

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2022

**THIS IS A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting held January 25, 2022 at the Excelsior Springs Community Center was called to order by Vice President Patrick Halfhill at 6:01 p.m.

Roll call was taken with six board members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice President - Patrick Halfhill; Secretary – Jessica Meyer; Treasurer – Zac Wilkins; Scott Buckman; Susan McAuliffe; Reggie St. John

Christy Marker arrived at 6:03.

MEMBER ABSENT: Jake Simmons, Kyle Uptegrove

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Stephen Spear

STAFF PRESENT: Nate Williams – Director; Chad Clevenger, Parks Superintendent; Janet Morehead – Administrative Assistant

VISITORS: none

Susan McAuliffe made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Reggie St. John seconded the motion, motion passed, 6 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Scott Buckman, Patrick Halfhill, Susan McAuliffe, Jessica Meyer, Reggie St. John, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Reggie St. John made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2021 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting as presented. Scott Buckman seconded the motion, motion passed, 6 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 6 – Scott Buckman, Patrick Halfhill, Susan McAuliffe, Jessica Meyer, Reggie St. John, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Christy Marker arrived at 6:03.

Nate Williams' FY 21-22 Working Financial Budget through January 18, 2022 was discussed. Questions were asked and answered.

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department should be receiving the City's Financial Reports in the near future. The Senior Center expenses will have moved over to the Community Center Budget. Nate Williams hopes to have the financials before the February Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Reggie St. John made the motion to approve Nate Williams' FY 21-22 Working Financial Budget through January 18, 2022 as presented. Zac Wilkins seconded the motion, motion passed, 6 – 0 – 1. A show of hands vote was taken. Ayes – 6 – Scott Buckman, Susan McAuliffe, Christy Marker, Jessica Meyer, Reggie St. John, Zac Wilkins
Nays – 0 Abstained – 1 – Patrick Halfhill would like to have the City of Excelsior Springs Finance Office's Budget before he approves any budget report

STAFF REPORTS

The Staff Reports were discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

OLD BUSINESS

Nate Williams updated the Board on the Rainbow Splash Park. Nate Williams has received the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Foundation donation of \$87,409.32 for the Rainbow Splash Park and \$150,000 from Capital Improvements.

Patti Reed, Outdoor Recreation Grants Planner, Grants Management Section, MO State Parks contacted Nate Williams to inform him that the Grant reimbursement has been approved by the Department of Natural Resources at the Federal level and the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department will be receiving a reimbursement check for \$308,287.71 for the Rainbow Splash Park.

NEW BUSINESS

The presale for the Piccadilly tickets is this Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Dubious Claims. There will be 200 tickets available, for 20 tables of 10 participants. \$60.00 per ticket or \$600 per table. The theme will be That 70's Piccadilly Gala. There will also be activities at Dubious Claims after the ticket sale.

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Foundation will be making money towards an inclusive playground at the parkland on Milwaukee Street.

Reggie St. John asked about the cost of an inclusive playground and Nate Williams said anywhere from \$300,000 to one million and more. There are grants available for inclusive playgrounds.

Milwaukee parkland is approximately 5 acres. In addition to the inclusive playground, a gazebo, butterfly haven, mulch walk trails and sand volleyball court is planned.

OPEN DISCUSSION

City Councilman Stephen Spear wants to start a conversation about the Excelsior Springs Municipal Airport, especially the land east of the runway to Lake Doniphan Road. He led the discussion of what could be done with/at the Airport land as to not disrupt the airport and the runway but could be the best for the community and benefit the community of Excelsior Springs as a whole. Possibilities could be amphitheatre, fairgrounds, barbeque contests, etc.

The airport would still be a working airport and the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department would not have anything to do with the operation of the airport.

The grant that funded the repairs to the runway states that there has to be an airport there until 2036 or the City of Excelsior Springs has to repay the grant.

Nate Williams mentioned that the Strategic Plan “wants” are running trails, mountain biking trails, disc golf, etc. that could utilize the east side of that land with the topography the way it is with not much dirt work. Nate Williams emailed the Strategic Plan to Stephen Spear.

Zac Wilkins asked about the policy changes to the Community Center. He has been approached by parents with concerns.

Some of the biggest policy changes are that youth aged 12-15 are allowed at the Community Center from 2:30 to 5:30 without parental supervision. They have to be gone by 5:30 or have parental supervision. At 6:00 p.m. there are programs going on and the unsupervised youth tend to get in trouble and are not being picked up until 9:00 p.m.

The Community Center staff is finalizing programming for a Trusted Teen Program, working on mentorship programs, homework helpers, etc.

Older patrons are starting to return to and utilize the Community Center in the evenings.

Discussion is being held about an area in downtown Excelsior Springs for activities, food trucks, etc.

Susan McAuliffe made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Christy Marker seconded the motion. Motion passed, 7 - 0. A voice was taken: Ayes – 7 – Scott Buckman, Patrick Halfhill, Christy Marker, Susan McAuliffe, Jessica Meyer, Reggie St. John, Zac Wilkins
Nays – 0

Patrick Halfhill adjourned the meeting.

The January 25, 2022 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.