

MINUTES
SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
Dan Kinney Family Center, 2701 S. Blackman Road, Springfield, Missouri.

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Phyllis Ferguson, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, John Price, Chair, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: Matt Bailey

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Mike Crocker, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Kim Reser, John Waldo, Lana Woolsey

II. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FY 2014-2015 BUDGET

Mr. John Price, Chair, thanked the Park Board Staff for their preparation of the proposed budget. The Park Board members expressed appreciation that the budget materials presented were easy to review and understand. Mr. Bob Belote stated that the FY 2014-2015 budget cycle marks the third year that Parks has experienced financial sustainability. As with the current budget cycle, Parks no longer receives any General Fund financial support from the City of Springfield.

DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES Mr. Belote reviewed the proposed FY 2014-2015 budget document with the Board, along with discussion of the following departmental priorities:

- With the celebration of the Parks' 100th Anniversary in 2013, we are continuing our commitment to restore some of the older parks within our system.
- Staff will also continue working towards National Accreditation for the department during 2014-2015 and have included necessary funding for this important initiative.
- Parks will assume the operation of the Skatepark facility in September, 2014.
- We recently entered into a 10-year cooperative agreement with Greene County to use the Davis Property as a headquarters for our CODP programs, including an indoor and outdoor range for our CODP Archery Program. Funding for related operations and maintenance costs including necessary staff, equipment and supplies has been included in the proposed budget.
- Staff plans to build upon and improve relationships in national sports circles to continue providing a strong economic impact presence within the community.
- As per the agreement for the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, four positions will become part of the Park Board's operating funds in 2014-2015. These are the only positions considered new for the next budget cycle.
- We are working with the City of Springfield to make the Park Board website more user-friendly. As part of the new parks program software application, we plan to open up an online registration component later in 2014.

- The Park Board is well-known for the cooperative work we do with like-minded groups in the community. Without new funding for capital projects, land acquisition, or significant improvements, we will continue to seek new collaborative partners and possible cost-sharing opportunities when appropriate.

The Park Board's Golf Division has remained financially stable the last several years; therefore, in the proposed 2014-2015 budget, we plan to pay off debt associated with past golf improvements at our Rivercut Golf Course.

Parks General Fund During past City budget cuts, our public pools and the Mediacom Ice Park were hit the hardest. We have worked diligently to restore pool hours, which included staggering pool maintenance duties so that several pools were open every day. We also offered a special outdoor rate for our indoor pools during the summer season. Additionally, we restored operating hours and a full-time position at Mediacom Ice Park. Parks is working with the City of Springfield with the development of the Route 66 Roadside Park. Next year's budget includes reimbursement from the City in order to provide operations and maintenance to this new area. Because of the favorable interest rates we secured, we will continue to use lease-purchase financing to replace family center fitness equipment and obtain new lab equipment for the Dickerson Park Zoo.

2001 Parks Sales Tax and Capital Projects Fund As we assume the daily operations of the Skatepark, we have provided conservative estimates for next year to include anticipated costs and revenues. We plan to provide some funding for the necessary repair and restoration of some of the older parks. We have also dedicated a staff member to work with area groups including assisting them with activities and events scheduled in their neighborhood park.

2006 Parks Sales Tax and Capital Projects Fund Funding will be included for purchase and installation of a divider curtain for the Dan Kinney Family Center gymnasium in order to schedule multiple programs and activities at the same time. We will continue to seek community donations and charitable gifts to provide additional opportunities throughout the park system, which may include park and trail acquisitions, facility upgrades, and new programs and services.

Golf Enterprise Fund As required for the Golf Enterprise Fund, a nominal surplus amount has been budgeted for the coming year.

General Budget Issues and Discussion Mr. Belote reviewed the remaining pages of the proposed FY 2014-2015 budget, along with a variety of handouts that summarized the priorities discussed and answered the Park Board members' questions about materials presented. Mr. Belote mentioned that we are doing our best to fund critical issues, but there are many important items that still need to be addressed. Additionally, in order to balance the budget for next year, each division received a five percent cut to their operating budget amount. The Board expressed concern regarding the mandated transfer to the City for internal support services utilized by Parks. The Board also suggested exploring ways to better tell "our story", including the economic impact provided to the community for the numerous events we host throughout the park system. Mr. Belote agreed that we need to remind the community on how successful we have been with the benefits of the last two parks sales taxes. Unfortunately, with no new capital resources, it will be difficult to continue to enhance our park system as we have grown accustomed to over the past 10-year period.

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to recommend forwarding the proposed 2014-2015 budget document for approval at the February Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ADJOURMENT

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Price adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.