

CITY OF LEBANON
PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2026

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Park Board of the City of Lebanon, Missouri, met in Regular Session on July 8, 2026, at 12:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 401 South Jefferson.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

Upon roll call, the following Officers were present: Melody Allen, John Gideon, Holly Goforth, Joni Milligan, Doug Smith, Heather Shadel, Ramsey Stewart, Chris Wall, and Neal Wilkinson. Absent: None.

A quorum was declared.

Staff members and others in attendance: City Administrator Troy Schulte, Park Director John Shelton, and City Clerk Lacey Brackett.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Doug Smith.

Public Comments

None.

Approval of Minutes

June 10, 2026, Regular Meeting

Chris Wall moved and Holly Goforth seconded that the Board approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried as follows: Yea: (9) Melody Allen, John Gideon, Holly Goforth, Joni Milligan, Doug Smith, Heather Shadel, Ramsey Stewart, Chris Wall, Neal Wilkinson; Nay: (0) None; Abstain: (0) None; Absent: (0) None.

Finance Report

June 2026 Financials

Park Director John Shelton presented the June financials discussing the revenue and expenditure. Shelton discussed and compared actual revenue and expenses vs. budgeted. Shelton added that the Boswell Aquatic Center revenue had come in higher than budgeted.

Discussions and Presentations

Boswell Aquatic Center Update

Park Director John Shelton reported that attendance, group visits, and party bookings have increased since last year, and reviewed the revenues from past years. Shelton reported that an equipment breakdown caused last year to be delayed by opening by about a week, which affected early-season school group numbers. Shelton reported that the swim lesson program, which was relaunched last year, had performed well, with Board Member Wilkinson sharing

that he had received feedback from a citizen that shared how impressed she was with the lessons, but shared that she thought it was underutilized.

Park Project Update

Park Director John Shelton reported that installation of the parking lot and basketball court lights at the Atchley Park pickleball courts was ongoing, and that the basketball court lines were still in progress. Board Member John Gideon raised the issue of water mitigation near the pickleball courts, and the Board discussed the matter further. Shelton added that staff were working to address the water runoff issue coming into the park.

Baseball/Softball Update

Park Director John Shelton reviewed recent baseball and softball tournaments, noting that a couple of tournaments with several participating teams were canceled due to rain. Shelton shared that tournaments would continue over the next couple of weeks, followed by a break until the end of August, when fall baseball and softball begin.

Future Park Projects

Park Director John Shelton reviewed the Capital Improvement List and proposed resequencing several projects without adjusting the overall budget. Shelton shared that constructing the Atchley Park restroom and completing the Atchley Park front shelter as separate projects, rather than combining them, would help reduce prevailing wage costs. Shelton also recommended moving the front parking lot redesign at Atchley Park up to FY2027 to address traffic flow issues. Shelton added that the playground replacement is tentatively planned for early spring. Board Members raised no concerns with the proposed resequencing of projects.

Park Director John Shelton shared an update on the proposal to install artificial turf, reporting a calculated potential cost savings of approximately \$73,000 per year between labor, supplies, and equipment savings. Shelton presented letters of support from a couple of local businesses, which have been attached and made part of the permanent record. Shelton and the Board discussed the potential economic benefit turf could add in supporting future development in the area. The Board discussed long-term planning considerations related to other sporting needs, including a discussion of soccer facility needs that could potentially be addressed at the Exhibition Hall. Shelton and the Board discussed the City's contract with the tournament operations company and inquired about the potential to bring the operation in-house, with Shelton expressing concern about staffing and logistical issues in doing so. Shelton shared that there would be an action item on the next Park Board agenda to vote on the turf field recommendation.

Possible Action Items

None

Comments from the Board and Staff

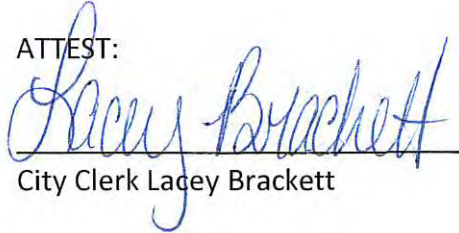
Board Member John Gideon reported complaints about the balls being caught under the exterior fence at the pickleball courts.

