

**BOARD MEETING
October 22, 2024**

**1:00 O’CLOCK P.M.
Workshop**

**2:00 O’CLOCK P.M.
Board Meeting**

**4600 East 63rd Trafficway
Kansas City, Missouri 64130**

Workshop

**1 p.m. – 2025/26 Budget Discussion
Open Discussion**

Board Meeting

Call to Order – President Beth Haden

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: President Haden, Commissioner Meier, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Taylor

Board Members Absent: Pat Contreras

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Board approved the Board Minutes for October 8, 2024 Board Meeting.

Retirement – Richard Allen

Richard Allen joined the Kansas City, Missouri, Parks and Recreation Department in 1999 as a Landscape Architect I. Richard kept his career moving forward promoting from Landscape Architect I, to Landscape Architect II in 2003, in 2004 Senior Landscape Architect, in 2014 Senior Planner.

In 2018 Richard was promoted to the leadership position as Manager of Park Planning & Design Services and finally in 2022 to his current position as Deputy Director. As Deputy Director his team is responsible for the department’s finance, capital improvements and SHAPE divisions. He led the development of the department’s \$80 million Parks GO Bond five-year plan.

For many years Richard was the departments PIAC Liaison working with City Councilmembers prioritizing park projects and securing funding for those projects. During his tenure with the Parks and Recreation Department Richard has worked on many recent high-profile projects, such as the Martin Luther King Mahomes Playground, Brush Creek Cultural Heritage Trail Project.

Other projects include North Troost Trail, Heart of America Golf two nine-hole courses, Indian Creek and Blue River Trails from Locust to Minor Park, San Rafael Park Improvements, Loose Park and Rose Garden renovation projects, James A Reed Park improvements, Tiffany Hill Park all-inclusive playground, Spring Valley Park Improvements and the Brush Creek Confluence Trail.

October 31, 2024, will mark the last day of Richard's career with the Parks and Recreation Department. Please join us in thanking Richard for his 25 years and 4 months of dedicated service and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

The Board thanked Mr. Allen for his years of service with Parks and Recreation Department and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Resolution #32664 – Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Board approved the fiscal year 2025-26 Parks and Recreation Budget request.

Background: The budget request presented to you for the operation of the Parks and Recreation Department for the fiscal year 2025-2026 totals \$86,523,869. The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting to submit the following expenditures by fund:

Parks Sales Tax: \$54,153,866
Golf: \$10,703,565
Capital Improvements: \$14,633,659
Street Maintenance: \$2,270,765
Museum Tax Levy: \$1,809,364
General Fund: \$1,857,568
Internal Stores Fund: \$1,200,000

The fiscal year 2025-26 budget request will be presented to the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners on October 22, 2024, for consideration of approval. Given current conditions so far in FY 2025-26, there is reason to believe that the City and KC Parks have begun a steady recovery from the negative economic conditions, specifically revenue. The goal should be to end FY 26 with a healthy fund balance in an amount to exceed \$12 million.

Therefore, with the added foundational stability in the Parks Sales Tax fund balance and the financial diligence of the Parks and Recreation Department under the leadership of its Board, there is room for cautious optimism and restoration of services in the FY 2025-26 budget. However, given the continued volatility in revenue collections and potential operational changes such as personnel cost increases as well as the cost of goods and services the City has requested that city departments, including Parks and Recreation, be conservative in preparing the FY 25-26 budget.

In addition, this budget will reflect four main themes that seek to address the department's mission: Resident Engagement, Visual Appeal and Sustainability of Parks, Youth and Senior Programming, Youth and Adult Athletics and Focus on Employees. These themes are born from the mission and supported with data from resident and employee surveys. Resident Survey results are clear that residents

want tree care, access to more senior and youth programming and enhanced maintenance of parks, boulevards and parkways.

In addition, our employee survey results show that our Parks and Recreation employees are looking for more training and professional development opportunities, increased pay, and to feel that their ideas are valued.

Highlights, proposed changes, and decision packages that respond to these resident and employee needs are:

- Funding from the General Fund to increase the appropriation to Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center in the amount of \$200,000 for staffing and programming.
- Other notable increases were to the Golf Fund with increases to both revenues and expenses to keep up with substantial increases to golfers in Kansas City.

