

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri
And via Microsoft Teams for Park Board Members
Friday, October 10, 2025

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Susie Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

Park Board Members Absent: Leslie Carrier

Park Board Staff Members Present: Tim Carpenter, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Leigha May, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Ron Schneider, Jill Simmons, Jackson Thompson

Guests: Ron Bradshaw, Ozarks Model Railroad Association, Dan Dawson, Railroad Historical Museum, Ramona Pieron, Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association

II. READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Mark McNay made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2025, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Cody Danastasio. Don Chenevert, Jr. requested the edit of the misspelling of his name be corrected, before posting. The motion was approved unanimously including the edits of Don Chenevert, Jr. being corrected.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

- a. On behalf of the Park Board, Chair Susie Turner commended the Board for their continued engagement, support, and willingness to volunteer and represent the Park Board within the community. She also acknowledged the recent passing of Dan Kinney, recognizing his remarkable 35 years of leadership and service to the park system. During his tenure, Dan was instrumental in numerous accomplishments, including the development of the family centers, the Cooper Tennis Complex, the addition of Close/Memorial Park to Nathanael Greene, the opening of the Ice Park, the formation of Rivercut Golf Course, and the establishment of key partnerships such as Ozark Greenways and the launch of the annual Turkey Trot 5K that continues to be a wonderful institution in our city and a great family gathering for Thanksgiving Day. Services for Dan Kinney will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at Schweitzer Church.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Accept a donation for future improvements to Cruse Dog Park** Presentation by Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, addressed the Park Board that Cruse Dog Park was named as a recipient of a donation from the Chastain family who were heavily involved in the development of Cruse Dog Park when it was formed in 2008. The funds left to Springfield-Greene County

Park Board for Cruse Dog Park, is a gift from the William S. Chastain Estate in the amount of \$53,629.56, and has been earmarked for future amenities and development of the dog park. The motion to accept the Estate Gift was made by Dr. Dianna Parker, seconded by Cody Danastasio and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of an agreement with Cox Medical Center for a trail easement** Through collaboration with Ozark Greenways, Ozark Transportation Organization, and the City of Springfield Public Works Department, a trail segment is being developed that will extend the Ward Branch Trail from the intersection of East Bradford Parkway and Independence Street to Fremont Avenue. Construction costs for the connector trail are borne from a TAP grant, City funding, and donations. The Park Board is not monetarily contributing to the construction of this trail, but it will be responsible for the easement and maintenance, as typical for trails that are not in the road right-of-way. The motion to approve the agreement with Cox Medical Center for a trail easement was made by Mark McNay, seconded by Don Chenevert, Jr. and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Approval to accept a donation for walkway improvements at Phelps Grove Park** Assistant Director, Miles Park presented to the Park Board a generous donation in the amount of \$29,341 from the Giglio family, who have previously donated to Springfield-Greene County Park Board, to connect a new walkway in Phelps Grove Park. The donation will fund the extension of a concrete patio and walkways, enhancing the functionality and connectivity of the gazebo to the parking lot. A motion to accept this donation for improvements, with authority to accept additional funds as needed was made by Royce Reding, seconded by Dr. Dale Moore and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Approval of a grant agreement with the Hatch Foundation to fund up to \$1,000,000 of improvements to McDaniel Park** In January 2025, the Park Board entered into an agreement with Trailspring, Inc. to fund a bicycle pump track at McDaniel Park. City Council subsequently appropriated funds for a parking lot and new entrance, completing Phase I funding, which is now in the design and engineering phase. Phase II, which includes a pavilion/restroom facility and lighting, was presented to the Hatch Foundation for funding consideration, and staff reported that the \$1,000,000 request was approved. Cody Danastasio recused himself from the vote as he serves on both the Park Board and the Hatch Foundation Board of Directors. The motion for the Park Board to approve the grant agreement was made by Don Chenevert, Jr., seconded by Curtis Jared and the motion passed unanimously.
- e. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) presentation** One of the Park Board's strategic objectives is to perform CPTED evaluations for 5 parks during the 2025 calendar year. Presented by Tim Carpenter, Park Ranger Administrator, and Justin Wilson, Park Ranger these evaluations were completed for Dickerson Park Zoo, Jenny Lincoln Park, Grant Beach Park, McDaniel Park, and Lafayette Park. The core principles explained in this presentation were natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, access control, and maintenance and how these principles will help reduce criminal activity. Park Rangers provided examples of improvements in various parks, including landscaping changes, lighting enhancements and the removal of entrapment areas that increased visibility and safety. Future plans for CPTED principles are to standardize trail designs and continuing to implement these principles across more parks to improve overall safety. Discussion and questions from the Board followed the presentation.
- f. Approval of a resolution to recommend potential park projects and planning initiatives to the Citizens Advisory Board** Over the past several months, Park Board staff has been

studying various projects that could benefit from the recently passed City-wide sales tax. 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. A preliminary schedule of completion for these projects has been created along with a matrix showing how each of these projects aligns with the criteria established by the Citizen's Advisory Board, as well as the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Jeff Smith, Senior Parks Planner and Director Ron Schneider plan on presenting the list of projects and a funding request to the Citizens Advisory Board on October 22, 2025. The motion to approve the park project list and present to the Citizens Advisory Board was made by Dr. Dale Moore, seconded by Curtis Jared and the motion passed unanimously.

- g. **Strategic Plan Objectives and Key Results quarterly update** Director Schneider provided a quarterly update on the strategic plan, highlighting progress in objectives including funding, program evaluation, organizational culture and park safety. Significant progress was made in developing a systematic, data-informed method for evaluating programs, including the approval of a cost recovery program and policy. Included in this was the implementation and presentation of CPTED as well as the progress made in the efficient use of Park Board funding. Chair Susie Turner emphasized that progress was being made, and Curtis Jared suggested it may be a good time to start thinking about a similar engagement to continue talk about future goals, objectives and strategy. A Board retreat was suggested for February or March of 2026.
- h. **Superintendent of Parks Business Operations Report and Comments** Superintendent of Business Operations, Jerry Mitchell, presented the financial report, noting reduced expenditures and increased revenues. The success of the golf fund was emphasized, with funds operating in the black since 2021, driven by increased rounds and improved food and beverage services.
- i. **Director of Parks Report and Comments** Director Schneider recognized September service milestones for Parks Department staff. Eric Green celebrated 5 years of service; Daniel Kesting and Andrew Thomas each celebrated 10 years of service.

After nearly 18 years of dedicated service to our community, Anne-Mary McGrath has shared that she will be retiring as Superintendent of Recreation on October 17, 2025. Anne-Mary is known for being a compassionate leader, special events master planner and organizer, dedicated public servant, and close friend to many staff members. Director Schneider, Parks Staff, and Board Members applauded Anne-Mary for her years of service and wishing her a well-deserved and joyful retirement.

Staff is working with Sister Cities Association of Springfield to renew the written agreement with the Park Board. The existing agreement is set to expire on October 31, 2025. Therefore, the new agreement is expected to be presented to the Park Board for potential approval at the November 14, 2025 Board meeting. Director Schneider anticipates that a representative from Sister Cities will provide a recap of this year's Japanese Fall Festival and a brief report on their activities at this meeting.

An open house and community input session for Grant Beach Park was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at Weaver Elementary School. Staff had the opportunity to visit with neighborhood residents and others interested in park improvements. An online survey was also developed and provided to residents in an effort to track satisfaction levels of current amenities and

determine what improvements are desired. The next step is to review survey data and determine priority needs and develop a site master plan.

Director Schneider concluded his report by deferring the Park Board to the full written reports by staff for further updates and concluded with a Dan Kinney quote “we work hard so people can play hard”.

VI. CALENDAR

Park Board Meeting: Friday, November 7, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Office, 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield, Missouri.

The next meeting was originally scheduled for Friday November 14, 2025, Chair Susie Turner suggested due to several scheduling conflicts to move the meeting to November 7, 2025. The Park Board agreed reached a unanimous consensus in favor of the change.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:46 a.m.