



Board of Aldermen Request for Action

MEETING DATE: 5/5/2026

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution 1582 – Renaming the Smithville Senior Center

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

A Motion to Approve Resolution 1582, renaming the Smithville Senior Center to Smithville Activity Center.

SUMMARY

The Smithville Senior Center has been located west of City Hall since its opening in 2013. Until 2019, the facility was used exclusively for senior services. That year, the Board of Aldermen directed the Parks and Recreation Department to begin managing community rentals of the space when not in use by seniors. In 2023, the City entered into a new agreement with the Senior Board outlining how offering senior services would be continued while also providing greater support in daily operations, managing the senior services grant, and expanding community rental opportunities and programs. That winter, significant upgrades were made to the interior to create a more welcoming space for both seniors and community members.

In 2024, staff worked with Clay County Senior Services to add a part-time senior services position under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Director. Since then, the senior program has grown while use of the facility for rentals, events, and programs has expanded through coordination by Parks and Recreation staff.

Through conferences and discussions with other departments, we are seeing a generational shift in senior center attendance. Today, senior centers are more often utilized by older age groups, while those in their 60s and 70s may be hesitant to participate. Research shows there is a stigma around the word "Senior," and that removing it from building names and advertisements can help attract a broader audience.

Additionally, this building is included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is part of a larger strategic vision. The aim is to expand beyond the current facility by increasing senior services, recreational programs, and facility rentals.

Staff would like to clarify that there is no plan or discussion about removing senior services from the building or program offerings. The goal of renaming is to continue increasing attendance and providing more opportunities for the community.

With all this in mind, staff looked for direction on a potential name change to make the facility more inviting to both the 60+ community and the general public for events and programs.

Staff met with the Smithville Senior Board on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, after getting direction from the Parks and Recreation Committee to talk with them first. The Senior Board was in favor of the name change and liked the suggested name of "Smithville Activity Center".

On January 29, 2026, the Parks and Recreation Committee discussed and made a recommendation to the board to rename the Smithville Senior Center to Smithville Activity Center.

PREVIOUS ACTION

NA

POLICY OBJECTIVE

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |

RESOLUTION 1582

A RESOLUTION RENAMING THE SMITHVILLE SENIOR CENTER TO SMITHVILLE ACTIVITY CENTER

WHEREAS, Smithville Parks and Recreation has identified the need to rename Smithville Senior Center facility to Smithville Activity Center; and,

WHEREAS, the name change is to make the facility more inviting to both the 60+ community and the general public for events and programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee and Smithville Senior Board were involved in the recommendation at the Wednesday, January 28, 2026 Senior Board meeting and January 29, 2026 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee then voted to recommend renaming the facility Smithville Activity Center.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

THAT the Smithville Senior Center is hereby renamed the Smithville Activity Center.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Aldermen and **APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Smithville, Missouri, the 5th day of May, 2026.

Damien Boley, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Drummond, City Clerk