

MINUTES
[Approved September 4, 2025]
LIBERTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
August 7, 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, Anissa Christine, James Gifford, Rachel Hollinberger, Jackie Kennedy (arrived at 6:49 p.m.), John Riedel, and Vern Windsor. Staff members in attendance were BJ Staab, Parks and Recreation Director; Tom Garland, Assistant Director; Jimmy Gibbs, Assistant Director; and Erika Brant, Community Engagement Manager. Board members Christopher Hand & Deb Loomis were absent.

OPEN FORUM – Liberty resident, Debra Lake, was present to observe the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Rachel Hollinberger made the motion, seconded by Vern Windsor, to approve the June 5, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Anissa Christine and John Riedel abstained due to absence at the June meeting.

VOTE:

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

OLD BUSINESS

- **LPR/LPS Cooperative Use Agreement** – BJ Staab shared that he had met with the Liberty Public School District to discuss updates to the Cooperative Use Agreement. He shared that the District was close to opening their new gym facilities and that LPR would have access to the new gym at Epic Elementary School. However, the new gyms at Discovery and South Valley Middle School would not be available for LPR programming. Overall, BJ Staab shared the gym space available would be about the same as previous years. He also shared that LPR staff and LPS staff were working together to create new monument signs for the Liberty Community Center and Liberty Middle School as a part of the 2026 budget.
- **LPR 2024 Annual Report** – BJ Staab shared the 2024 Annual Report with the Board. He thanked Ryal for the letter he contributed to the Annual Report. BJ Staab shared that the report is also available on the [LPR website](#).

- **Historical Markers** – Erika Brant shared that the Ruth Ewing marker had been installed at Ruth Ewing Park and the WWII POW Camp marker had been installed at Cap Fed. She shared that the Interurban Railway marker to be installed at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary had been approved and should arrive in late August or September. She also shared that she had worked with Jackie Kennedy to put together a request for the Tourism Committee to fund markers in 2026 and 2027. Vern Windsor asked if there is a trail near Glenaire because he thought the history of the community that was there would be interesting to share. He added that he thought the Interurban Railroad went through that community as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Ruth Moore Park – Basketball Court

Planned as part of the FY2025 Parks operations budget is the renovation of the Ruth Moore basketball court. Through conversations with the Garrison District Task Force and the Smith family, the Sport Court® basketball surface is the best option.

The quote is a turn-key project including: outdoor sport court surface tiles, painting of game lines, surface prep with crack filler, court security edging, and 2 new basketball goals. The Sport Court® product has a 15-year limited warranty from the date of installation. The first 5 years is 100% guaranteed with no charge.

Connor Sport Court International, Inc. (CSCI/Manufacturer) has offered multipurpose flooring systems since 1974. Sport Court® is the only modular floor endorsed by the NCAA, USA Volleyball, FIBA and other top sporting organizations.

Parks staff and the family of Will Smith reviewed multiple options for repairs, reconstruction, and overlay of the basketball court and found the Sport Court® product to be the best option.

Staff recommends a contract with Sport Court Kansas City, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$47,000 (Parks budget \$40,000 & Tourism budget \$7,000).

BJ Staab shared that he and Tom Garland had visited a court with this product and they liked how it was easily installed over the existing concrete basketball court and drained quickly. He also shared that the family and CCAAL, Inc. were working to fundraise some additional funds to add a logo to the court and to replace the fence. Ryal Brier shared that he had spent some time playing on a court with this product and he enjoyed playing on the product and that it kept traction when wet. Rachel Hollinberger asked if this product would potentially be used on other courts. BJ Staab shared that he thought other courts could be surfaced in this product and that it could also be used as a pickleball court surface. Tom Garland shared that maintenance concerns were fireworks being set off on the court or cars driving on the surface. The vendor shared that cars were not as much of a concern and that the surface could also be used as a garage flooring. Fireworks would melt individual tiles if they are set off on the court, however additional tiles would be provided by the contractor and damaged tiles could be replaced by LPR staff. Anissa Christine asked how long installation would take. BJ Staab shared this would go to City Council in late August. Shipping of the product would take around 3 weeks, and installation would take less than a week. BJ Staab also shared that Will Smith's family wanted to be involved in the selection of the color. Ryal Brier also pointed out that the new basketball goals would be an upgrade for the court. The goals would be adjustable in height for events and tournaments, but would have a way to lock them in place for day-to-day park play.