Board Member Melody Allen shared that the tennis group had reached out about the nets and Park Director John Shelton shared that replacement nets were ordered.

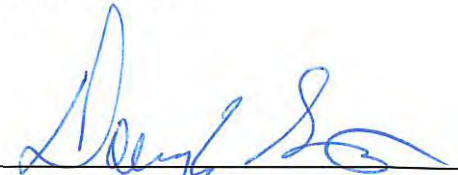
Adjournment

President Doug Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

ATTEST:



City Clerk Lacey Brackett



President Doug Smith

August 12, 2026

Minutes Approved



July 2nd, 2026

To the Lebanon Park Board,

On behalf of Big Whiskey's American Restaurant & Bar in Lebanon, I would like to express our full support for the proposed conversion of the fields at Nelson and Atchley parks from natural grass to artificial turf.

As a local business located directly across from Nelson Park, we see firsthand the positive impact youth sports have on this community. Tournament weekends bring in families, coaches, officials and spectators to Lebanon, many of whom choose to dine with us before, between, and after games. These events create meaningful economic activity not only for our restaurant, but for many local businesses throughout the city.

Unfortunately, weather related cancellations have a significant impact. When tournaments are rained out, the community loses more than games - we lose opportunities to welcome visitors, support local commerce, and showcase everything Lebanon has to offer. Converting these fields to turf would help reduce rainouts, improve scheduling reliability which in turn helps us staff our stores with the local residents who help keep our store running, and position Lebanon to attract even more tournaments throughout the season.

We've also experienced the benefits artificial turf has firsthand. At our Lebanon location, we installed artificial turf on the Whiskey's Yard, and it has transformed the space into a much more functional, all-season destination for our guests. While the scale is certainly different, we've seen how quality turf extends usability and creates a more reliable experience regardless of weather conditions.

Beyond the economic benefits, Big Whiskey's has been proud to support youth athletics and the families who make them possible. We believe investing in quality recreational facilities is an investment in this beautiful community, this local economy, and the experiences Lebanon provides for young athletes from near and far.

We encourage the Park Board to approve this proposal and we appreciate your continued commitment to improving Lebanon's parks and recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Andrea Veach

Director of Marketing

Big Whiskey's American Restaurant & Bar

Dear Members of the Park Board,

I am writing on behalf of Slim Chickens to express our strong support for the proposed installation of artificial turf at the ballfields at Nelson and Atchley Park.

As a restaurant that proudly serves many of the athletes, coaches, families, and visitors who attend tournaments in our community, we see firsthand the positive impact these events have on local businesses. Tournament weekends consistently bring increased traffic to our restaurant, resulting in higher sales and providing opportunities for additional employee hours while contributing to the overall economic growth of our community.

Unfortunately, when tournaments are canceled due to rain, the impact is felt immediately. Those visitors never arrive, and the business activity that would have benefited restaurants, hotels, gas stations, retail stores, and other local businesses is lost. Unlike a regular game, tournament weekends cannot simply be made up at a later date, making each rainout a missed opportunity for our entire community.

Installing artificial turf would significantly reduce weather-related cancellations and make our community a more attractive and dependable destination for tournament organizers. Having reliable, playable fields would not only protect the tournaments we currently host but would also create opportunities to attract additional events, including larger multi-day tournaments that extend through both Saturday and Sunday. More tournaments mean more visitors, more meals served, more hotel stays, more shopping, and greater economic activity for local businesses.

At Slim Chickens, we are proud to be part of this community and to support the families and organizations that visit for these events. We believe investing in turf fields is an investment in the future of our local economy. It will help strengthen local businesses, support job opportunities, and continue to establish our community as a premier destination for youth sports.

We respectfully encourage the Park Board to approve the installation of artificial turf at Nelson and Atchley Park. We believe this investment will provide lasting benefits for our parks, our businesses, and everyone who calls this community home.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to improving our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Barnett
District Manager
Slim Chickens – Lebanon, Missouri