

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2024

**THIS IS A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON
NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting held October 22, 2024 at the Excelsior Springs Community Center was called to order by President Jake Simmons at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken with five board members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President - Jake Simmons, Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brandon Block, Sherri Branson-Hurt, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons,

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Reggie St. John

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON: Absent - Eric Marshall

STAFF PRESENT: Nate Williams – Director; Drake Pollard – Assistant Director - Recreation/Programs; Assistant Director – Administration - Taran Svoboda; Chad Clevenger – Manager - Parks and Open Spaces; Alexis Blankenship – Recreation Coordinator; Janet Morehead – Administrative Assistant

Zac Wilkins made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kyle Uptegrove seconded the motion, motion passed, 5 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 5 – Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Jake Simmons, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wikins
Nays – 0

VISITORS: none

Kyle Uptegrove made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting as presented. Scott Buckman seconded the motion, motion passed, 5 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes –

5 – Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Jake Simmons, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wikins
Nays – 0

Discussion was held on the Financial Reports dated October 14, 2024. Questions were asked and answered.

Kyle Uptegrove made the motion to accept the Financial Reports including Detail Trial Balance dated 09/30/2024 for Accounting Period 12/2024, pages 1 - 4; 2024 Balance Sheet dated 10/14/2024 for Accounting Period 12/2024, page 1; Revenue Report dated 10/14/2024 for Accounting Period 12/2024, pages 1-2 and Nate Williams' 2023-24 Working Budget through September 2024 as presented; and Nate Williams' 2024-25 Working Budget.

Zac Wikins seconded the motion, motion passed, 5 – 0. A roll call vote was taken:
Ayes – 5 – Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Jake Simmons, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wikins
Nays – 0

STAFF REPORTS

Restrooms and fountains have been winterized.

Alexis Blankenship received an email from the Richmond, MO Youth Basketball representative. Staff does not feel that it would be a good fit for the Department with travel times, etc.

Met with AYSO - American Youth Soccer Organization. Excelsior Springs Parks and Rec youth soccer will probably keep the same format and make some modifications.

Installation of the Lane of Lights is November 2. Downtown Excelsior Partnership is looking for volunteers.

Candy Cane Hunt will be held in conjunction with the Pool Luau.

Youth Basketball Camp will be November 25 for ages 5 to 14. There will be two 45 minute sessions.

FEAT Performance with Drake Pollard - Tristin Stuteville, goalie that has worked and trained with Drake has signed with the North Carolina Courage. Drake is talking with the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center about a Sports Medicine class. Looking into the possibility of physical therapy at the Community Center.

The Ribbon Cutting and the official opening of Siloam Springs Park happened on October 3, 2024. Thank you to the McElwee Family!!

COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

OLD BUSINESS

Nate Williams updated the Board on the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for Boundless Backyard. He and Taran Svoboda have met with Molly McGovern, reviewing this grant for suggestions. Molly McGovern, City Manager, was a Grant Writer for MARC (Mid-America Regional Council).

Nate plans to send it tomorrow to the Grant Manager for review and final suggestions.

Once awarded the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, entities have two years to complete the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Nate Williams and Drake Pollard gave reports on attending the National Recreation and Park Association National Conference.

Nate felt there were more and varied sessions this year. He enjoyed the "Connections are Key" session.

Drake talked about how larger departments have the same challenges as smaller departments regarding participant numbers, etc.

Some departments are having success with Day/Summer Camps that run all summer for 2 or 3 days per week.

Alexis Blankenship and Alexandria Arnold will be presenting at the Missouri Parks and Recreation Conference this spring. They will be presenting "How to Rock your Internship".

Nate Williams met with Ed Parkinson, GIS Department with the City of Excelsior Springs, and updated the Parks Map.

Alexis Blankenship said that in talking with Lindsey Baxter of DEP, Other Trails is ranking our trails as far as difficulty and will let the Department know how the trails are ranked. Other Trails have customers that want to know the rankings so they can plan their walks or rides.

Melinda Mehaffy and Nate Williams are in continued discussions with Phillip Scherer regarding the installation of a single track trail for bikers and runners from the airport, west through city owned land, Siloam Mountain Park, East Valley Park and possibly through Isley Park Woods Nature Area. Nate Williams is also working with the Missouri Department of Conservation about the trail going through Isley Park Woods Nature Area.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Jake Simmons invited the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department Board and staff to the ReMax Haunted House on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The Haunted House targets teens and older.

Zac Wilkins made the motion to adjourn the October 22, 2024 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting. Kyle Uptegrove seconded the motion, motion passed, 5 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 5 – Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Jake Simmons, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wikins

President Jake Simmons adjourned the October 22, 2024 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:51 p.m.