James Gifford made the motion, seconded by Anissa Christine to recommend staff recommendation to City Council. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTE:

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

Design for Little Shoal Creek Trail

In 2017 Vireo provided a preliminary trail route to connect Campbell Road where the Homestead trail terminates west to Liberty Drive. With the primary design completed staff worked with the developers of Homestead subdivision to extent the 2017 trail further west to connect Buckingham drive with a pedestrian bridge over Little Shoal Creek to Campbell Road. The developer agreed to build the trail in 2023 as part of Homestead Hills second phase if the city would cover the cost for the bridge over Little Shoal Creek. In the spring of 2024 the bridge was installed and the trail pavement completed.

Parks staff applied for the Missouri Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds through Mid America Regional Council's Transportation Emissions Committee and was successful. This connection will provide alternative routes for bicyclists and pedestrians to connect to schools and shopping west of the Flintlock flyover I-35. This section of trail is planned to cross the creek twice and will need to connect to Liberty Drive near the Flintlock Roundabout. The initial step is to complete a final trail design and floodplain permit.

BHC will review the preliminary route and model how the trail will affect any flooding that occurs along the creek. A flood study is required for all of creek crossings to determine the best options. They will provide a cost estimates and parks staff will bid the project out and manage construction of for the project.

Parks staff reviewed qualifications from three engineering firms listed on Missouri Department of Transportations preferred vender list and is recommending the City to enter into a contract with BHC for an amount not to exceed \$72,385.

Tom Garland reminded the Board that this was the trail that will connect from the south end of Homestead Trail to the Flintlock roundabout and shared that this work would likely begin in the fall because the contractor wanted to do the survey work after the leaves were off the trees. BJ Staab shared a map showing where this trail connection would be. John Riedel asked if this trail might be completed before the connection from Homestead Trail to Westboro/Canterbury Greenway across South Wales. Tom Garland shared that potentially depending how the South Wales crossing had to be constructed to prevent flooding.

Vern Windsor made the motion, seconded by James Gifford to recommend staff recommendation to City Council. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTE:

