

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
August 9, 2023**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order – Sparky Stuckenschneider, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call – Director of Parks & Recreation, Wayne Dunker called roll.

In attendance: Co-Chairs, Sparky Stuckenschneider and Tessie Steffens. Members: Bob Dzurick, Bob Kloeppel, Dave Wehmeyer, Jeannie Miller-Wood, Gavin Wooley and John Freitag.

Council Liaisons: Al Behr, Jeff Patke.

Members not in attendance: Kevin Kriete and Betty Werner.

Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #4: Approval Minutes – July 12, 2023, by *Gavin Woolley with a second by Tessie Steffens.*

Agenda Item #5: Parks Report – *given by Wayne Dunker*

- We are two employees short at the moment. One employee transferred to a different department. Had a second Interview with a candidate this week and plan on offering the job.
- With no seasonal or temp employees (compared to 5-6 seasonals & temps in 2022), we had to put our heads together to figure out trash duty for the Fair. This year we offered other full-time City employees overtime and had 6 full-time employees assist us with Fair duties.
- Still cleaning up from the Fair but we seem to be in a good position at this time
- Will move on to installing the mini shelters at the Dog Park in a few weeks.
- Will resume trail work at Miller Trail Post in the coming weeks.
- Auditorium Roof & Tuckpointing bids are due August 31. The project will include a foam roof over the exterior roof and tuckpointing of the entire building.
- Staff met with the contractor that will paint the Pickleball lines at the new Fairgrounds pavilion. Will be adding basketball court lines to the basketball courts at Optimist and the Fairgrounds.
- Skate Park features are scheduled to be here on September 22. There will be 7 new features.
- We have received payment for 15 memorial benches. The bench order has been placed and there is an 8–10-week shipping timeframe. Parks staff will be installing these in the fall.
- WSA soccer storage shed – nothing to report

Agenda Item #6: Communications from Audience –

- Mayor stated that he was glad the Fair was over. Somehow with all the things against us, we pulled it off.
- He hadn't seen the final numbers, but he thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Agenda Item #7: Old Business –

RTP Grant:

- We had a second-round meeting with the DNR rep. It's looking favorable that we may receive the grant. Will know in October.

MDC CAP Agreement:

- MO Department of Conservation (MDC) supplied all the necessary paperwork to their staff in Jeff City. Once reviewed in Jeff City, MDC will send it back to us for Council approval. Wayne will present the agreement to the Parks Commission first and then Council for final approval.

Agenda Items #8: New Business

Town & Country Fair - Update:

- We all the rain, the park areas were already muddy early in the week, so we weren't allowing anyone to park on them before the major rains.
- The fields across the street did get quite a bit of damage.
- Didn't allow the tractor-trailers to park on Barklage this year because it took most of the year to repair the damage done from last year's fair. Because of all the wet grounds, they used an alternate plan, but there are some safety issues with the plan that need to be addressed.
- Record crowds, lots of rain, muddy grounds, and thunderstorms/tornado warnings were all against us, but in the end, we pulled it off.
- The Fair will start cleanup. Steve Sullentrup & Dave Brockman will be working on removing all the mulch and putting the grass seed down.
- Staff is discussing the grading/drainage issues, and hopefully address them sooner than later.

Commemorative Brick Program - Locations:

- After some discussion, the Flag Plaza at Riverfront Park was settled on as a good fit for a commemorative brick plaza. The flag plaza is dated and needs updating which may happen in conjunction with the Trail Connection Grant (if we receive it).
- Bob Dzurick and Jeannie Miller Wood made a motion to accept the location for the program.

Marijuana Sales Tax - Update:

- Darren Lamb approached the City Council with a possible use for the marijuana sale tax money. He proposed to add a Park Maintenance Worker I position and pay for a Park Specific Master Plan. Both would be funded with the tax money after the City's new fiscal year starts in October.

Park Specific Master Plan:

- Wayne discussed the benefits of a park-specific master plan: gives the City specific detailed plans, ideas, and knowledge on what is needed in the Department and in the park system going into the next capital improvement sales tax in 2026. Gives an unbiased third-party opinion.
- Tessie stated that the City has had at least two in the past and they were both paid for. They gave great ideas.
- The last Park Master Plan was done in-house in 2012.

- The only con, and it's not really a con is the price tag. By paying for a Master Plan, the Department would only gain one full-time employee from the Adult Marijuana Tax instead of two.
- Mayor Hagedorn added, that yes in year one, the City could only afford to add one additional employee, but by year two, we could then add a second employee.
- It was stated that \$50,000 for a document is worth the benefits it will give the City.
- The City has a Comprehensive Plan through the Economic Development Department and an outside company but it has limited parks and recreation information since it covers much broader areas for the City. The study may tell the City to add/remove something in the park system based on population and growth but may have very little information on how to accomplish the task.
- Gavin Woolley and Jeannie Miller-Wood made a motion to support the Park Specific Master Plan.

Agenda Item #9: None

Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting – September 13, 2023, at 5:30 pm

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m. by Bob Dzurick with a second by Gavin Wooley.

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVAL.