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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Friday, January 19, 2024

**Parks and Recreation Commission Appoints Director of Parks and Recreation**

**Jefferson City, Mo** On Thursday, January 18, 2024, in closed session, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously appointed Mr. Aaron Grefrath as the City’s newest Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Grefrath replaces Todd Spalding who resigned in September. The search committee recommended Mr. Grefrath as the top candidate after a nationwide search resulted in a list of 45 applicants.

Mr. Grefrath has over 26 years of combined experience working in the educational, athletic, recreational and upper management setting. Twenty-four of those years included being in a leadership role as supervisor, overseeing staff in various positions. Mr. Grefrath has served as an Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for JC Parks since January of 2015. He has also served as the Interim Director of Parks and Recreation since Mr. Spalding’s departure. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Grefrath served as the Activity Center Director for the State Technical College of Missouri and Senior Program Director for the Jefferson City YMCA. Mr. Grefrath is a graduate of Helias High School, received his undergraduate degree in Physical Education from Lincoln University, and his Master’s in Education – Athletic Administration from William Woods University.

Mr. Grefrath says “I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve as the next Director of JC Parks! We are fortunate to have many great park facilities and amenities throughout the City, creating opportunities to improve the quality of life for all. I look forward to working with the citizens of Jefferson City in the future on the many great park projects that lie ahead.”

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