Type	FY 2022-23 Actuals	FY 2023-24 Adopted	FY 2024-25 Adopted	FY 2025-26 Submitted
Capital Improvements	\$11,240,077	\$13,491,937	\$13,685,064	\$14,633,659
General Fund	\$451,932	\$538,965	\$723,167	\$1,857,568
Golf Operations	\$7,094,193	\$7,419,589	\$8,087,489	\$10,703,565
Liberty Memorial Trust Fund	\$49,582	\$48,164	\$48,164	\$48,164
Museum	\$1,833,037	\$1,777,744	\$1,652,922	\$1,658,118
Parks and Recreation	\$45,544,856	\$51,196,195	\$53,005,563	\$54,153,866
Street Maintenance	\$1,925,378	\$2,101,024	\$2,307,912	\$2,270,765
TOTAL	\$68,874,542	\$77,299,055	\$81,334,044	\$86,523,869

This budget prioritizes the visual appeal and safety of our parks. It also seeks to begin providing necessary funding for the care and replacement of street right of way trees which we continue to lose at an alarming rate. In this budget, we are also concentrating in right sizing and operating youth and adult programming, and we plan to expand our adaptive programming to maximize our commitment to an inclusive park system for all.

The FY 2025-26 budget represents the next step in our recovery from some unique economic times; therefore, this budget slowly and strategically enhances and expands services that will maintain, develop and create open spaces. We strongly believe that this budget will guide the Parks Department in the right direction to have a solid economic foundation to strengthen parks and community centers, which are the foundation of great communities.

Resolution #32665 – Amendment #1 to the Cooperative Agreement with Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

On a motion by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Board approved Amendment #1 with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to extend the term of the Agreement

to December 31, 2025 and authorized the Director or designee to execute the amendment on behalf of the Board.

Background: Since 1989, the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners have had a long-standing Agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the operation and maintenance of cultural and educational public improvements at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum at 3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Museum is owned by the State and is maintained by the Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation Department. During the past several months staff have been working with state representatives to continue this partnership. The City and State desire to extend the agreement for an additional year. Other than changing the term period for an additional year, there are no substantial changes in the terms and conditions. Amendment # 1 will extend the contract time to December 31, 2025.

Resolution #32666 – Agreement with Hogan Preparatory Academy

On a motion by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded by Commissioner Meier, the Board approved the Facility Use without Concession Agreement with Preparatory Academy and authorized the Director or designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Background: Hogan Preparatory Academy is requesting the use of the gymnasium at Southeast Community Center for boys' basketball practice from 3:30 p.m. – 5: 30 p.m. and Mary Williams-Neal Community Center for girls' basketball practice from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at a rate of \$75.00/hour for both locations during the term of this agreement.

Total compensation, to be paid in full prior to the start of this agreement, is projected to be \$8,737.50. The term of this license shall begin on November 13, 2024, and end on February 27, 2025.

Hogan Preparatory Academy will provide commercial general liability, automobile liability, and sexual abuse/molestation insurance coverage per city requirements.

Resolution #32667 – Cooperative Agreement with DE LaSalle Education Center

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Board approved the Agreement with DE LaSalle Education Center and authorized the Director or designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Background: DE LaSalle Education Center's Block37 program offers students a safe space, positive adult role models, and access to activities that promote positive social, emotional and educational outcomes for students. Through internships provided on-site at DE LaSalle High School and partner organizations, Block37 provides teens with real work experience and the opportunity to learn new skills while earning a stipend. Students gain a stronger sense of belonging, positive interactions, strong sense of purpose and increased school attachment which leads to improved academic performance and preparedness for higher education or employment.

DE LaSalle has requested access to Southeast Community Center to provide up to five (5) students

work/study positions. Each work/study position Tuesdays – Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. during the terms of this agreement. DE LaSalle shall be the employer of the students, will provide transportation and lunch, assign student grades, and work with the City in supervising, monitoring and assessing performance of job duties.

City will direct students in their day-to-day performance of the work/study positions and train them in specific skills. They will also partner with DE LaSalle in enforcing all applicable labor laws, company rules and in mentoring students in gaining knowledge about workplace and business operations.