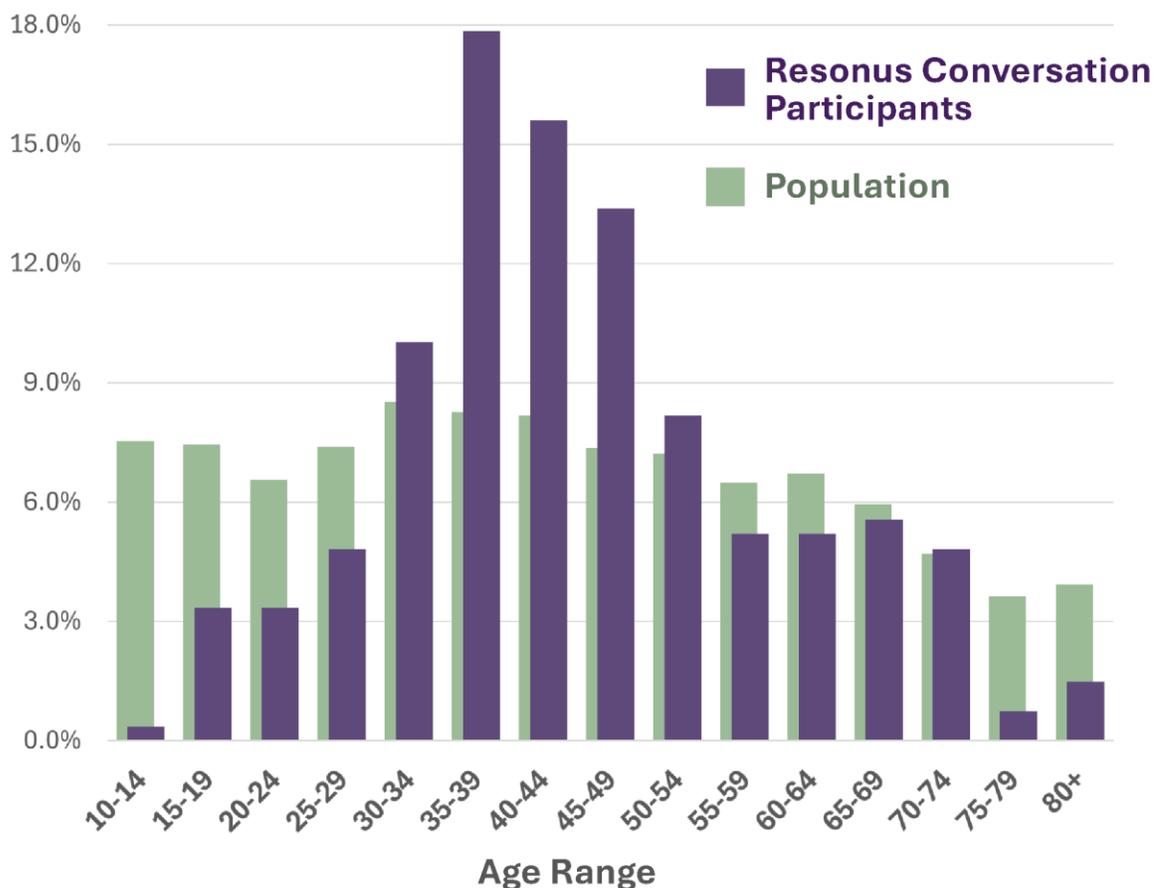
Ryal Brier	AYE
Anissa Christine	AYE
James Gifford	AYE
Christopher Hand	ABSENT
Rachel Hollinberger	AYE
Jackie Kennedy	ABSENT
Deb Loomis	ABSENT
John Riedel	AYE
Vern Windsor	AYE

