

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri
And via Microsoft Teams for Park Board Members
Friday, April 11, 2025

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Curtis Jared, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Leslie Carrier, Don Chenevert, Jr, Cody Danastasio, Curtis Jared, Dr. Dale Moore, Dr. Dianna Parker, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: Mark McNay, Royce Reding

Park Board Staff Members Present: Tim Carpenter, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Garrison Pendergrass, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Ron Schneider, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Dan Dawson, Railroad History Museum at Grant Beach; Ron Bradshaw, Ozarks Model Railroad Association; Chris Coulter, Greene County

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the March 14, 2025, Park Board Meeting minutes, which were distributed today; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

There were no reports from the officers.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation on the Partner with Parks Sponsorship Program** Parks Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator, Garrison Pendergrass, provided a brief history of the Parks Sponsorship Coordinator position and how it has evolved through the years. Parks annual sponsorship revenue has increased each year since Garrison joined Parks in 2022, with 2024 being the largest year due to the Brightspeed agreement. Information was provided regarding various ways individuals or companies can become a Parks sponsor including facility, concession stand, court or field naming rights; wall, court, field, concession stand, and scoreboard signage, athletic clinics or special event sponsorships. Sponsorships are available at most Parks facilities, complexes, courts, and fields including golf

courses, Fieldhouse Sportscenter, Brightspeed Ice Park, the Miracle League Field, Cooper Tennis Complex, Springfield Skate Park, Northview Center, family centers, aquatics, and supporting events that benefit the Cruse Dog Park or Park Board special events like Heroes at the Farm, HarvestFest, and Turkey Trot. The Park Board appreciates the individuals and businesses that have provided financial sponsorships which support facilities, programs, and events for the community to enjoy.

b. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Update Director of Parks, Ron Schneider, provided an update on recent budget discussions with the City of Springfield and Greene County staff. Superintendent of Parks Business Operations, Jerry Mitchell, presented recent developments to balance the budget and eliminate the proposed operating fund deficit.

c. Approval of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Goals and Objectives The Park Board Goals and Objectives consist of the objectives determined during the Board's strategic planning retreat, and they were recently presented to the Park Board for review. As part of the CAPRA reaccreditation process, goals and objectives must be approved by the Park Board annually, so the FY 2025-2026 Goals and Objectives are presented again today for approval. Ms. Susie Turner made a motion that the Park Board approve the proposed Park Board Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2026-2026, which is attached to the Resolution presented to the Board today; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Strategic Plan Objectives and Key Results Quarterly Update Director of Parks Schneider presented a scorecard for The Strategic Plan Objectives and Key Results. All of the strategic plan areas are making progress to meet the key result objectives. The next report will be provided at the July 11, 2025, Park Board Meeting.

e. Superintendent of Parks Business Operations Report and Comments Superintendent of Business Operations, Jerry Mitchell, reviewed the Revenues and Expenditures report for the 9-months ending March 31, 2025, for the operating, capital, and golf funds. Revenues and expenditures are both dependent upon the timing of prospective grants or donations for the remainder of the year. The end of the year expenditure total is subject to the timing of the funds associated with the Cooper Park ARPA Project, as well.

f. Director of Parks Report and Comments A meeting with the City of Springfield administrators, Greene County Commission and administration, and Park Board representatives, was held on Monday, March 31, 2025, to discuss the financial challenges that Parks is facing, specifically in the areas of operations and programming. Although no agreed upon solutions were made, it was encouraging to open communication between the City, County, and Parks.

A grand opening celebration for the Cooper Soccer Complex was held on Saturday, March 29. The event was well attended by officials representing the State, City, County, Park Board, and Lake Country Soccer. The fields looked great.

Assistant Director, Kim Reser, announced her retirement after 27 years serving the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Kim's recreation career spans more than 30 years, and her dedication and commitment to providing exceptional parks and recreation services will be missed. Kim's last day with the Park Board will be April 30, 2025.

An open house to provide information and receive public comment for the development of a master plan for Lafayette Park took place on Thursday, April 3, at the Springfield Dream Center. Over 50 people attended the open house including neighborhood residents, representatives from Springfield Public Schools, Parks staff, and other interested community members. An online survey was created to collect feedback on Park amenities.

Based upon feedback from patrons, Parks staff is developing a plan to offer third party concessionaires (food trucks) at the Fieldhouse Sportscenter during certain events and tournaments. Using food trucks can provide us with a cost-effective approach to concessions with minimal financial investment.

At the May Park Board meeting, the agenda will include a staff presentation about managing and planning for the natural areas within the Parks Department.

Meet and Greet sessions were held for three finalists interviewing for the City Manager position. A Community Stakeholder Breakfast will be held with the candidates at 7:15 a.m., on April 16, at the Old Glass Place.

VI. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 9, 2025, at 8:30 am, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Cody Danastasio. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.