

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri
Friday, October 11, 2024

I. ROLL CALL

Because Chair Curtis Jared and Vice-Chair Susie Turner were not physically present for this meeting, Secretary Mark McNay was the Acting Chair. Acting Chair, Mark McNay, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Don Chenevert, Jr. (via Teams), Cody Danastasio, Curtis Jared (via Teams), Mark McNay, Dr. Dale Moore, and Dr. Dianna Parker

Park Board Members Absent: Leslie Carrier, Royce Reding, and Susie Turner

Park Board Staff Present: Ron Schneider, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Anne-Mary McGrath, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Jennifer Shepherd, Jackson Thompson, and Lana Woolsey

Guests Present: Trailspring Representatives Jeff Frye and Alaina Grote; and Ozarks Pickleball Club Representatives Matt Battaglia, Mark Pon, and Kristin Norris

II. READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McNay presented the September 13, 2024, Park Board Minutes; Mr. Cody Danastasio made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McNay also presented the September 13, 2024, Park Board Closed Session Minutes; Dr. Moore made a motion to approve the closed session minutes, seconded by Mr. Danastasio. Motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

There were no reports from the officers.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ozarks Pickleball Club – 2024 Dynamic DNA Queen City Open Check Presentation

Mr. Matt Battaglia, President of the Ozarks Pickleball Club, presented a check in the amount of \$22,094.24 to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board generated from the 2024 Dynamic DNA Queen City Open Pickleball Tournament held at Cooper Tennis Complex on June 21st–23rd, 2024. The Queen City Open is Ozarks Pickleball Club's signature event and between all three tournaments held over the last three years, \$100,000 has been raised for continued maintenance of specifically Meador pickleball courts in our Parks system as well as expanding pickleball programs and activities. Sponsors for this year's tournament included: Dynamic DNA,

OMB Bank, Lamar Advertising, and Mercy Health. There were 457 players, with players representing 12 states, and with players ranging in age from 8 years old to 89 years old.

b. Presentation by Trailspring regarding a potential bicycle pump track at McDaniel Park

Ms. Alaina Grote, Executive Director of Trailspring, presented a proposal to construct a bicycle pump track at McDaniel Park. A pump track is a circular loop consisting of rollers and berms that require minimal peddling or pushing. The track relies on riders to utilize momentum with up and down body movements. Visitors can ride bicycles, roller skates, scooters, skateboards, etc. Pump tracks are inclusive, multi-generational amenities designed for all skill levels. Pump tracks can be utilized by beginner cyclists, children and families, and frequent riders hoping to strengthen their skills while having fun. The proposed budget for the construction of the pump track is \$555,000. There is currently verbal confirmation from American Ramp Company out of Joplin to assist with funding. This project would have multiple phases starting with the pump track construction, then adding parking, lighting, restrooms, and a pavilion. The supporting infrastructure for this project has an estimated cost of \$1,129,781.25. If the Park Board is in favor of pursuing this project, the next step would be a funding agreement between Trailspring and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, and this will be addressed at a later Park Board Meeting.

c. Acceptance of a grant award from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to fund picnic tables at Lost Hill Park and Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, presented a grant opportunity for the Park Board to receive an \$18,278 reimbursement grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as part of its Non-Playground Scrap Tire Surface Material Program. These grant funds would reimburse the Park Board 100% of its costs incurred for the purchase of seventeen picnic tables that will be constructed from reground polymer and crumb rubber, with ten of these tables placed at the Lost Hill Park Pavilion and the remaining seven tables placed at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Dr. Moore made a motion to apply for and accept the grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for reimbursement of the \$18,278 cost to purchase seventeen picnic tables; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Acceptance of a donation to construct a shade structure at Phelps Grove Park

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, presented a proposed donation from the Giglio family for a shade structure and amenities to be placed in the Rose Garden Area of the Phelps Grove Park. The cost and value of this donation is \$68,269.28, which will include a shade structure, a concrete connector walk, two new benches, new plants, and new landscape edging. These improvements will initially be paid for by the Park Board and then reimbursed by the Giglio family. Mr. Danastasio made a motion to accept the Giglio family donation for \$68,269.28 for reimbursement of the costs for acquiring and construction a shade structure and the additional amenities described at Phelps Grove Park; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Director of Parks Report and Comments

Mr. Ron Schneider, Director of Parks, has continued to meet with partnering agencies and community groups such as Springfield Public Schools, Trailspring, Phelps Grove Park Neighborhood representatives, Missouri State University athletics/softball, Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, Springfield Sports Commission, Lake Country Soccer, and Ozark Greenways.

Mr. Matt Coats and Mr. Caleb Sanders were recently awarded the Southwest Region Partnership Award by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The award recognizes individuals for their collaborative support of conservation initiatives and includes the successful administration of grant funded conservation projects.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director, was elected as a Fellow and inducted into the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. To be elected into the Academy, the individual must have served for at least 15 years in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency. The Academy is limited to 137 active members.

Springfield was awarded the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) spring and fall state championship host site beginning Fall 2026 through Spring 2031.

The 20th annual Kid'athlon took place on September 14th at Chesterfield Park. The event was offered for children 5 to 12 years of age. This year's youth triathlon was the largest turnout in the history of the event, with 123 participants, which is an increase of 40 participants from last year.

Harvest Fest is underway at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park and taking place on weekends through October 27th. The festival features a corn maze, family games, food, pumpkin harvesting, pony rides, and visiting all the farm animals housed at the park.

V. CALENDAR

- a. Park Board Retreat: Friday, November 8, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., at Lake Springfield Boathouse, 2312 E Lake Springfield Park Rd., Springfield, Missouri
- b. Park Board Meeting: Friday, December 13, 2024. At 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Office, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:05 a.m.