

# CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

## LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Jefferson County Farm Bureau | 4200 Gardiner View Avenue | Louisville, Kentucky 40213

August 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Roll Call** — Roll was called. Present were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Shelia Bumphus, Jackie Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan; Treasurer Jean Hall; and Clerk Aggie Keefe. Also present were Sgt. Jeff Christopher representing Kentuckiana Law Enforcement (KLE); and Nima Mahmoodi and Tom Tague with The Kleingers Group.

**Pledge of Allegiance** — All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence** — Mayor Chesser called for a moment of silence in memory of Attorney John Treitz, who passed away on August 8. Mr. Treitz served as legal counsel for Watterson Park since the City's inception in 1981.

### OLD BUSINESS

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#### 1391 Gardiner Lane Property —

Mr. Mahmoodi and Mr. Tague were present to discuss the plans for the development of this property.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Fortwengler likes Option 1A but would like to move the park identity signage to the corner of Gardiner Lane and Colonel Sanders Lane. Alex Longino wasn't present but reported through Mayor Chesser that she prefers Option 1A. Addressing Ms. Garrett's concerns about a possible unkempt appearance of the bioswale, Mr. Tague assured Council that it would look purposeful even though it wouldn't be manicured. Mrs. Bourke asked about the incline on the paved paths and was assured that all paths would be ADA compliant. It was noted that on all options, we eliminated the proposed area for outdoor fitness equipment for adults, which will allow us to make the children's playground area larger. To be ADA compliant, 50 percent of the playset area will be accessible from ground level. There are no restrooms, water fountains, or lights included in any of the options.

The Kleingers Group would like to honor John Treitz, who was instrumental in obtaining the property, by contributing some type of sculpture and/or special plantings in an area dedicated to him.

Mr. Mahmoodi will meet with Louisville Metro Council, Planning & Zoning, and LG&E to discuss the project. He will also be submitting applications for grants to help offset the cost. He will stay in communication with Mayor Chesser, and he will also attend our future legislative meetings to keep us abreast of the progress of the project.

Both Mr. Mahmoodi and Mr. Tague left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Chesser read from an email she received from Mr. Tague highlighting key points of a conversation they had regarding various charges. There is an informal estimate of \$1.5 to \$2 million based on current designs. In addition, there will be design and professional services fees of roughly \$67,650. We will not be charged for filing grants but we will be responsible for any grant application charges. The engineers are aware of the fiber optic lines in the easement on Gardiner Lane.

After additional discussion, Mrs. Bumphus made a motion to approve Option 1A with the previously suggested changes; seconded by Ms. Ewan. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jackie Bourke, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Council discussed overall costs associated with this project. Based on information we have received to date, Mrs. Hall came up with a high-end estimate of \$2.2 million. We will find out the cost of concrete vs. asphalt for the walking paths before determining which option to go with.

Ms. Ewan made a motion to appropriate up to \$2 million for the development of the park; seconded by Mr. O'Bryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jackie Bourke, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0. We will need to consult with Attorney Duncan Crosby about amending our current budget.

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Bumphus made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Mrs. Bourke. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jackie Bourke, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

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## APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Hall updated Council on the question of interest income from the June 2025 financial statements. She revised the Interest Income from -\$154 to \$18,841; Total Revenues from \$15,455 to \$34,450; and Net Income from -\$27,976 to -\$8,981. For the month of July 2025, Mrs. Hall reported revenues in the amount of \$89,654 with \$41,146 in expenses, resulting in a net income of \$48,508. Mr. O'Bryan made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Ms. Garrett. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jackie Bourke, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

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## OLD BUSINESS

**1225 Gardiner Lane Development** — Mayor Chesser reported that the lawsuit with RaceTrac has been settled and we should be receiving the settlement check soon.

**Code Enforcement** — Everyone was provided a copy of the Field Report for July. Mayor Chesser reported that Brandon Vincent found three homeless encampments on Champions Trace Lane.

**Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings** — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for August. The 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. shifts have been removed from our schedule. Discussion ensued regarding suspicious activity at the Sullivan University housing building. Sgt. Christopher said these people could be opportunists who are scoping the building to strip it of anything of value. Mr. O'Bryan suggested that they could be Door Dash drivers waiting for orders. Mayor Chesser will contact Sullivan University to express her concerns and to find out if they have any security measures in place.

**Flock Camera** — Mayor Chesser received an update stating they have completed the permit packets and they will be submitted soon.

**Regina Lane Curb and Lawn Repair** — Work on this project should be starting soon. Mr. Vincent will slope the curbs to make them less vulnerable to damage from vehicles.

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## NEW BUSINESS

**Fern Creek Fire Chief** — Mayor Chesser reported that Scott Evans is the new chief of Fern Creek Fire & EMS.

**Nuisance Ordinance** — Copies of our current nuisance ordinance were distributed and Council members were asked to take it home to review and be ready to discuss any suggested revisions at the September meeting.

**Milldaun Road Properties** — Mayor Chesser and Mrs. Bourke are still trying to find assistance for the residents on Milldaun. They contacted the Office for Aging and Disabled and were given a list of other resources to contact. Most of the available services have a lengthy waiting list. Some of the more readily available services are available for veterans. Mrs. Bourke will send photos to George Stewart for follow-up and still plans to visit one of the residents to see if they need help.

**Committee Reports —**

- Business Liaison Committee  
Mrs. Bumphus drove the City streets with Mayor Chesser to become more familiar with our boundaries.
- Citizen Liaison Committee  
Mayor Chesser reported that she will be ordering welcome baskets for new residents on Conaem Drive and Regina Lane.
- Communications Committee  
Mrs. Keefe and Mayor Chesser discussed the possibility of doing a digital newsletter that would be available online instead of the printed newsletters we have done in the past. Mrs. Bourke suggested that we send out a packet annually to residents that would include information on sanitation, important numbers, website information, and other items of interest. Mrs. Bourke will see if she can get some samples of items we could include from her husband, who works at a printing business.
- Finance Committee  
Mayor Chesser reported that we can't do the tax ordinances yet, since we first need the numbers from the PVA.
- Public Safety Committee  
*REACH Alert* — We have approximately 70 people signed up for REACH Alert.  
*LMPD Sixth Division Advisory Board Meeting* — The August meeting was canceled because of National Night Out.
- Public Works Committee  
*Street Signs* – The stop sign that was missing a bolt at the intersection of Conaem Drive and Vineyard Drive has been repaired.  
*Street Lights* – Mr. O'Bryan said he has reported several lights that are out throughout the City.
- Sanitation Committee  
Yard waste pick-up is continually missed at a residence on Gardiner Lane. Ms. Garrett complimented Republic Services on the ease of scheduling a recent bulk pick-up.
- Tax Bills Committee  
Mrs. Hall reported that we are waiting on the PVA before we can send out tax bills.
- Urban Forestry and Green Space Committee  
Ms. Garrett asked about the two half-dead trees on the Lillian Wild Walking Path; Mayor Chesser said that Brandon Vincent will be removing them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Mr. O'Bryan made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Garrett. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jackie Bourke, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0, and meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

All those persons noted as being present at the beginning of this meeting, unless otherwise indicated, remained throughout.

Approved at the meeting of the City Council held on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Linda Chesser, Mayor

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Aggie Keefe, Clerk