

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 27, 2025

**THIS IS A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON
JUNE 24, 2025**

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting held May 27, 2025 at the Excelsior Springs Community Center was called to order by Vice President President Kyle Uptegrove at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken with six board members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-President - Kyle Uptegrove; Sherri Branson-Hurt; Scott Buckman; Mark Bullimore; Cindy Spellman; Zac Wilkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brandon Block, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Reggie St. John

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON:

VISITORS: none

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

Cindy Spellman was introduced. She is the newest Parks and Recreation Board member. She has been appointed to finish Jake Simmons' term which will end in 2027.

Zac Wilkins made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Sherri Branson-Hurt seconded the motion, motion passed, 6 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Sherri Branson-Hurt made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. Zac Wilkins seconded the motion, motion

passed, 6 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Discussion was held on the Financial Reports dated May 21, 2025. Questions were asked and answered.

Sherri Branson-Hurt made the motion to accept the Financial Reports including the 2025 Balance Sheet dated 5/21/2025 Accounting Period 7/2025, page 1; Detail Budget Report dated 5/24/2025 for Accounting Period 7/2025, pages 1 - 3; Detail Trial Balance dated 5/21/2025 for Accounting Period 8/2025, pages 1-3; Revenue Report dated 5/21/2025 for Accounting Period 7/2025, pages 1 - 2; and Nate Williams' 2025 Working Budget through 5/20/2025 as presented.

Scott Buckman seconded the motion, motion passed, 6 – 0. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

STAFF REPORTS

Shelters are being reserved.

Reggie St. John mentioned that the signs installed on Rainbow Trail banning motorized bikes, trikes, scooters, etc. seems to be working.

Alexis Blankenship updated the Recreation Report.

The first baseball/softball game of the summer leagues started tonight in Hardin at 6 pm. Games will be played at Piburn tomorrow night.

136 participants in t-ball and travel ball. TNT has 52 youth.

Mobile Recreation Activities - like a pop up event - will be offered at ESSD's summer school and also in various parks.

TNT will start this Saturday.

There are 17 youth signed up for tennis.

Youth Fishing Day has been moved to July to be included with Parks and Rec Month. Mike Britt donated 6 refurbished rods and reels.

Mark Bullimore commented that the Special Olympics Track Meet was a hit!

Lexi is Secretary/Treasurer of the Young Professionals of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association.

Lexi graduated from Western Missouri State University in May. She also got engaged! Congrats!!

FEAT is gearing up for the summer camps and program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

OLD BUSINESS

Nate Williams updated the Board on the Harper's Playground Workshop in Oregon on Tuesday, June 3. Sherri Branson-Hurt, Chad Clevenger, and Nate Williams will meet with the organizers on Monday evening and attend meetings/classes and tours on Tuesday.

The Harper's Playground Workshop was discussed. Harper's Playground is "radically inclusive". Harper's Playground is "building a more inclusive world one playground at a time. Driven by a vision of a world in which every one is included. We create playgrounds where people of all abilities connect through play and thrive."

"The Harper's Playground Design Workshop is the only hands-on experience of its kind, empowering you to create a playground that is truly inclusive, inviting, and natural. We provide unique insights and proven strategies to help you design play spaces that foster community connection. At the workshop, we can partner with you directly, offering specialized services such as playground design, site assessment and selection, accessibility and inclusion reviews, and more. Join us to lead the way in transforming public spaces into places of joy and connection for all."

NEW BUSINESS

Nate Williams presented the 2024 Park and Recreation Annual Report to the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board. He included the Community Center in this report. Discussion was held.

New mission statement: Start with Play - Have Fun - Make Memories

Zac Wilkins made the motion to approve the 2024 Excelsior Springs Parks, Recreation and Community Center Annual Report and to submit it to the Excelsior Springs City Council in July, which is Parks and Rec Month. Sherri Branson-Hurt seconded the motion, motion passed 6 - 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Sherri

Branson-Hurt, Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Nate Wilkins distributed the 2025 Summer Activity Guide for Parks, Recreation and Community Center. The Activity Guide was delivered to the Excelsior Springs Elementary schools for all students.

Staff is working on a Sponsorship Guide.

New Board members have been sworn in and seated on the Board in June.

Scott Buckman has chosen not to be reappointed to the Parks and Rec Board. Greg Broadbent has been selected to replace him. Sherri Branson-Hurt and Terri Irons have been reappointed.

Officers will be elected at the June 2025 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department meeting.

Doug Baker, Excelsior Springs School District Activities Director, will be the ESSD Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board.

July is Parks and Rec Month. Parks and Rec Month theme is “Build together - Play Together”. Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board picture will be taken in June with the Parks and Rec month t-shirts.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem Reggie St. John presented Scott Buckman with a Certificate of Appreciation for the six years that he has served on the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board.

Zac Wilkins commented that the Foundation is seeking input for themes and looking to expand on ideas for the Piccadilly. Volunteers are always welcome to work at the Piccadilly.

Sherri Branson-Hurt made the motion to adjourn the May 27, 2025 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting. Zac Wilkins seconded the motion, Scott Buckman thirded the motion, motion passed 6 - 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Scott Buckman, Mark Bullimore, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

The April 22, 2025 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.