

Warrensburg Parks and Recreation
Board Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2022

Call to Order

Erica Collins called to order the regular meeting of the Warrensburg Parks and Recreation Board at 7:01 PM on March 30, 2022 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 445 E. Gay Street.

1) Roll Call

Alex Threlkeld conducted a roll call. The following members were present: Erica Collins, Jason Duffey, Jessica Caldwell, Shawnacy Johnson, Joshua Greene, Ernest Graydon.

The following members were absent: Dan Baldrige

Others in attendance were:

Danielle Fesler, Director of Warrensburg Parks & Recreation (WPR)

Alex Threlkeld, WPR, Recreation Superintendent

Christian Schoolcraft, Park Operations Superintendent

Jeff Imboden, WPR, Business and Information Specialist

Carrie Battles, WPR, Office Manager

Tracy Trotto, WPR, Recreation Supervisor of Programs and Events

Josh Roglon, WPR, Recreation Supervisor of Sports

Scott Holmberg, Mayor

Scott Chenault

Kathy Baldrige

Jonnie Davis

O.J. Rhone, Youth Excited About Sports (YES)

Robbin Rhone, YES

Elizabeth Houstsas

Gregg Gangemella, Whiteman Youth Center

Lamar Cotton, YES

David Knox

Sindy Phillips

Liz Hargrave, Johnson County Board of Services (JCBS)

Melissa Frey, JCBS

Sarah Taylor, Warrensburg School District

Michael Meloy, Piranhas Swim

Mary Pat Purcell, Parks for the 21st Century

Greg Stack, YES
Bryant Lanier

2) Approval of Agenda

Jason Duffey moved to approve the amended Agenda. Shawnacy Johnson seconded. Erica Collins – Yes, Jason Duffey – Yes, Jessica Caldwell – Yes, Shawnacy Johnson – Yes, Joshua Greene – Yes, Ernest Graydon – Yes. Agenda approved 6-0.

3) Approval of Minutes

- a) Approval of the January 26, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes tabled.
- b) Approval of the February 23, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes tabled.
- c) Approval of the February 28, 2022 City Council and Park Board Joint Meeting Minutes tabled.

4) Announcements

- a) New Park Board Members – Danielle Fesler introduced Joshua Greene and Ernest Graydon as Park Board Members.

Joshua Green stated he has lived in Warrensburg for the last eight years and made it his home. He stated he has experience working with government in suburbs in Kansas City and he is looking forward to working with the community.

Ernest Graydon stated he is new to Warrensburg, has seven kids, happily married. His children are active in some sort of Warrensburg Parks and Recreation's sports league. He stated upon joining the Board that it would be something he could help with, with fresh eyes and he is happy to be here.

The Board welcomes Joshua and Earnest.

- b) New Park Operations Superintendent – Danielle Fesler introduced Christian Schoolcraft as Park Operations Superintendent.

Christian Schoolcraft stated he has a background in sports turf management, landscaping, distribution, and retail. He lives in Concordia, with his wife and daughter and his goal coming into this role is to revamp and make a positive change.

The Board welcomes Christian.

5) Committee Reports

- a) Finance Committee Report – Erica Collins reported the committee reviewed the budget and everything is on target and looking good.
- b) Building & Grounds Committee Report – Jessica Caldwell reported the committee met Christian, discussed dewinterization process has started, planning to landscape the fountain in front of the Community Center, working on getting a stencil made to get the WPR logo on the ball fields, parts are in for the all inclusive playground repairs, checking lights on ball fields and getting estimates on LED lighting, bids are out for mowing and Hawthorne Park safety surfacing, and there are current openings for part-time/seasonal and full-time park maintenance positions.
- c) Recreation Committee Report – Jessica Caldwell reported the committee met with recreation staff to discuss swim lessons, spring break camp, kids night in, currently hiring for summer staff, Brooke and Tracy attended UCM’s networking with a purpose event, pickleball league has started, home school PE has started, basketball season has finished, indoor soccer league has begun, tiny tees and t-ball registrations are now open, youth baseball and softball teams have started practicing, and outside team guidelines was discussed.
- d) Administration Committee Report – Erica Collins reported the committee discussed other committees and projects currently being worked on, discussed the hiring fair, and potential additional positions due to WPR growing.

6) New Business

- a) Inclusive Playground Donor Wall – Liz Hargrave and Melissa Fry from Johnson County Board of Services (JCBS) presented on the process of the Donor Wall at the Inclusive Playground.

Liz explained JCBS as been working with Impact in Sedalia to create the Donor Wall. The wall is made from stucco and pebbles and is meant to resemble a park with the donors listed on the back. There have been issues finding someone to build the donor wall, Impact will be working on the back with the donors’ names. The goal is to get the wall completed this year.

Erica Collins asked the dimensions of the wall. Liz stated the wall is 4 ft tall and 15 ft wide and will be located on the North side of the parking lot with a concrete slab. Erica asked if this was a sensory wall, Liz confirmed. Erica asked if the elements could be explained. Liz stated the different textures are general sensory, there are talking poles for people to talk to each other, there are wheels and tires for texture sensory, and the clouds are made of foam. The main material is cinderblock and stucco layering.

Shawnacy Johnson asked if they have visited other parks for ideas, Melissa Fry stated they have been to parks with donor walls, but they haven't seen anything with a unique sensory wall. Melissa added, they have the money to create the sensory wall but still need to find a company that has the capability of creating what they want.

