

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Meeting Date:** October 14, 2025, 6 p.m., Trousdale County Courthouse

**Present:** Bubba Gregory, Chris Gregory, Landon Gulley, Lesley Overman, Mark Presley, Linda Sue Bruce, Alan Carman, Lonnie Taylor

**Others Present:** Public Works Director Cliff Sallee, Amy Thomas, Jerod Mitchell, David Thomas, County Mayor Jack McCall

Chairman Bubba Gregory called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 18, 2025 meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve by Overman, second by Gulley. Motion approved.**

Cliff Sallee presented final pool financial numbers for 2025; pool lost \$33,173. Sallee cited lifeguard bonuses, last water and electric bills as biggest reasons for increased amount from September meeting. Bruce asked for clarification on bonus program, provided by Gulley. Sallee noted this was best year for kids not leaving midseason, said entire staff stayed entire season.

Bruce asked about possibility of fundraising for pool. Sallee has not heard back from county attorney but said seems "sketchy." Sallee noted county had tried this route previously and it went badly. C.Gregory said if pool is opened, committee efforts need to focus on increasing revenue.

Taylor noted 22 days of rain in July hurt attendance. Taylor noted he had talked to Woody Badger, who did site prep and expressed surprise site has lasted this long as it was built on backfill. Taylor noted pool holds 225,000 gallons and putting anything on that site would be expensive. Taylor suggested moving pool closer to track and turning it lengthways, then making current site a large patio, as people have said lack of seating at current pool has long been issue and this could help party revenue as well.

Gulley said pool cost \$15.46 per person per day, based on 2025 attendance, to operate. Gulley expressed concern over moving pool closer to track based on debris.

B.Gregory asked Taylor if pool discussion was on full Commission agenda for October and was told it is. Taylor noted if Commission chooses to replace pool, action will need to move quickly.

Amy Thomas noted that any process for replacing pool would have to be bid out. Sallee estimated an entirely new pool might be \$600,000 to \$700,000. Carman said while kids need things to do, he could not justify the expense of replacement. Taylor said gunite prices are \$173 to \$176 per square foot based on pool he is installing at his home, current size of county pool could be \$380,000 to \$410,000 just for gunite, not including prep work.

Gulley said he could support current pool opening while it was able to, but now would be unsafe. He would prefer to use funds toward other items from park master plan.

C.Gregory noted county has ARPA funds remaining and a capital projects fund, so money to replace a pool is there if Commission has the political will to do so.

**Motion by Gulley to recommend to Commission not opening pool, taking no action on replacing; second by Carman. Motion passed 6-2 (C.Gregory, Bruce voted no).**

Amy Thomas said that Local Parks & Recreation Fund grant from State of Tennessee application window will open in January and if county gets that grant, it could be used to build a pool. Percentage of county match is not currently known.

**Motion by C.Gregory to authorize county to apply for LPRF grant in January for pool, second by Presley. Motion approved.**

Sallee discussed remainder of park, plants and grasses to be added in spring. C.Gregory asked if replacement of walking track was on agenda for October Finance Committee meeting, was told yes. Sallee said he would be meeting the next day with contractor. Presley asked about other options for park funds, B.Gregory said needed to wait until after Commission decides on pool. Gulley asked about park vandalism, Sallee said cameras work and vandalism is minimal.

In Public Comment, Jerod Mitchell said pickleball has become more popular and asked about fixing tennis courts. B.Gregory noted county has applied for BlueCross grant for that purpose.

Gulley asked about cost to resurface walking track, Sallee said will have to be totally torn up so unknown right now.

County Mayor Jack McCall noted park master plan has to be updated every five years to still be applicable toward grants, said an updated plan could include a new pool and pickleball courts. Gulley said previous quote for tennis court fix was under \$100,000 and that was not unreasonable as it was used year-round.

McCall also said WTNK radio property may be available for purchase in the future, which would help parking situation.

**Motion by Gulley to allow mayor to explore purchase of radio property, second by C.Gregory. Motion approved.**

B.Gregory will wait until Commission decision on pool's future before calling next meeting.

**Motion to adjourn by Taylor, second by Presley. Motion approved.**

*Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.*