

**MINUTES**  
**[Approved August 7, 2025]**  
**LIBERTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**June 5, 2025**  
**Liberty Community Center**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular business meeting of the Liberty Parks and Recreation Board was called to order by President Ryal Brier at 6:01 p.m. Board members in attendance were: Ryal Brier, James Gifford, Rachel Hollinberger, Jackie Kennedy, Deb Loomis, and Vern Windsor. Staff members in attendance were BJ Staab, Parks and Recreation Director; Jimmy Gibbs, Assistant Director; and Erika Brant, Community Engagement Manager. Board members Anissa Christine, Christopher Hand and John Riedel were absent.

**OPEN FORUM** – Debra Lake, a resident who lives near Wilshire Park and who is a landscape architect, was present to observe the meeting.

Jodi Capps, Liberty Parks & Rec Foundation Chair was present to present to the Board. She briefly shared the purpose of the Liberty Parks & Rec Foundation. She shared that the Foundation has raised \$610,849 since 2009 including \$263,303 for the youth and senior scholarship program. She reminded the Board that she was here as a resource to the Board and was available for questions about the Foundation now or in the future. She also reminded the Board about the projects the Foundation had funded. BJ Staab shared that the Foundation has generally funded around \$30,000 each year for the youth scholarship program. However, last year was over \$60,000 and Staff anticipated similar numbers in 2026. Ryal Brier asked Jodi Capps to share updates on changes planned for 2026. Jodi Capps shared that the Foundation was looking into adding a 5K or a trivia night to expand fundraising opportunities. Jodi Capps asked the Board to share any suggestions for Community Chairs or Foundation Board Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Vern Windsor made the motion, seconded by James Gifford, to approve the May 1, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE:**

Ryal Brier	AYE
Anissa Christine	ABSENT
James Gifford	AYE
Christopher Hand	ABSENT
Rachel Hollinberger	AYE
Jackie Kennedy	AYE
Deb Loomis	AYE
John Riedel	ABSENT
Vern Windsor	AYE

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Historical Markers Updates** – Jackie Kennedy reminded the Board that she and a few other local historians provide content and photos for the kiosks in Downtown Liberty. She shared that the upcoming content would be about the Frank Hughes and Clay County Museum

buildings. She shared the historians would do a few more rotations, and then the City PR Department would begin cycling back through what's already been completed.

Erika Brant shared that the Martha Lafite Interurban marker will be ordered by the end of the month. She shared that she had entered all of the markers located in parks on hmdb.org and that the next step is to add the markers to the City's GIS system on the Parks & Trails Locator. Then a page would be created on the Parks & Rec website to share information about the historical markers located in parks. Erika Brant shared that would be completed by the end of August.

- **Clay Lozier Memorial** – BJ Staab shared that he had met with Barb Lozier, Clay's wife, to discuss options to honor Clay Lozier's memory. He shared that they discussed a "Day of Clay" volunteer day. He also shared that he knew a skate park would be meaningful, but was a big-ticket item and was something that would take longer to complete. He also asked her about doing something at the pump track in Stocksdale Park or adding a bench. Barb Lozier shared that the pump track was important to him, but that she did not think a bench was a good fit. Barb Lozier also shared that she thought a kinetic piece of art at Stocksdale Park would be a good way to honor him.

Jackie Kennedy thought naming the pump track at Stocksdale Park after him would be meaningful since he was the reason the pump track was there, and he was passionate about that amenity. Deb Loomis shared she loved the idea of a "Day of Clay" but asked what the volunteers would do. BJ Staab shared the volunteer work could center on the pump track and honeysuckle removal. James Gifford like the idea of doing everything at once. Installing a kinetic sculpture, naming the pump track, and hosting the "Day of Clay". BJ Staab shared Staff would move forward with those ideas and would bring the topic back to a future workday.

- **Resonus Engagement Software** – BJ Staab reminded the Board that Resonus had started collecting public input on Bennett Park. He shared that we are up to over 130 users with over 200 comments about the park already collected by the software. He shared that the demographics are skewing younger than we normally see during public engagement. Deb Loomis for clarification on how the software worked and how to submit comments. BJ Staab shared that you need to text or chat with the AI bot to share information, and that you can scroll down on the page to see ideas submitted by other members of the community. He shared that Staff has not submitted any ideas or asked specific question and that the idea is to make the whole experience user generated. He also shared that the software would be available for approximately 3 months. Vern Windsor asked if there were any trends forming from the public comment. BJ Staab shared the biggest requests were for pickleball, a new playground, trails, updated restrooms, a dog park and an updated skate park. BJ Staab shared that he would send reports out to the Board later in the year. He also shared that Staff would include information on how to provide feedback in the utility bill, news flash and on social media. Resonus has also done door to door visits around Bennett Park, they attended Poolside Palooza, visited the Library, William Jewell, and had planned several other in-person ways to engage the community. BJ Staab shared they also placed yard signs around town and in most of the parks.

- **Old Hwy 210 Property** – BJ Staab shared an update on the property at the entrance of Capitol Federal Sports Complex. He shared that Tom Garland, Assistant Director, put together an offer and sent it to the bank that now owns the property. Staff is waiting for a response to the offer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A for June

CORRESPONDENCE – BJ Staab shared correspondence from a citizen requesting a new skate park and/or updates to the skate park at Bennett Park. He also shared an email from staff at Capitol Federal Sports Complex about a disturbance during an adult softball game in May.

FINANCE – BJ Staab shared financial reports for April 2025. Ryal Brier shared that he, Deb Loomis and John Riedel had received an additional financial presentation and shared that everything was looking appropriate for time of year. Rachel Hollinberger asked if memberships had increased with the addition of summer passes. BJ Staab shared that summer memberships had brought in around \$10,000 so far this year and regular memberships had not decreased, and Staff felt like the addition of summer memberships was positive.

## REPORTS –

- Administration Division Report – No additional questions outside of the printed report.
- Parks Division Report – Jackie Kennedy asked some questions about the addition of sidewalks around City Park.
- Recreation Report – Jackie Kennedy asked if tournament or parks staff went around during tournaments to enforce rules in the Capitol Federal Sports Complex. BJ Staab shared that should happen, however he knows some things are missed during busy tournaments. Jackie Kennedy also asked about the rule banning smoking, tobacco and vaping. She asked if Staff thought that rule should be expanded to include marijuana. BJ Staab shared that Staff will look at the signs to see if an update is necessary. Jackie Kennedy asked some questions about the start date for adult softball. Deb Loomis asked questions about the Glen Hendren and Leonard/Lightburn Steering Committees. Deb Loomis also asked some questions about the Community Center roof repairs.
- Liberty Foundation Report – No additional questions outside of the printed report.

MISCELLANEOUS – BJ Staab shared that on Saturday, June 7 Clay County African American Legacy, Inc. would be hosting a dedication of the William “Will” Smith Basketball Court in Ruth Moore Park during their Juneteenth celebration. He invited the Board to attend if they were available at 12 P.M.

Ryal Brier reminded the Board that the July Board meeting was scheduled for July 3, and that due to the holiday it would not be hosted that day. Instead the meeting would be postponed to the following week, or business could be handled via email. Ryal Brier and BJ Staab promised to follow-up with the Board later this month to share how the July meeting would be hosted.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Liberty Parks and Recreation Board is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty Community Center.