

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 24, 2025

**THIS IS A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON
JULY 22, 2025**

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting held June 24, 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 seven board members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-President - Kyle Uptegrove; Secretary - Terri Irons; Brandon Block; Sherri Branson-Hurt; Greg Broadbent; Patrick Halfhill; Cindy Spellman; Zac Wilkins

Sherri Branson-Hurt arrived at 6:05.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Bullimore

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Reggie St. John

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON: Doug Baker

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

Patrick Halfhill made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Cindy Spellman seconded the motion, motion passed, 7 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 7 – Brandon Block, Greg Broadbent, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Greg Broadbent, new Parks and Rec Board member, Doug Baker, Excelsior Springs School District Liaison, and Brennan Kimball, ESPRCC Marketing and Events Coordinator were introduced.

Vice President Kyle Uptegrove welcomed the new members.

Sherri Branson-Hurt arrived at 6:05 pm.

Election of Officers were held. Officers elected for 2025 - 2026 are: President: Patrick Halfhill; Vice President - Zac Wilkins; Secretary - Kyle Uptegrove.

Sherri Branson-Hurt made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2025 Parks and Recreation Board meeting as presented. Kyle Uptegrove seconded the motion, motion passed, 8 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 8 – A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 8 – Brandon Block, Sherri Branson-Hurt, Greg Broadbent, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

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

Zac Wilkins made the motion to accept the Financial Reports including the 2025 Balance Sheet dated 6-13-2025 Accounting Period 8/2025, page 1; Detail Budget Report dated 6/13/2025 for Accounting Period 8/2025, pages 1 - 3; Detail Trial Balance dated 6/13/2025 for Accounting Period 9/2025, pages 1-4; Revenue Report dated 6/13/2025 for Accounting Period 8/2025, pages 1 - 2; and Nate Williams' 2025 Working Budget through 6/13/2025 as presented.

Terri Irons seconded the motion, motion passed, 8 – 0. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes – 8 – Brandon Block, Sherri Branson-Hurt, Greg Broadbent, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

Nate Williams announced that it is 2026 Budget Time! The budget will be put together and Nate will be meeting with Molly McGovern, City Manager. The 2025-2026 Budget will be discussed with the Revenue Committee, presented to the Parks and Recreation Board in July for discussion/approval and then it will be presented to the City Council for approval.

STAFF REPORTS

Mowing is going well. Vandalism at Sunnyside Park - landscape rocks from the spillway were put in the porta potty and had to be removed by staff.

Every event for Parks and Rec month has been sponsored. Lexi Blankenship and Brennan Kimball was able to secure \$2,100.00 in sponsorship donations!! Thank you to the sponsors and community!

Travel baseball/softball finished their season last night. It was a good season with positive remarks.

The Mobile Recreation Program was taken to Cornerstone School during the month of June.

Jesse Hall, Project Manager, is working on obtaining a vehicle that could be used for the Meals on Wheels program and the Mobile Recreation Program.

Century Bark's 6th year in existence was celebrated with a party for the dogs! Approximately 40 dogs were in attendance along with 50 people. Everybody had a good time!

Youth Fishing at Powell Lake in Century Park is July 12.

Alexis Blankenship shared the Parks and Rec Month Passport.

Drake Pollard explained FEAT to the new board members. FEAT teaches the participants how to become better athletes by strength training, conditioning, working out, and injury prevention/intervention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nate Williams explained the Revenue/Budget, Parks, and Recreation Committees. Committee members are as follows:

Revenue/Budget - Terri Irons, Zac Wilkins, Cindy Spellman

Parks - Brandon Block, Zac Wilkins, Sherri Branson-Hurt

Recreation - Kyle Uptegrove, Mark Bullimore, Greg Broadbent

Patrick Halhill, as the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board President, serves as an ex-officio member to each committee.

OLD BUSINESS

A report was given on the visit to the Harper's Playground Workshop in Oregon on Tuesday, June 3. Sherri Branson-Hurt, Chad Clevenger, and Nate Williams attended the workshop.

Nate Williams shared a slide show of prepared pictures along with pictures that he took. Likes and concerns were discussed. The parks had lots of hands-on activities available, concrete and astroturf surfacing to allow wheelchairs to maneuver without settling into the ground cover i.e. pour in place or mulch, transfer areas that go directly to an activity area, cut out (cutback) areas so that wheelchairs are not protruding into the group. The highest elevation is a 10' tall mound. Kids were cardboard surfing down it, rolling down it and sliding down it.

There were no fences - because they are barriers - except for safety fences - to keep park goes out of the street.

There will be approximately 16,000 square feet of area for the playground at Boundless BackYard.

Nate Williams feels that he and Chad Clevenger should be able to design the playground area.

NEW BUSINESS

The Parks and Recreation Department is looking to replace the 2018 John Deere Gator.

Chad Clevenger used Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing to spec out a 2025 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 for \$30,284.55 and a 2025 John Deere Gator XVU 845 M for \$28,713.68. Trade in value of the 2018 Gator is \$7,800 from Heritage.

Asset sales brought in \$14,500.00 and there is still \$17,637.34 available in the Vehicle budget. Regardless of whether the Community Center buys the 2018 Gator, trades it in or sells it outright, Parks and Recreation should be able to remain in budget.

Kyle Uptegrove made the motion to purchase a 2025 John Deere Gator XVU 845 M for \$28,713.68 from Deere & Company and either trade in the 2018 John Deere Gator for \$7,800 or sell it to the Community Center for \$7,800.

Sherri Branson-Hurt seconded the motion, motion passed 8 - 0. A roll call vote was

taken: Ayes – 8 – Brandon Block, Sherri Branson-Hurt, Greg Broadbent, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

OPEN DISCUSSION

Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board picture will be taken after the meeting.

July is Parks and Rec Month and the theme is “Build together - Play Together”. Zac Wilkins was able to bring hard hats for the Board picture to go along with the theme - Build Together - Play Together. Thanks Zac!!

Zac Wilkins extended a welcome to the new board members and thanked them for volunteering to serve on the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board.

Nate Williams will put together a parks and facility tours for the Parks and Recreation Board. He will look into a trolley from the Chamber of Commerce or take board members around in his truck.

Kyle Uptegrove made the motion to adjourn the June 24, 2025 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting. Zac Wilkins seconded the motion, passed 8 - 0. Ayes – 8 – Brandon Block, Sherri Branson-Hurt, Greg Broadbent, Patrick Halfhill, Terri Irons, Cindy Spellman, Kyle Uptegrove, Zac Wilkins Nays – 0

The June 24, 2025 Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.