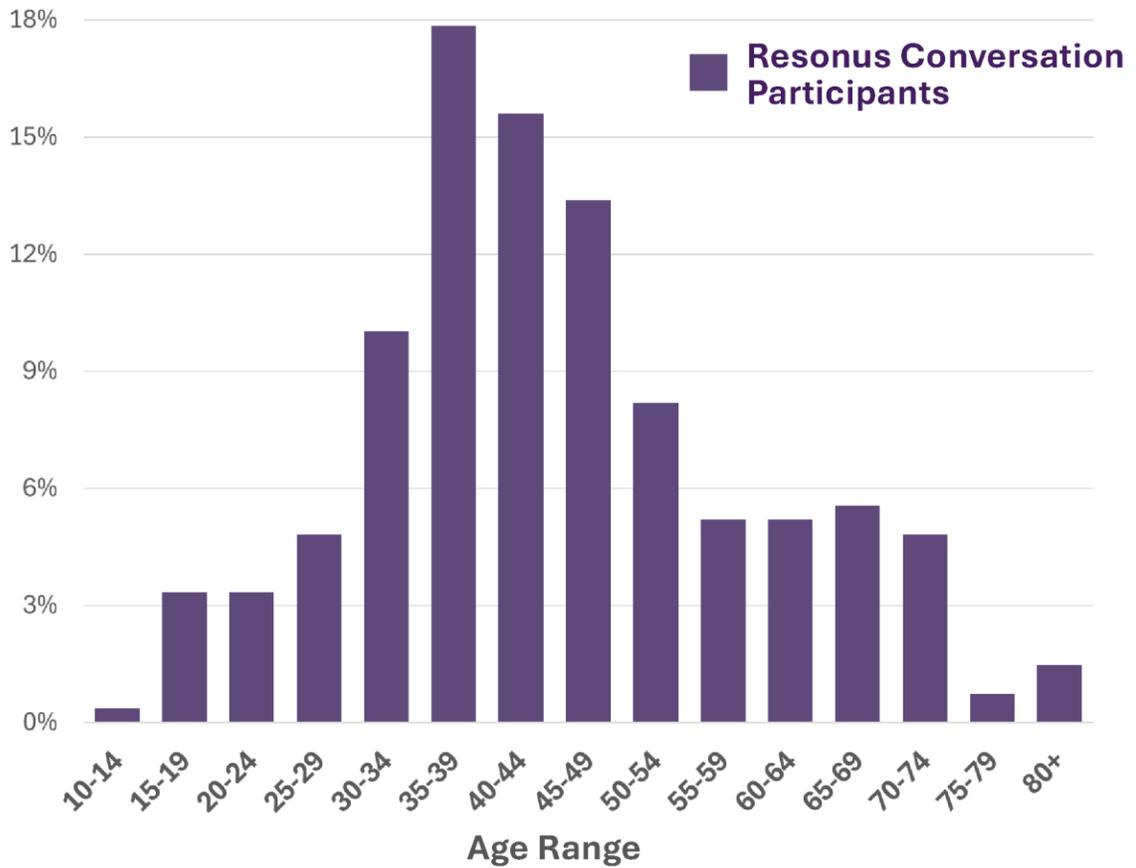
FY2026 Capital Budget Sub Committee

Ryal Brier asked Board members John Riedell and Deb Loomis to serve on the FY2026 Capital Budget Sub Committee. He thanked them both for accepting this responsibility and looked forward to seeing their recommendations in future months. BJ Staab also thanked them for volunteering and appreciated their assistance planning and digging through the details for the 2026 budget.

Bennett Park Engagement

Ryal Brier thanked all of the Board members who were able to attend the Bennett Park meeting in July. He also shared that he was happy with the community turnout and enjoyed hearing from them. BJ Staab agreed, and shared that he was also happy to see the newer residents join some residents who have lived in the neighborhood for several years. He was also happy to see the wide variety of age groups represented at the meeting and felt like the turnout was due to the engagement conducted by Resonus. BJ Staab shared an initial report from Resonus that was presented during the community meeting in July.