Erica Collins stated she just purchased a sensory wall for her clinic and will put Liz and Melissa in contact with the company. Joshua Greene added, the Kansas City Zoo as a sensory wall as an idea. Ernest Graydon added, they could reach out to the University of Central Missouri or Whiteman Airforce Base. Erica thanked Liz and Melissa for all their work on the project.

- b) Parks for the 21st Century – Danielle Fesler stated Parks for the 21st Century is Warrensburg Parks and Recreation's 501c3. She introduced Mary Pat Purcell as a past Board President.

Mary Pat stated Parks for the 21st Century was started in 1999 because donated money was sent directly to the treasury and parks and recreation may or may not be able to get it back to the program it was donated for. In that time the Dog Park was funded as well as the Skate Park, Blind Boone, fountains and lights at Lion's Lake Park, memorial benches at Lion's Lake, and flowers in the old fountain.

Mary Pat stated the foundation currently has over \$10,000 for specific projects. At this point \$2,000 is set aside for Blind Boone, \$125 for memorials and plantings, \$725 for undesignated memorials, \$200 for Skate Park repairs, \$1,146 for the Dog Park, and \$5,200 for miscellaneous projects. Mary Pat stated the Judy Vickery fund has \$850 for children who need assistance with program fees, and the WPR staff can contact her to use the funds for the child's program.

Shawnacy Johnson asked if that was the process across the board, Mary Pat stated Danielle and the WPR staff have to approve where the money goes.

Jeff Imboden added, there are other ways to donate, on the WPR website, you have the option to donate when you register for a program, or you can select Parks for the 21st Century when using Amazon Smile and Amazon will make the donation for you.

- c) OJ Rhone – decided to discuss at a later meeting
- d) Bryant Lanier – decided to discuss at a later meeting
- e) David Knox – David Knox stated he is with the Warrensburg Community Change Committee to speak on an issue concerning a suspension notice for Bryant Lanier, Shakina Lanier, and OJ Rhone. Each reason for the suspension provided from Danielle Fesler have been proven to be false therefore the Board must void the suspension and strike it from record. David explained specific concerns in the suspension letters to Bryant Lanier, Shakina Lanier, and OJ Rhone.
- f) Jonnie Davis – decided to discuss at a later meeting
- g) Scott Chenault – Scott Chenault stated he is a Warrensburg Parks and Recreation youth sports coach. He stated a few years ago the decision was made to let non-recreational teams enter the WPR leagues. He stated as a recreational coach he gets one hour per week to mold a roster of children into a team and then play them the same amount of time during a game, which he supports. Scott expressed his concerns with allowing outside non-recreational teams to play in WPR recreational leagues.

7) Unfinished Business – none

8) Director's Report

- a) Danielle Fesler stated the director's report is in the summary. Erica Collins asked if there were any questions. No further discussion.

9) Appearances to the Park Board not listed on the Agenda

- a) Gregg Gangemella – Gregg is the Sports Director with Whiteman Youth Center and he stated his program has been with WPR for 10+ years. Being military, his players are all first-year players, and he is fighting to keep his program linked to

Warrensburg. He stated if he can't stay in the WPR program then Whiteman will close down its youth programs.

- b) Sindy Phillips – Sindy stated she has children in WPR and YES sports programs. In WPR she has seen unsportsmanship coaching that have deferred her children not to play. They decided to play basketball at YES and they don't do anything different than what is done in the WPR league.
- c) Elizabeth Houstsas – Elizabeth stated her children utilize WPR and the Community Center often. Her daughter plays basketball at YES. When they arrived at YES, she was not asked her skill level, they practice once a week, and did not play anywhere else besides at WPR. She stated she would not let her child play basketball with WPR after seeing coaching issues this year.
- d) Sarah Taylor – Sarah stated her children have had Scott as a coach for several years who has been a role model for them. She stated if teams want to play in a recreational league, then they should register with parks and recreation. She stated her daughters did not want to come to the games that they played against YES knowing they were going to lose by 20+ points. They also played against Whiteman and it was hard for them as well.

10) Park Board Members Comments

- a) Jessica Caldwell thanked everyone for coming and expressing their concerns in the Warrensburg community and that's who we're here for.
- b) Shawnacy Johnson stated he appreciates everyone coming and expressing their views. He stated he doesn't want the negative perception of the Board to exist in the community today. There is a problem that needs to be addressed and everyone here wants the best for their children.
- c) Jason Duffey thanked everyone for sharing and he looks forward to collaborating and coming together, community is coming together. He stated his daughter played in parks and recreation for a long time and enjoyed the program. He stated its great to see this many people here, he challenges community members to come to meetings before it gets to this point and voice their opinions and work together.
- d) Joshua Greene stated he is glad everyone came out and said their peace and kept it civil. He stated through research we can work together on this.

- e) Ernest Graydon stated the goal is to provide a community where children can grow and thrive, from tonight we are not there yet but he is looking forward to getting there. He stated we have to raise the bar as we communicate as a community to be an example for the children.

11) Adjournment

Shawnacy Johnson moved to adjourn. Jason Duffey seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Alex Threlkeld conducted a roll call. The following members were present: Erica Collins, Jason Duffey, Jessica Caldwell, Shawnacy Johnson, Joshua Greene, Ernest Graydon

The following members were absent: Dan Baldrige

Erica Collins, President

Submitted by Alex Threlkeld