

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri
And via Microsoft Teams for Park Board Members
Friday, September 12, 2025

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Susie Turner, 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, Jim Fisher, Leigha May, Tim McCrea, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Ron Schneider, Jill Simmons, Jeff Smith, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Ron Bradshaw, Ozarks Model Railroad Association, Dan Dawson, Railroad Historical Museum, Matt Battaglia, Ozarks Pickleball Club, Terri McQueary, Ozarks Pickleball Club, Doug Stone, City of Springfield.

II. READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Cody Danastasio made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2025, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

- a. On behalf of the Park Board, Chair Susie Turner acknowledged Karen Mellinger's retirement from the Park Board and shared a thank you note from her, expressing her gratitude for the time spent working with the board.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Ozarks Pickleball Club check presentation** Matt Battaglia and Terri McQueary presented a recap of the Queen City Open Pickleball tournament, highlighting its growth, economic impact, and funds raised for the Park Board and the club. The tournament this year grew significantly with over 500 participants this year, making it the largest amateur tournament in Missouri. The event attracted players from 12 states, including Florida, Oregon, Minnesota, and Texas. The funds raised a net of over \$47,000, benefiting the Park Board and the Ozark Pickleball Club's Budget. The event was supported by over 15 sponsors, including Domino's Pizza, Lamar Advertising, Mercy Health, and Cox Health. The presenting sponsor was OMB Bank.
- b. **Approval to accept an in-kind donation of tennis court repair services at Meador Park and Gillenwaters Tennis Complex** Miles Park presented a generous in-kind donation from Gerald Perry Tennis Company for tennis court repairs at Meadow Park

and Gillenwater Park, valued at \$10,500. The donation was offered in honor of Jon Carney, who recently passed, and who had a close working relationship with the company. Dr. Dianna Parker made the motion to accept this donation for tennis court repairs at both Meador and Gillenwaters Park, as set out in the Resolution presented to the Board. Don Chenevert Jr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Approval of a funding agreement with the Watershed Committee** The Park Board approved the amended agreement with the Watershed Committee, which provides funding and services for water quality outreach, conservation, and maintenance. Leslie Carrier made a motion to approve the resolution presented today, which authorizes entering into an Amended and Restated Funding Memorandum and Services Agreement with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. Dr. Dianna Parker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Review and discuss roof repairs at the Grant Beach Pool and Dickerson Park Zoo facilities** Presentation by the City's Director of Risk Management, Doug Stone, who provided an overview of the damage caused by the April 29th storm, focusing on the Grant Beach Park Bath House and the Dickerson Park Zoo facilities. Mr. Stone reviewed the overall insurance claims for both facilities, as well as discussing the potential FEMA reimbursement process. Several members of the Board stressed the importance of competitive bidding for the repairs to ensure the best, possible price/bid, and the need to maximize potential FEMA reimbursements, and discussed the need for additional funding to cover the gap between the estimated repair costs and the available funds.
- e. **Approval of a Cost Recovery Policy for programs and facilities** One of the Park Board's strategic objective is to develop a systematic and data-informed method of evaluating programs. Through zero-based budgeting and an established policy for cost-recovery targets, Parks can maintain financial sustainability and instill accountability with program administration. Assistant Director for Recreation, Jill Simmons presented the cost recovery pyramid that, consists of three tiers: Tier 1 (0-30% cost recovery) for programs that primarily benefit community engagement/community at large, Tier 2 (30%-70% cost recovery) for programs with a balance of community and individual benefits, and Tier 3 (70%+ cost recovery) for programs with primarily individual benefits. The Park Board discussed the policy, emphasizing the need for specificity and clarity in categorizing programs and setting cost recovery targets. Cody Danastasio made the motion that the Park Board adopt the cost recovery policy, seconded by Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Approval of a site Master Plan for Lafayette Park** In February of 2025, Springfield Public Schools started a discussion with Parks Department Staff about potential track and field improvements to the west side of Lafayette Park. Upon reviewing this park site, it was determined that a site master plan was needed. On April 3, 2025, staff held a neighborhood meeting at the Springfield Dream Center to kick off the master-planning process for Lafayette Park. The meeting was well attended by members of the community, and an online survey was available for those unable to attend. The survey addressed current conditions as well as future needs for the Park. Using the data received and through follow up discussions with neighborhood representatives, the Lafayette Master Plan was finalized. Jeff Smith, Senior Parks Planner, presented the master site plan to the Park Board. Dr. Dale

Moore made a motion that the Park Board approve and adopt the Lafayette Park Master Plan, seconded by Cody Danastasio. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. **Approval of a site Master Plan for Hawthorn Park** A preliminary concept for Hawthorn Park was included in the Grant Avenue Parkway Placemaking Master Plan dated August 20, 2021. Considerable public input was gathered during the Grant Avenue Parkway project by the City of Springfield, which included Parks staff. Because the construction of the Grant Avenue Parkway is nearly complete, staff used this opportunity to revisit the design concept and prepare a Master Plan for Hawthorn Park, with minor adjustments made to the original plan that was part of the Grant Avenue Project. On September 5, 2025, staff met with various representatives from the neighborhood to present the plan, which was well received. This Master Plan will assist in the future development and plans for Hawthorn Park. Jeff Smith, Senior Parks Planner, presented the master site plan to the Park Board. Don Chenevert Jr. made a motion that the Park Board approve and adopt the Hawthorn Park Master Plan, seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. **Review and discuss potential park projects and planning initiatives** Over the past several months, Parks Department staff have been studying various projects that could benefit from the recently passed City-wide sales tax. At this time, staff is proposing improvements at McDaniel Park, Meador Park, Lafayette Park, Gerald Perry Tennis Courts, Hawthorn Park, and the Dickerson Park Zoo. Staff is also proposing to use a small portion of this available funding for master planning projects at Fassnight Park, Grant Beach Park, Nathanael Greene / Close Memorial Park, and Sequiota Park. The Board will review and approve the final list in October.
- i. **Superintendent of Parks Business Report and Comments** Superintendent of Business Operations Jerry Mitchell provided an update on the financial status of the Parks Department, noting increased revenues and decreased expenditures and a positive performance of the golf fund revenues.
- j. **Director of Parks Report and Comments** Director Schneider announced that Leigha May has been hired as the Executive Secretary. He also recognized several Parks Department employees for service milestones in August. Clayton Warden celebrated 5 years of service; John Jones and Daniel Villalobos each celebrated 10 years of service; Craig Bright and Timothy Green each celebrated 15 years of service; and Renee Evans celebrated 35 years of service. Director Schneider referred the Park Board Members to review the written report for a more detailed overview.

VI. CALENDAR

Park Board Meeting: Friday, October 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Office, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 10:31 a.m.