

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri
And via Microsoft Teams for Park Board Members
Friday, June 13, 2025

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Curtis Jared, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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

Park Board Members Absent: Don Chenevert, Jr.

Park Board Staff Members Present: Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Ron Schneider, Jackson Thompson, Mallory Weber, 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

- a. Dr. Diana Parker made a motion to approve the May 9, 2025, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Royce Reding. The motion was approved unanimously
- b. Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the May 9, 2025, Closed Session Park Board minutes; seconded by Mr. Royce Reding. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

Vice Chair Susie Turner announced that the Butterfly Festival will take place Saturday, June 14, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Nathanael Greene Close Memorial Park. The event is free and open to the public, featuring a butterfly house, vendors, food trucks, and a petting zoo.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Approval of a United States Tennis Association Grant Application to Replace Tennis Equipment** Director of Parks Ron Schneider reviewed the United States Tennis Association (USTA) grant application to replace tennis equipment at the Cooper Tennis Complex. The grant would cover 50 percent of the costs, amounting to \$3,202.50, with additional funding from another USTA Section grant, covering up to \$1,000.00. The total cost for the equipment, including four portable umpire chairs with wheel kits, is \$6,405.00. The remaining balance of \$2,202.50 would be funded by Cooper Tennis Complex. The new umpire chairs are made of

composite wood, which is more durable than the original chairs purchased in 1994. Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to approve the application for the USTA grants covering over 50 percent of the specified equipment costs for Cooper Tennis Complex; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Grant Beach Park Pool Bath House Update Assistant Director Miles Park discussed the significant damage sustained by the Grant Beach Pool Bath House during a storm on April 29. The roof decking, made of gypsum material, was severely damaged, requiring a structural engineer's assessment. The estimated cost for repairs is between \$275,000 and \$300,000. The most cost-effective solution involves replacing the roof decking with a metal roof deck, tapered insulation, and new roofing. Staff is exploring potential insurance or FEMA reimbursement to help cover the repair costs. The outcome of these discussions will influence the decision on how to proceed with the repairs. The pool will remain closed until the bath house is repaired and the facility is safe to reopen. The Board discussed the importance of evaluating the overall condition of the pool facilities before making significant investments.

c. Review and Discuss Potential Improvement Projects at McDaniel Park, Meador Park, and Ritter Springs Park Director of Parks Schneider discussed the recent opportunity to present three proposed projects to an interested donor. Senior Park Planner Jeff Smith presented the proposed improvements for McDaniel Park, which include multiple phases. Phase one involves the construction of a pump track and a new 55-stall parking lot. Phase two includes a pavilion with restrooms and area lighting. Phase three involves the development of an inclusive playground, and phase four focuses on cleaning out invasive understory brush and preserving existing canopy trees. The project is funded by Trail Spring and the City, with the City providing funding for the parking lot and new driveway connection through minor neighborhood improvement funds and remaining budget carryover funds.

The second project discussed was the proposed improvements for the Meador Park pickleball facility, including a new shade structure with restrooms, replacing the existing courts, and adding four additional courts. The Ozarks Pickleball Club is actively involved in the project, raising funds through tournaments, and seeking potential donors. The Club has been instrumental in working with Parks staff towards upgrading the facility to attract larger regional tournaments.

The third project presented was the proposal for a nature-based playground at Ritter Springs Park. The project includes enhancements to the entrance, accessible parking spaces, a paved pathway, and two small shade structures. The nature-based playground is expected to be a unique addition to the park system, providing a different type of play experience that aligns with the outdoor theme of Ritter Springs Park.

d. Nomination of Board Officers for 2025-2026 Board Chair Curtis Jared acknowledged the City and County's good working relationship and led the nominations for officers nominating Ms. Susie Turner as Chair. Ms. Turner

nominated Mr. Cody Danastasio as Vice Chair. Ms. Leslie Carrier nominated Mr. Mark McNay as Secretary. The 2025-2026 Officer Ballot will include these nominations for consideration at the Park Board meeting on July 11, 2025.

e. Superintendent of Parks Business Operations Report and Comments

Superintendent of Business Operations Jerry Mitchell discussed the projected end-of-the-year numbers that show a deficit of approximately \$375,000, which is an improvement from previous estimates. The Golf Fund will start showing the depreciated expenses in future reports. In May, golf revenues exceeded \$700,000. Financial updates regarding several capital-funded projects were provided.

f. Director of Parks Report and Comments Director of Parks Schneider announced that the Cooper Tennis Complex was nominated by the United States Tennis Association for the National Member Organization of the Year. The winner will be announced in the fall, and the award ceremony will take place in March 2026.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Silver Springs Park Pavilion improvements project is scheduled for next Friday, June 20, at 1:00 PM. Park Board members were encouraged to attend.

A letter was sent to Missouri State Parks requesting that the Hog Barn at Nathanael Greene Park be designated as obsolete. This is a requirement per the Land Water Conservation Fund grant which provided funding towards this facility in the early 1980's. Since that time, the facility has fallen into disrepair and no longer has a value as a recreational asset. If permitted by Missouri State Parks, the hog barn will be demolished and restored to turfgrass until a master plan is developed for the space and funding is available to make improvements. The estimated cost of the demolition of the hog barn was included in the 2025-2026 Parks Budget.

Park Board Member Dr. Dianna Parker was reappointed to a second three-year term at the June 9, 2025, City Council meeting.

Senior Executive Secretary Karen Mellinger will be retiring on August 14, 2025, after nearly 19 years of service. Director of Parks Schneider and the Board expressed gratitude for her contributions to the department and mentioned that she would be greatly missed.

Board Member, Leslie Carrier, thanked the Park Board for their contributions to funding pizza parties for several Parks Divisions in appreciation of staff's storm clean-up efforts.

VI. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 11, 2025, at 8:30 am, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dale Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into Closed Session, following a five-minute break; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.