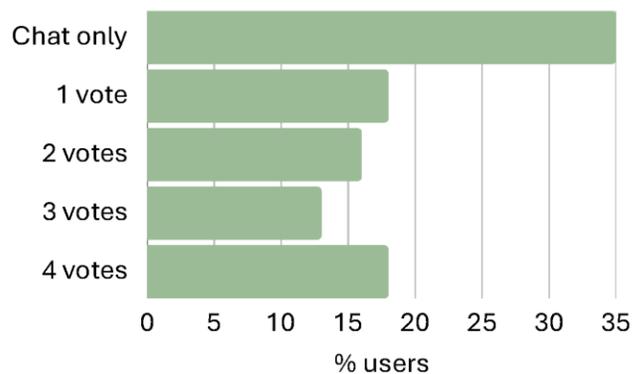




292 Active Users

558 Votes

Votes per user



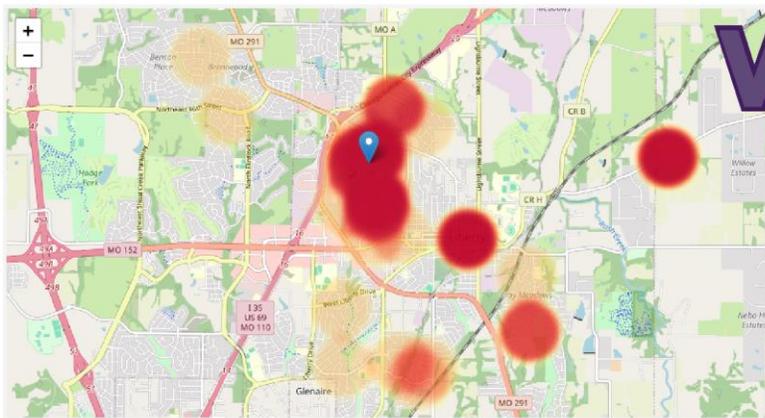
Top Initiatives

Walking Trails 24%

21% Playground Upgrade

Pickle Courts 20%

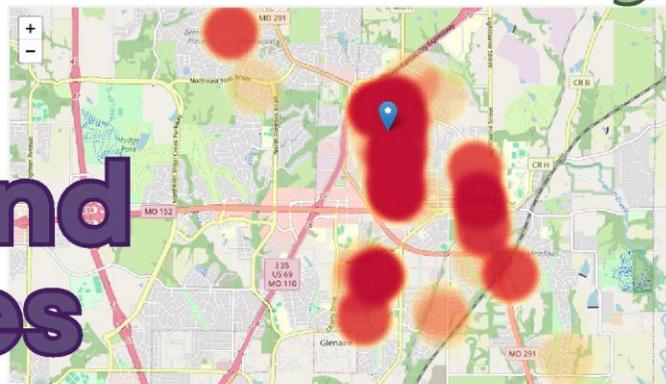
16% Splash Park



Walking Trails

Diverse voices across Liberty

Playground Upgrades



Jackie Kennedy arrived at 6:49 p.m.

BJ Staab shared a quick snapshot of the back-end of the Resonus software and gave the Board a brief preview of the information being collected. He shared that the software would close at the end of August, and Mitch Mabrey from Resonus would be at a future Park Board meeting to share the final report.

CORRESPONDENCE – BJ Staab shared correspondence from KC Disc Golf member, John Thiess, about course play at Bad Rock Creek Disc Golf course in April 2025. He also shared that Liberty Meals on Wheels had recently won Gold in the Volunteer Group Category at the Best of the Northland Awards. BJ Staab also shared a section for the *Courier Tribune* on Thursday, July 3, 2025 that featured photos of Ruth Moore Park and information about Liberty Fest at Capitol Federal Sports Complex. He also shared a letter from AJ Byrd, President of CCAAL, Inc. thanking the Parks Department for their work on the basketball court in Ruth Moore Park and their willingness to honor the legacy of Will Smith by naming the court in his honor. AJ Byrd also thanked LPR staff for their support of the 2025 Juneteenth Celebration. Finally, BJ Staab shared correspondence from a resident asking about the history of local parks specifically Bennett and Arthur’s Hill Park and the meaning behind their names.

FINANCE – BJ Staab shared financial reports for through June 2025. He shared that LPR staff was currently working on year end projections for 2025, and that those numbers along with plans for year-end projects would be shared with the Board in September. BJ Staab also shared that the City’s Budget Committee was also beginning their year end meetings to start planning for 2026.

REPORTS –

- Administration Division Report – No additional questions outside of the printed report.
- Parks Division Report – Jackie Kennedy invited the Board to attend an unveiling event for the Ruth Ewing Marker at Ruth Ewing Park to be held in September. She shared that Chery Holtman from the Clay County Museum would be speaking at the unveiling about Ruth Ewing and her importance in Liberty.
- Recreation Report – Jackie Kennedy shared that she leads a writer’s workshop weekly in the Silver Center. One of the women in the group recently wrote why the Silver Center is important to her and that was shared with City Council and other members of the community. Ryal Brier shared that he had attended Liberty Fest with his family and had a great time.
- Liberty Foundation Report – Ryal Brier reminded the Board that the Tee It Up Fore Parks Golf Tournament would be held on August 15 and he encouraged the Board to volunteer or attend if they were available.

MISCELLANEOUS – N/A for August.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Liberty Parks and Recreation Board is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty Community Center.