

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

Park Board Members Present: Leslie Carrier, Don Chenevert, Jr., Curtis Jared, Mark McNay, Dr. Dale Moore

Park Board Members Absent: Cody Danastasio, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Park Board Staff Members Present: Tim Carpenter, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Ron Schneider, Jeff Smith, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Dan Dawson, Railroad History Museum at Grant Beach; Ben Tegeler, Executive Director, Ozark Greenways

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2025, Park Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. The motion was approved unanimously
- b. Mr. Mark McNay made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2025, Closed Session Park Board meeting; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. 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. **Ozark Greenways Presentation** Mr. Ben Tegeler, Executive Director, Ozark Greenways (OG), presented an overview of current trail development initiatives, challenges, a financial overview, and general information on services provided by Ozark Greenways. The 30-year relationship OG has had with Parks and several City Departments was recognized and is evident in the many cooperative projects to promote health, wellness, and active lifestyles, which was also a common theme in the City Citizen Survey and the Forward SGF initiative.

b. Approval of a License Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for a Pedestrian Trail Assistant City Attorney Lana Woolsey presented information regarding a contract with Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) for the construction and use of an I-44 pedestrian underpass as a trail connector and accepting this underpass as part of the Park Board's trail system. The underpass would be fully funded and maintained by MHTC. Parks would maintain the lights and trail connectors on both sides of the underpass once constructed. Mr. Mark McNay made a motion that we approve the Resolution presented to the Board today, which approves the contract with Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, and upon completion, accept the I-44 pedestrian underpass as a trail connector for our trail system; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of a Resolution Declaring Ewing Park and Glenwood Park Tennis Courts to be Removed The Park Board's Park Development and Property Assessment Committee recently reviewed pictures and an aerial map of the tennis courts at Ewing Park and Glenwood Park as the courts have fallen into disrepair. Due to the estimated replacement cost of \$250,000 to \$500,000 per park depending upon the number of courts installed, it was determined that repair or replacement was not feasible at this time. Without capital funding to properly address the issues, the courts are not safe for use. The Committee recommended that demolition of the courts take place with the sites being restored to turfgrass. Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. made the motion that the Board find the tennis courts at Ewing Park and Glenwood Park to be unsafe and order the removal of these courts as soon as reasonably possible; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Strategic Plan Objectives and Key Results Quarterly Update Director of Parks Schneider provided a quarterly update on the annual objectives/key results including reviewing each of the objectives and progress made.

e. Grant Beach Park Pool Bath House Update Director of Parks Schneider reported that due to the major roof damage the Grant Beach Pool Bath House sustained from the April 29 storm, the pool will not reopen for the 2025 season. Staff provided the latest update and tentative plan to repair the damaged facility. Staff is optimistic that a portion of the repair costs will be reimbursed by FEMA.

f. Superintendent of Parks Business Operations Report and Comments Superintendent of Business Operations Jerry Mitchell presented information regarding several accounting entries to record adjustments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The final revenues and expenditures are typically known by late November or early December. Currently, there is a projected net loss of \$323,621 in the Park Operating Funds, which would have been significantly higher if proactive measures were not taken. The Golf Enterprise Fund is projecting a net loss of \$62,530, due to formally including the depreciation expense of \$170,308. The Parks

County-Wide Capital Projects Fund is projecting a net income of \$229,137, due to the remaining funds for the Cooper Park ARPA Project that have not been expended. The Board appreciated the cost recovery efforts and goals for the upcoming budget year.

g. Director of Parks Report and Comments Director of Parks Schneider attended the second meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board on the ½ cent sales tax spending on June 25. The agenda was centered around information about public infrastructure, quality of place, and economic vitality. Director Schneider’s presentation included information on Parks infrastructure, quality of life benefits, and Park initiatives outlined in Forward SGF. The next meeting is July 30, 2025.

Construction began on the Bear Boardwalk project at the Dickerson Park Zoo this week, with the demolition of the existing boardwalk completed in two days. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

The Parks Communications and Marketing Team has been working diligently on the Park Board’s website redesign. There will be a phased roll out of the new design. Staff will provide a brief presentation and review of the new site at the Park Board Meeting on August 8, 2025.

In celebration of National Parks and Recreation month, the Parks Communications and Marketing Team developed a social media campaign promoting Park Board facilities, programs, projects, staff, and history. The campaign is named “Build Together, Play Together” and will run through the month of July. There has been good engagement with the Park Board’s Facebook page followers.

The Springfield Art Museum held the Pops in the Park Concert at Phelps Grove Park on June 21, 2025. Organizers estimated over 3,000 attendees at the first-time event. Parks supported the event with trash collection, picnic pavilion use, and barricade placement, with staff tracking costs totaling just \$1,101.00, which was reimbursed by the Springfield Art Museum. It was a fantastic event.

The Park Development and Properties Assessment Committee met on June 18. The Committee discussed several items including plans for additional parking and lighting improvements at the Cooper Sports Complex; current tennis court conditions at Ewing and Glenwood Parks; a request from the Boys and Girls Club to place a fence in Grant Beach Park; and a few real estate matters in closed session.

The Bylaws and Policies Committee met on June 25. The Committee continues to make progress to overhaul the Park Board Bylaws. Appreciation was extended to Assistant City Attorney Lana Woolsey’s work to include the changes and updates. The next step for the Bylaws revisions is Park Board and Committee Member Don Chenevert, Jr, and the Director of Parks plan to meet with the Greene County Commissioners to review the draft Bylaws. Once reviewed with the County, we anticipate presenting the proposed Bylaws to the Park Board for approval.

Missouri State Parks responded to our recent letter requesting that the hog barn at Nathanael Greene be designated as obsolete. The building was deemed obsolete, so we can pursue demolition, which was included in the FY 2025-2026 Parks Budget.

Since the Park Board's approval of the Code of Conduct, staff posted signs at facilities and continue to incorporate the behavior expectations with program registration materials.

h. Election and Rotation of Board Officers for 2025-2026 Director of Parks Schneider reviewed the slate of officers and motions were made and accepted as follows:

Mr. Curtis Jared made a motion for Ms. Susie Turner to serve as Chair for the FY 2025-2026 year; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Mark McNay made a motion for Mr. Cody Danastasio to serve as Vice Chair for the FY 2025-2026 year; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion for Mr. Mark McNay to serve as Secretary for the FY 2025-2026 year; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CALENDAR

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

Director of Parks Schneider presented Mr. Curtis Jared a plaque and thanked him for his service this past year as Park Board Chair.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mark McNay made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.