

City of Lamar Park Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 5, 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, guests including alderman Curt Roland

Absent: Jamie Hammons

Next meeting: February 2, 2026

Meeting called to order by Alan Ray at 5:31 p.m.

1. Agenda reviewed. Becca moves to approve agenda. Sami seconds. All approve.
2. Minutes from November were reviewed. Sami moved to approve. Marlee seconded. All approve.
3. **Public Good and Welfare – none**

Curt Roland brought up some concerns for the 2026 budget consideration. These included improving playground equipment and fall zones, remodel gazebo, consider outsourcing some of the mowing, adding biking trails through the park and around town. He would like to see more reports from the ball tournaments. Would like to see the naming of the streets as a priority. Should plan to finish the parking area where the house was taken down. The enclosed shelter renovations should also be a priority. Consider moving food trucks to the pool area instead of by the playground for Picnic in the Park. A new bathroom should also be considered by fields 3 & 4.

Debbie Little discussed Missouri having Make America Healthy Again money available from the State of Missouri that will be available in October of this year.

4. Parks & Rec Director Report

- I have talked to an actual person with AB Creative and they are looking to see if that section can be replaced or if we will need to replace the whole slide.
- Christmas lights are coming down this week.
- We have found two different water leaks that the Water Department will be helping us find where they are coming from and fixing. One is east of Field 5 and the other is around south edge of basketball court, field 1 and 2.
- Bert is working on all the green wooden fences at the four ball fields that have them.
- Started basketball for 3rd-6th graders on Saturday. 1st and 2nd graders start this week.
- Heat exchanger went out in the heater backstage. The part is over \$10,000. We are getting a quote on a new unit. This will be a city council decision.
- Aquatic Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. January 6 at City Hall.

5. Reports for Committees – Reassigned Committees with new board members

- a. Flowers shrubs and landscaping – No report.
- b. Playground equipment/buildings – Will have meeting in the next two weeks,
- c. Trees/grounds – No report
- d. Streets/Signs/Parking – Will have a meeting in the next two weeks.
- e. Events Committee – Christmas in the Park was fun.

6. Old Business

- a. Christmas in the Park – Was a great event. Room for improvement with carriage rides. Morgans were thinking about other things they could do. Could also ask Pugh's to participate as well if they are available. Possibly have businesses sponsor a tree to light up the sacred circle. Could run the flier in the Democrat. Have social media campaign going longer prior to the event. Talk with CWEP about the cost of lights per tree and perhaps have businesses sponsor a tree.

7. New Business

- a. Discussed possible projects to be included in the 2026-2027 budget.
 - i. Enclosed shelter – reviewed estimate from Mike Harvey – project would need to be bid.
 - ii. Field 3 & 4 bathroom and concessions renovations
 - iii. Heidi mentioned new locks for Theibaud
 - iv. Get idea for how much asphalt would cost for the new parking lot.
 - v. Discussion of boat slips.
- b. Mayor Hull talked about the trail at the lake. Does the park board want to continue it? How can we do that and still be respectful of the neighbors? He would like to see that go all the way around the lake.
- c. Mayor Hull had a classmate here and gave compliments to the park unsolicited.
- d. Mayor Hull has been talking to Rusty about some improvements to the RV hookups at the park.
- e. Mayor Hull has had people ask about a pickleball court by the pool.

Adjourned at 6:42 p.m.-