



Subject: Recommendation to Consider Expanding Parks Board Oversight Role

Background:

The City's Parks and Recreation Board currently operates in a primarily advisory capacity, providing input and support for departmental programs and initiatives. While this structure has supported past operations, the evolving needs of the Parks and Recreation Department—especially in light of ongoing budgetary discussions, long-term planning goals, and increasing community expectations—warrant a closer examination of the board's role and authority.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider formally expanding the Parks Board's responsibilities to include increased oversight of the Parks and Recreation Department. This could include more defined authority in areas such as:

- Reviewing and advising on annual budget proposals prior to Board of Aldermen consideration
- Participating in long-term capital planning discussions
- Assisting in prioritizing departmental goals and evaluating progress toward strategic objectives
- Providing regular feedback on operational effectiveness and community satisfaction

These enhancements would support stronger alignment between the department's planning and the community's evolving needs, improve transparency, and promote shared accountability in achieving the city's parks and recreation goals.

Board President's Support:

I have discussed this concept with the current Parks Board President, who expressed support for expanding the board's oversight role and indicated a willingness to help lead the transition should the Board of Aldermen wish to move forward with this change.

Next Steps:

Depending on the outcome of the Board of Aldermen discussion May 27th, I intend to meet with the Parks Board later that week to further explore how such an expanded role might be structured. This discussion will help inform any formal proposals, including ordinance revisions or policy updates, for subsequent consideration by the Board of Aldermen.

Please let me know if additional information is needed ahead of our discussion on the 27th.

CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Young', is written over a horizontal line.

Wesley Young, MPA, CPM
City Administrator
City of Willard