

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2023

**THIS IS A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting held August 22, 2023 at the Excelsior Springs Community Center was called to order by President Jake Simmons at 6:01 p.m.

Roll call was taken with seven board members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President - Jake Simmons; Vice President - Patrick Halfhill; Secretary - Terri Irons; Sherri Branson-Hurt; Scott Buckman; Jessica Meyer; Zac Wilkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Bullimore, Kyle Uptegrove

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Reggie St. John

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON: Eric Marshall

STAFF PRESENT: Nate Williams – Director; Drake Pollard – Assistant Director; Chad Clevenger – Manager - Parks and Open Space; Janet Morehead – Administrative Assistant; Alexis Blankenship – Recreation Coordinator

Patrick Halfhill made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Zac Wilkins seconded the motion, motion passed, 7 – 0. A show of hand vote was taken: Ayes – 7 – Sherri Branson-Hurt; Scott Buckman, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Jessica Meyer, Jake Simmons, Zac Wilkins
Nays – 0

Patrick Halfhill made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting as presented. Terri Irons seconded the motion, motion passed, 7 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 7 – Sherri Branson-Hurt; Scott Buckman, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Jessica Meyer, Jake Simmons, Zac Wilkins
Nays – 0

Discussion was held on the August 22, 2023 FY 22/23 Financial Report. Questions were asked and answered.

Patrick Halfhill made the motion to accept the August 22, 2023 Financial Reports including Balance Sheet dated 08/08/2023 for Accounting Period 10/2023, page 1; Detail Budget Report by Category dated 08/08/2023 for Accounting Period 10/2023, pages 1- 4; Revenue Report dated 08/08/2023 for Accounting Period 10/2023, pages 1 - 2; and Nate Williams' 2022-2023 Working Budget through 8-17-2023 as presented. Scott Buckman seconded the motion, motion passed, 7 – 0. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes – 7 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Scott Buckman, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Jessica Meyer, Jake Simmons, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

STAFF REPORTS

Park and playground inspections are done monthly. Life expectancy of playground equipment is approximately 10 years. After the Milwaukee Street park project is completed, it would be time to start replacing playground equipment.

Lexi Blankenship updated the Board on the fall programs. Adult tennis is going on now. There are over 70 signed up for youth soccer. There are 40 signed up for youth volleyball. Youth volleyball is partnering with Lawson for games.

Zac Wilkins mentioned that Lexi had an information table at the Cornerstone Elementary School orientation. Zac said that she had a line for information. She also accepted two youth sports registration forms.

Lexi is also working on setting up some camps for the following sports: rugby, fencing, karate, and lacrosse.

Drake Pollard discussed FEAT. The numbers for FEAT have dropped since fall sports are starting but numbers should start to increase once school starts for the winter sport athletes. Drake trained with an exchange student from the Netherlands working on transitioning to soccer from field hockey. .

Nate Williams shared some information about Kevin the Minion. The Facebook post reached over 16,000; 899 reactions - typical reactions are 3 - 6; 176 comments - typical comments are 0 - 7; and shared 48 times - typical shares are 0 - 6.

Parks and Rec Month had 18 events in 7 parks - 32 hours of fun and 670 participants.

The Shemwell donated statues have generated quite a bit of interest and comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Budget/Revenue Committee met at 5:00 pm before the board meeting. Discussion was held. Nothing was changed in the proposed budget. Nate Williams will present the final budget to the Board in September for approval before presenting it to the City Council for approval.

Nate plans to meet with the Recreation and Parks committees this fall or winter.

OLD BUSINESS -NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Nate Williams reached out to the company that designed the inclusive park in Willard, MO. The inclusive playground is 100' x 120', costing \$635,000. The price includes site work, equipment, pour in place cover, freight, etc. Nate Williams included a rendering of this park. It is totally inclusive. It is food for thought as Milwaukee Street Park is slated to be the next major project.

The donation of Siloam Springs Park from the Earl and Margaret McElwee Family was accepted by the City Council at their meeting last night. Thank you very much for the donation to the Excelsior Springs Parks system!

The Parks and Recreation Department is purchasing 4 commemorative bricks at Rainbow Splash Park in recognition of the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board members that served during the planning and building of Rainbow Splash Park. Board members are: Reggie St. John, Don Ledford, Susan McAuliffe, and Christy Marker. Nate would like to continue to purchase these commemorative bricks in recognition of board members, etc.

Terri Irons left at 6:46.

OPEN DISCUSSION

THANK YOU SHERRI BRANSON-HURT FOR THE DELICIOUS SUPPER!!

Reggie St, John invited the Board members and acquaintances to apply to participate in the Thrive Excelsior Citizens Leadership Academy. Applications are due by September 1, 2023.

Patrick Halfhill made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Buckman seconded the motion.

Jake Simmons adjourned the August 22, 2023 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:48 p.m.