This agreement will begin on October 17, 2024, and end on November 14, 2024. Commercial general liability and sexual abuse/molestation insurance will be provided per City’s requirements.

Resolution #32668 – Agreement with Jackson County Parks and Recreation

On a motion by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded by Commissioner Meier, the Board approved the Agreement with Jackson County Parks and Recreation and authorized the Director or designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Background: The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Special Population Services is focused on allowing the developmentally disabled to participate in team and individual sports and activities that enhances their lives. Athletes have participated in a variety of activities on every level of Special Olympics, including the World Games, bringing home several gold medals.

They are requesting the use of the gymnasium at Gregg Klice Community Center for basketball practice, compensating City \$75.00 hour for each 2-hour session that will take place from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. during the terms of this agreement.

Total compensation of \$2,250.00 will be paid in full prior to the start of this agreement. The terms of this agreement will begin December 5, 2024, and end March 29, 2025.

Jackson County Parks and Recreation has provided a self-insured letter to meet the commercial general liability insurance per City’s requirements.

Resolution #32669 – Agreement with Sporting Kansas City Academy

On a motion by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded by Commissioner Meier, the Board approved the Facility Use without Concessions Agreement with Sporting Kansas City Academy is requesting the use of the gymnasium at Southeast Community Center for youth soccer practice from 5:30 p.m. – 7: 00 p.m. at a rate of \$75.00/hour during the term of this agreement.

Total compensation, to be paid in full prior to the start of this agreement, is projected to be \$2,475.00. The term of this license shall begin on November 12, 2024, and end on February 6, 2025.

Sporting Kansas City Academy will provide commercial general liability and sexual abuse/molestation insurance coverage per city requirements.

Resolution #32670 – Cooperative Agreement with Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Board approved the Board approved the Cooperative Agreement with Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association and authorized the Director or designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Background: The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant (ORIG) program has awarded funding to the North Terrace Lake Improvements Project in the amount of \$300,000. This project will assist with construction costs to renovate the North Terrace Lake. Those renovations will include installing an access boat ramp, a fish dock, a boardwalk, on-site parking, landscaping and lighting. This project requires a local match of \$300,000 that was identified as 3rd District PIAC funding in account number 3090-708309-B-70235001. The grant will also be required to be taken to the City Council to estimate the revenues.

The project will not include community engagement with the neighborhood groups because that was performed under the MDC Land Conservation Partnership Grant which included the lake analysis report, conservation plan, maintenance plan, and conceptual and construction drawings for lake infrastructure improvements. The neighborhood groups selected from three options of lake improvement and parking designs. This project is entirely a construction project.

Resolution #32671 – Bid Award to Leath and Sons – Hodge Park and Platte Purchase Park Improvements

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Meier, the Board approved the Bid Award to Leath and Sons, Inc. for the Hodge Park and Platte Purchase Park Improvements Project in the amount of \$3,145,580.29 and authorized the Director or designee to execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

Background: Hodge Park is the second largest park in Kansas City and the largest park in the northland. Platte Purchase Park is another large park in the northland with over 130 acres.

The Hodge Park and Platte Purchase Park Improvements project will add eight pickleball courts at Platte Purchase Park and install a new waterline and eight pickleball courts at Hodge Park.

On September 25, 2024, three bids were received for the Hodge Park and Platte Purchase Park Improvements project. Leath and Sons, Inc. submitted the lowest and best base bid with a bid amount of \$2,753,946.19. Alternate 1 is being accepted in the amount of \$391,634.10 for two restrooms at Hodge Park. The construction for this project will be completed within 150 calendar days.

The Hodge Park and Platte Purchase Park Improvements project is funded with CD 1 PIAC, CD1 Parks GO Bond, and Shoal Creek TIF. Funds for the construction contract are available from accounts: 3090-708109-B-70174902.

The MWBE goals set by CREO Department for this contract are: 15% MBE and 15%WBE. Leath and Son, Inc.'s participations are: 15% MBE and 15% WBE.

