



Friends of the Wells
Meeting Summary
September 14, 2026

Item 1. Call to order.

Chairman Sonya Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Committee Members Present: Sonya Morgan, Lisa Morgan, Schaylece Kiso, Keith and Diane Montague, John Clark, Sabrina Grant, Brian Rice, Courtney Cole and Reggie St John.

Visitors/Guests Present: None

Absent: Melinda Mehaffy

Item 2. Approval of meeting summary from July 13, 2026

*Brian Rice made a motion to approve the meeting summary for July 13, 2026 with suggested revisions. (Revisions made and sent to Sonya for website)
Diane Montague second the motion. Motion Carried.*

Vote: Motion Approved 10-0-0

Yes: Sonya Morgan, Lisa Morgan, Keith and Diane Montague, Courtney Cole, Reggie St John, Schaylece Kiso, Sabrina Grant, Brian Rice and John Clark.

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Item 3. The Financial Report.

*Community Foundation Balance as of June 30, 2026 is \$3850.88
Petty cash, added \$20.00 book sold, balance now \$175.11
Grand Total: \$4,025.99.*

Item 4. Unfinished Business.

We did hear back from DNR about the Lithia well, they did confirm our well as a transit non- community water system. This is the news we were hoping for. This means we can use the well water to give samples but not sell the water at the water bar in the Hall of Waters.

The next step is testing, they need us to determine if the well is just ground water or ground and surface water. Chad Birdsong said this means the water needs to be tested right after we have a rain fall. DNR needs to know if ground water is present and if so does it change the composition of the water. Diane asked if DNR will do the testing or will we have to do the testing? Sonya said we will test it. Chad has a little over \$9,000.00 in invoices for water testing he has already done and we will need to find a source to pay for the tests, it's possible that some of the money can come from the guest tax bill that was recently passed, another option could also be Capitol Improvement budget. Reggie said that the testing will have to be done by a third party lab. The thought is the City's water lab can be used as before.

The report also stated we would be required to test the well prior to restoration and after restoration, the well would need approval prior to dispensing. Lisa asked if Public Works will be repairing the well, Sonya said no we will have to hire a well restoration company. Chad thinks we will need to get a storage container in the Hall of Waters to assure we don't run out of water at the Water Bar for high traffic events. Chad received this report August 6, 2026.

Sonya announced that the guest tax was approved. The Economic Development Director is putting together some outlines for what happens next. A commission is being created, 7 people on the commission 1 will be DEP, Excelsior Springs Chamber, Elms Hotel and Spa, Short term rental owner, City Council member, 2 Excelsior Springs at large and a City staff liaison. It will be staggered terms. The funds from the tax can only be used on tourism.

Grant opportunities:

- a. Missouri Humanities "The Story of US" Signature Series is a 50/50 grant that is Due August 1st. Sonya and Melinda will be working on it. It can be for money or in kind services. **This Grant was canceled.***
- b. Sonya said Jessie Hall informed her the 250 Grant request had been submitted. We will find out at a later date if FOTW will be receiving \$200.00. **We were not awarded this grant.***

Item 5. New Business

Community Project Grant, Visitors coming into the Hall of Waters be able to use their phone to do a self guided tour. That's what we are working on now.

We need to start working on our plan so we can begin fund raising. Jason Cole will work on our business plan for this project.

Meeting adjournment: 6:55pm.

Next Meeting: TBD

Prepared by FOTW Secretary Lisa Morgan