

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, February 14, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Mediacom Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway, Springfield, Missouri.

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Mike Mellinger

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Maria Johnston, Anne-Mary McGrath, Trey Metzelthin, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Amy Toracaso, Al Valdivia, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Allan McKelvy and Marissa DeClue, Developmental Center of the Ozarks; Sara McClendon, Ozarks Food Harvest

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to approve the minutes from the meetings listed (January 10, 2014, Park Board Meeting; February 5, 2014, Budget Workshop Meeting) as a group and as distributed; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTION OF MEDIACOM ICE PARK STAFF

Mr. Trey Metzelthin, Mediacom Ice Park Coordinator, welcomed the Park Board to Mediacom Ice Park. Mr. Metzelthin introduced Mr. Al Valdivia, who coordinates the youth and adult hockey leagues. Mr. Valdivia indicated that the hockey program has grown from about 100 participants to 400 participants over the last few years. Ms. Amy Toracaso, Figure Skating Director, mentioned that Mediacom Ice Park and KY3 will be hosting an Olympic Watch Party on Wednesday, February 19 beginning at 7 pm to watch USA Olympic Figure Skater, Gracie Gold. Ms. Gold started taking figure skating lessons after she attended a birthday party at the Mediacom Ice Park when she was just eight years old.

IV. TURKEY TROT OVERVIEW AND CHECK PRESENTATION

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath provided the history of the Turkey Trot, which began in 1995 as a collaborative event with the Development Center of the Ozarks (DCO) and the Park Board. One hundred seventeen (117) people showed up for the first Turkey Trot, a run/walk event held on Thanksgiving morning. In 2008, with 5,500 participants, it was recognized as the largest run/walk event on Thanksgiving morning and is a title we still hold today. With over 8,100 participants in 2013, this successful event involves many dedicated partners and volunteers to

execute. The 15-member committee, comprised of representatives from the Park Board, DCO, Ozark Mountain Ridge Runners, Ozarks Food Harvest (OFH), and the Springfield Police Department, spend nearly 11 months to plan the event. On packet pick-up and race days, the event enlists the help of 250 staff members and volunteers to help carry out all of the race responsibilities. Last year, we had participants from 37 states including Alaska and Hawaii, with an age range of one year old to 91 years of age. In 2001, we started partnering with Ozarks Food Harvest, and Turkey Trot participants were encouraged to bring canned goods or non-perishable items. Turkey Trot is now the largest single-day collection event for Ozarks Food Harvest. Since 2001, we have collected over 60,000 pounds of food benefitting OFH. Ms. Sarah McClendon with OFH indicated that their partnership with the Turkey Trot has also created a great volunteer event for families, too.

Ms. Marissa DeClue with DCO thanked the Park Board for their partnership. The funds benefit this local charitable organization so all money raised stays in our community to help children and adults with developmental disabilities. A check for \$20,637.26 was presented to DCO, which represents 50 percent of the proceeds, and the other 50 percent is placed in the Park Board Scholarship Program.

V. PARK BOARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director, provided background about the Park Board's scholarship program, which was established in 1994. Key events such as Turkey Trot, the Bee Payne Stewart Strut, Price Cutter Charity Championship Golf Tournament, and the Springfield Lasers Silent Auction generate proceeds that are placed in the Park Board's Scholarship Program. In the last five years, 4,905 scholarships have been awarded to area children under 18, totaling \$136,155.43. Park Board staff continues to work with collaborative partners to raise more funds and giving opportunities for the scholarship program.

VI. ADOPTION OF FY 2014-2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

Mr. Belote reviewed the departmental budget priorities, which were also discussed at the February 5, 2014, Budget Workshop Meeting. Preparation of the budget begins with input from our supervisors and managers. Then, the budget information is forwarded to the Administrative Staff, who review and discuss, and ultimately, make the necessary recommendations to reach a balanced budget, which is presented to the Park Board. The FY 2014-2015 budget required the Administrative Staff to impose a five percent operations cut across all divisions.

Although the FY 2014-15 budget remains challenging, we will proceed with the following priorities: neighborhood park restorations, departmental accreditation, assuming the Skatepark operations in September 2014, developing the Davis Property, continuing to emphasize sports tourism, and maximizing the use of our facilities. The only new positions added for the proposed FY 2014-15 budget year will be four grant-funded School-Park positions that will become full-time equivalent positions per grant contract requirements. We will work with the City of Springfield to enhance our website capabilities including implementing an online registration component later in the fall. We also propose to pay off long-term debt associated with improvements at Rivercut Golf Course. We will continue to collaborate and partner with like-minded groups to provide unique leisure opportunities and complete our obligations of park sales tax projects as promised to Greene County voters.

