

**MINUTES**  
**SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri**  
**August 9, 2024**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Susie Turner, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Park Board Members Present:** Leslie Carrier, Cody Danastasio, Mark McNay, Dr. Dale Moore, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

**Park Board Members Absent:** Don Chenevert, Jr., Curtis Jared

**Park Board Staff Present:** Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Dustin Garner, Ambur Gossen, Ben Kellner, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Ron Schneider, Jeff Smith, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

**Guest:** John Montgomery, Ozark Greenways

**II. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Mark McNay, Secretary, presented and made a motion to approve the May 10, 2024, Closed Park Board Minutes; seconded by Royce Reding. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mark McNay presented and made a motion to approve the revised copy of the July 12, 2024, Park Board Meeting Minutes that were distributed immediately prior to the August 9 Meeting, which were revised to include Ms. Christina Hammers as a guest who attended the July 12, 2024, meeting; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mark McNay presented and made a motion to approve the corrected July 12, 2024, Closed Park Board Meeting Minutes, with the correction of the word statues to statutes; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS**

- a. **Park Board Chair Report and Comments** New Park Board Members Cody Danastasio and Dr. Dale Moore were welcomed onto the Board. The upcoming Japanese Fall Festival, which will be held September 6-9 at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, was discussed.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Horse Donation and Equipment to Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center** Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, presented the proposed donation of two miniature ponies, a miniature donkey, and miniature horse carts from Jim and Julie Osburn to the Park Board for use at the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. The proposed donation was discussed, and Mr. Cody Danastasio made the motion that the Park Board accept the donation valued at \$6,900 and approve the Resolution presented to the Board; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Horse Donation to Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center** Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, presented the proposed donation of an 18-year-old Arabian/Dutch cross chestnut gelding from Timothy and Carolyn Hoekstra for use at the Park Board's Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. The donation was discussed, and Mr. Royce Reding made a motion that the Park Board accept the donation of this horse, valued at \$12,500, as set out in the Resolution; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **O'Reilly-Tefft Gymnasium Facility Lease Agreement with Greene County** Parks Assistant City Attorney, Lana Woolsey, provided the Park Board with the history of this facility and the original 25-year lease agreement with the Springfield Public Schools R-12 (SPS/R-12) and the subsequent purchase of this facility by Greene County. After the purchase of this property, Greene County converted the school building into the Greene County Justice Center and is extending a new lease agreement to the Park Board upon the expiration of the original agreement on July 31, 2024. This new lease requires the Park Board to take on additional snow and ice removal responsibilities for the Justice Center property and was offered to allow for additional discussions on how this property should be handled moving forward. The new lease will expire December 31, 2025, which will align with the County's calendar-year budget cycle. Through conversations with Greene County, the County would like the Park Board to pay rent as part of any future renewals to help fund the Justice Center. After discussion, the Board requested a list of lease agreements with upcoming expiration dates, and Director of Parks Ron Schneider will have staff compile this list for the Board. Mr. Dale Moore made the motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution presented to the Board today, which approves and authorizes entering into the lease agreement with Greene County for the O'Reilly-Tefft gymnasium facility that will expire December 31, 2025; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Establishment and Appointment of Committees** Director of Parks Ron Schneider reviewed the list of Board Committees proposed for the upcoming year: Fees and Charges Committee, Park Development and Property Assessment Committee, Bylaws and Policies Committee, and Nominating Committee. The committees will meet as necessary. Ms. Turner reviewed the Committee descriptions and noted that the Bylaws and Policies Committee will review the Bylaws, which typically do not change very often, and develop policies, which can be more fluid and provide governance as needs change. Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to accept the proposed Committees; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Turner requested that each member indicate their interest to serve on the proposed committees, noting that the current Bylaws require each Board member to serve on at least two committees. The following indicates the specified Board members' committee preference for participation:
- Fees and Charges Committee: Cody Danastasio, Dr. Dianna Parker, and Royce Reding;  
Park Development and Property Assessment Committee: Cody Danastasio, Mark McNay, Dr. Dale Moore, and Susie Turner;  
Bylaws and Policies Committee: Leslie Carrier, Dr. Dale Moore, and it was mentioned that Don Chenevert, Jr. had expressed interest to serve on this Committee; and  
Nominating Committee: Leslie Carrier, Mark McNay, and Dr. Dianna Parker.

As the Chair of the Board, Mr. Curtis Jared will subsequently review and finalize the Committee assignments as outlined in the current Bylaws.

- e. **Trail Development Update Presentation** Senior Parks Planner Jeff Smith provided an update on 20 active trail development projects in Greene County. The Board discussed several details about the projects including funding for maintenance of the trails once developed.
- f. **Scheduling of Future Park Board Retreat** The Board members discussed an interest in a full day Park Board retreat in lieu of the November Park Board meeting. Potential topics may include: strategy/vision, recent staff changes, and recreation needs in the community. Director of Parks Ron Schneider welcomed Board members to email him with additional suggested topics. It was also suggested that an outside facilitator conduct the retreat.
- g. **Director of Parks Report and Comments** Director of Parks Ron Schneider referred the Board to the staff's comprehensive written reports, which were included in their packets, for additional details on activities, events, and projects from the past month. Staff is also working on a facilities attendance and revenue report that will provide month-to-month and year-to-date information for the Board. The budget adjustment for the recent Jordan Valley Ice Park sponsorship from Brightspeed was well received by City Council at their August 5 meeting. The second reading and approval by City Council will be on August 19, and Director Schneider plans to attend. Summer activities are winding down, including the operation of outside pools. Fasnacht is open on weekends only until Labor Day. A sincere thank you to Parks staff for making our facilities, programs, and events safe, vibrant, and fun for our community.

**V. CALENDAR**

- a. The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 13, 2024, at the Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E Pythian, Springfield, Missouri.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mark McNay made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:48 a.m.