

City of Lamar Park Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2026

Present: Alan Ray, Becky Blackford, Sami Peine. Donna Arnold, Amy Ryder, Becca Chesnut, Marlee Mathia, Ryan Lock, Mayor Mike Hull, Parks & Recreation Director Heidi Johnson, Assistant City Administrator Bethany Aborn, guests including alderman Curt Roland and members of LHS Class of 1978

Absent: Jamie Hammons

Next meeting: April 6, 2026

Meeting called to order by Alan Ray at 5:32 p.m.

1. Agenda reviewed. Heidi asks to Amend agenda to include surplus property in new business. Sami moves to approve agenda. Becky seconds. All approve.
2. Minutes from February were reviewed. Donna moved to approve. Sami seconded. All approve.

3. Public Good and Welfare

Curt Roland stated he appreciated the work by committees. Thanked staff for taking care of the gazebo. He was given some contacts regarding a new bathroom at fields 3 & 4. Shared contacts for mowing. Mentioned bike trails all over town.

Debbie thanked the board for their work last month. She has another contact for mowing

4. Parks & Rec Director Report

- Playground equipment list has been sent out to several equipment companies to get bids
- Contacted Jim Buzzard about bathroom/concessions drawing as well as contacting several prefab companies about quotes.
- Looked at light pole on right field line of field 3 for replacement with electric foreman .
- Talked about light replacement at Shoff Field with electric foreman. Have a rep from Musco lighting coming on Wednesday.
- Two water leaks in the park were found and fixed by the water department. Thankfully both were easier than we anticipated. Water lines are kind of willy-nilly all over the park.
- Have had some vandalism with firecrackers in new men's bathroom in the playground. Police are aware.
- Have had some late night visitors at the lake trail. Camera is back up and police are aware.
- Spencer decided to take on the gazebo rehab project. We had talked about just replacing the lattice and some other worn boards. He talked with Jim Buzzard and Judd Davis about fixing some of the lower boards and they came up with a different idea. I told them to run with it as long as it didn't cost more than what the lattice would cost and was safe. We had a lot of spare lumber in storage that we had saved when the house was torn down. Those boards were cut down to make what we needed. We had to buy a total of 10 boards and probably three gallons of paint, costing us about \$150. Lattice would have been about twice that and still would have had to buy paint.
- Ordered all Bert's supplies and paint for the fields. He has busy working on getting those ready for high school baseball and softball practice to start today.
- We have six travel baseball and softball teams starting practice this month on our fields. Things will move around some once Rec practices start.
- The 10U Southwest Tigers coached by Brandon Plank and Ryan Lock have volunteered to do some work around field three. They are going to take down the damaged shed and do some painting and sprucing up.
- Sign ups for Summer Ball are going well. Early Bird sign up ends on Monday. Did one in person signups and will do another on Tuesday.

- Basketball season ended well. We hosted the 5th grade girls tournament. We took in \$549 in admissions at \$3 per person 16 and older and \$736 in concessions. We had two teams, fourth grade girls and sixth grade boys, advance to the championship games. Brenton Howarth and Clayton Powell coached the boys and they defeated Miller for the championship. The fourth grade girls lost their championship game and came home with runner up medals. Nate Eddie and Chuck Wolfe coached that team. We had a smooth basketball season and it was wonderful to watch all our teams get better. We had a phenomenal group of coaches this year.
- Bathrooms at 1, 2, 7 & 8 are ready to be opened as soon as its dry enough for high school teams to practice. The rest will be opened the week of spring break.
- We hosted 20 events at Thiebaud through the 28 days of February. There are 24 events scheduled in March, not including Lamar High School Theatre's rehearsals for their production of Clue.
- We are cleaning up flower beds on the square and in the parks. Will begin trimming shrubs and cutting grasses next week.
- The first Picnic in the Park on March 26th. I've sent email with sign ups out to anyone who has come before and welcome any food truck suggestions anyone has.
- Did not get LWCF grant but did get advice for how to make it better going forward and found out federal funds increased for next year, so there will be no limits on project funds and more projects will be able to be considered.
- I attended the annual Missouri Parks and Recreation convention and expo last week in Columbia. I made good contacts with many vendors, attended some great sessions on parks planning, pools, conflict resolution, grants, partnerships and leadership, as well as fellowship and commiserating with others who do what I do everyday. Going to this always fills my cup and gives me great ideas to continue moving forward. I'm thankful our city promotes continuing ed for its employees.

5. Reports for Committees

- a. Flowers shrubs and landscaping – No report.
- b. Playground equipment/buildings – NO report, but will meet again in March to finalize plan for SB 40. .
- c. Trees/grounds – Have a couple trees that need down.
- d. Streets/Signs/Parking – Council approved street names. Rusty has ordered street signs.
- e. Events Committee – Will meet to talk about Picnic in the Park.

6. Old Business

- a. Discussed projects again and needing to have list narrowed at April meeting.
- b. Mayor Hull had ideas brought to him to separate trail from people's yards. It was discussed about using wood poles or rope. He discussed a bridge where a homeowner's property is very close. The bridge would be \$20,000+. Discussed starting at 30th Lane and going back west on the south side, then figuring out how to connect the two.

7. New Business

- a. Stephen Nutt and a committee from the Class of 1978 were present to present a proposal for a memorial for Greg Dalton and the Class of 1978. The cost is about \$4000. They have already collected \$1300. They will start a fundraising campaign for the rest. Greg's sister Cathy was also present to talk about her brother. Sami moved to approve the project. Marlee seconded. All approve. The

- b. Heidi presented a list of equipment to be surplussed. Marlee made the motion to get rid of it however the city sees fit. Rebecca seconded. All approve.

Comments from Board

- a. Alan asked about getting a reel mower for ball fiels. There is quite an expense to those
- b. Amy mentioned the Democrat looked good with all the city updates
- c. Marlee mentioned that she had received several comments about openness of the board and work being done.
- d. Discussed mowing being hired out and decided that it is better left to the city council.
- e. Jamie Hammons is resigning. Mike would take recommendations from the board.

Adjourned at 6:42 p.m.-