoing progress updates on active Master Planning Projects and serve as a continuous communication tool between staff and the Board.

Director Schneider also introduced and welcomed Chris Gannon as the new Superintendent of Park Operations. He noted that Mr. Gannon brings 23 years of facility management experience to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, most recently serving as Senior Facility Manager for Bass Pro. In his new role, Mr. Gannon will oversee construction and fleet management operations across the Parks Department.

## **6. CALENDAR**

- 6.1. Park Board Meeting: Friday, June 12, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Office, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- 7.1. Royce Reding made a motion to adjourn the open session meeting; seconded by Curtis Jared. The motion to adjourn and move into closed session passed unanimously. The open session adjourned at 9:30 a.m.