Resolution #32672 – Termination of the Memorandum of Understanding with Kansas City Public Schools for Repurposing Six Former School Sites

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Meier, the Board approved the termination of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Kansas City Missouri School District to release the City and Parks and Recreation Department of any obligation at the former Ashland school site to demolish the single-family home and maintain and own the entire 1.993-acre grounds for improvements for multi-purpose fields and authorized the Director or designee to execute the needed document on behalf of the Board to terminate the MOU.

Background: Kansas City Missouri Public School Board has closed schools in the recent decade with decline in student enrollments in certain areas of the district and they have actively pursued partners to repurpose these former school sites. The MOU between the City, through the Parks and Housing Departments, and the Kansas City School District contemplated that six former school sites would be transferred to the City for a variety of public purposes. The City acquired title to four sites, being the former school sites of Chick, McCoy, Rock Creek and Willard, and allowed KCPS to pursue a transfer of Blenheim for redevelopment.

The remaining site is the former Ashland School site, generally located at 4610 E. 24th St. The MOU, upon the transfer of the former Ashland School site stated the City was to be responsible for maintaining and owning the entire 1.93-acre grounds and improvements for multi-purpose fields, but only if KCPS was able to acquire two parcels under private ownership to transfer the entire block to the City and to update the Phase 1 environmental study.

KCPS did not acquire the two parcels or update the environmental study. The school district's timeline for securing the surrounding houses and demolition would have taken some time. Parks decided not to pursue the acquisition of the Ashland school site as the need for a private recreation site for Boys and Girls club is not a high priority for Parks and the School District has not fulfilled its MOU obligations as to the Ashland site.

The current Ashland Park had a master plan completed in early 2000 and many of the planned improvements were not funded at the time of this discussion. The Parks department's priority has been to improve the Parks and its existing parks and not take on new park properties. Therefore, neither Parks nor Housing have a desire to acquire this former Ashland school site, therefore, this MOU shall be terminated as no purpose exists for it to remain active.

Resolution #32673 – Agreement with Missouri Department of Conservation for Jerry Smith Park

On a motion by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded by Commissioner Meier, the Board approved the Agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation to perform conservation management at Jerry Smith Park and authorized the Director or designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Background: The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recognizes the remnant and restored prairies at Jerry Smith Park as unique and valuable conservation resources. Understanding the limitations of the Department, MDC has offered to assist the Conservation Corps in the management of Jerry Smith's natural resources. MDC will assist with all conservation practices including but not

limited to invasive species management, prescribed burns, planting of new seed, establishment of new acres of prairie, etc. This agreement allows access to Jerry Smith Park property for MDC staff or contractors to perform conservation related practices. It outlines areas of responsibility for both parties.

Resolution #32674 – Recommendation to name the trail in Buckeye Greenway Park the Teresa Lynn Rynard Trail was amended to name the Buckeye Greenway Park, the Teresa Lynn Rynard Park

Commissioner Taylor put forth a motion to amend Resolution #32674, to replace the recommendation made by staff to name the trail in Buckeye Greenway Park to the Teresa Lynn Rynard Trail.

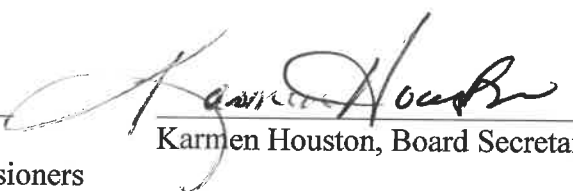
Commissioner Taylor made the motion to amend the Resolution to rename the Buckeye Greenway Park to the Teresa Lynn Rynard Park, seconded by Commissioner Smith, nay by President Haden and Commissioner Meier abstained from the vote. The amendment to Resolution #32674 was approved. There was no additional discussion on the recommendation for the amendment.

Public Hearing:

Tukebrean Cheshier came before the Board to share her concerns and thoughts regarding Dunn Park. Ms. Cheshier mentioned that she and her daughter visits the park regular but feels on safe. She commented that she has to call 311 to have the dogs picked up. Ms. Chesier commented that the playground equipment needs to be updated and well as improvements needed to the basketball and tennis courts. The Board thanked Ms. Cheshier for attending and asked staff to follow up with her.

Board Meeting adjourned.


Beth Haden, President
Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners


Karmen Houston, Board Secretary