Several Park Board members discussed their interest in developing more ways to “tell our story” about the many opportunities, benefits, and activities that we provide to our community. Mr. John Price, Chair, stated that he appreciated the staff for preparing the materials in a clear and understandable format. As a member of the Park Board, overseeing a 27 million dollar budget is a great responsibility, and he is pleased to report how well the Administrative Staff continues to spend the parks sales tax dollars as promised to the Greene County voters. In these challenging times, the Park Board continues to provide exceptional opportunities for a great value. Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to move forward with the proposed Springfield-Greene County Park Board FY 2014-2015 Budget, as presented by Staff. In addition, it was recommend the Park Board give the Park Board Administration the latitude to make minor adjustments to the proposed Springfield-Greene County Park Board FY 2014-2015 Budget, as needed, pending Springfield City Council and Greene County Commission actions/approvals; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Operations Mr. Carney mentioned that his staff workshop this month was a discussion about the Material Safety Data Sheet system, which breaks down the chemical content of products used within the department. Our in-house construction staff has done a good job working through the necessary improvements at the Davis Property. Recently, staff completed a labor-intensive deep facility cleaning of the Doling Aquatics Center, which included draining and cleaning of the pool. During warmer weather, the landscape staff was able to plant 25 trees at Payne Stewart Golf Course as part of our plan to restore trees lost during the 2007 ice storm.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards reported that the Medicom Ice Park was celebrating the Olympics with a variety of activities and games, including special ice skating session prices. The Park Board’s “Know Your Parks” TV show will go to a quarterly schedule beginning in March. Three interviews will be conducted for each 30-minute show and will focus more on programs and facilities, not just special events.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley welcomed everyone to the Mediacom Ice Park and stated that we receive many compliments from visiting hockey teams about the accommodations at the Ice Park. Mr. Cumley thanked the operations staff for their work at the Davis Property to transform the maintenance garage into an inside archery range. We recently had 13 CODP and JOAD archers attend the Missouri Archery Association/JOAD State Championship. Our participants received eight medals, including our CODP Archery Coach, Amy Francka, who received first-place honors in the Compound Division.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that the 2013 Best of the Ozarks News-Leader’s Reader Poll awarded Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park as the 2nd “Best Place to Take Kids”, with Dickerson Park Zoo listed in 1st place. Staff at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park also welcomed three baby sheep, and they are planning for the delivery of three goats and

a baby calf in March. Lost Hill Park staff recently bailed hay which is provided to the animals at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park and the Valley Water Mill Park Equestrian Center.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that the family centers received approximately 1,000 new and renewed memberships in January. Ms. Reser stated that Melvin Johnson, Outdoor Initiatives Coordinator, will retire after 17 years of dedicated service with the Park Board. A reception is planned for February 21 at the Watershed Center from 4-6 pm. Melvin's knowledge of caves and the bat population will remain as lasting tributes as we continue cave preservation.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that 44 playground inspections were conducted in January. Approximately 600 playground inspections are completed throughout the year. Mr. Park and Senior Park Planner, Dennis McMan, recently met with the Friends of the Garden board members to review and update the master plan for the Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park and its accompanying garden areas. The Liberty Schoolhouse is progressing well with the completion of the bell tower and front porch thanks to the support of generous donors. Interior work will still need to be done once additional funding is identified. The Westport Park pavilion project will begin soon as weather permits. This is one of the last projects funded through the 2006 Parks Sales Tax.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker reported that the Dickerson Park Zoo plans to open today after being closed considerably due to cold weather conditions. Mr. Crocker stated that he recently attended the Zoo & Aquarium Policy Conference where the difficulty in sustaining animal collection was discussed. Zoos are working together both nationally and internationally with animal collection sustainability, along with increasing efforts for wildlife conservation.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the City of Springfield hosted a kick-off for the Field Guide 2030 on February 6. The Springfield Lasers participated in the Mylan World TeamTennis marquee draft earlier this week. Although we were hoping to bring Andy Roddick back to the Lasers team, Mr. Roddick has started his own WTT franchise in his home town of Austin, Texas. The good news is we secured Mr. James Blake, who recently retired after the 2013 US Open, and will play for the Springfield Lasers. We are planning to have Mr. Roddick play in Springfield again with his new team during the season, as well. Mr. Belote mentioned that we are reviewing a community garden proposal for the Weller/Robberson schools at Smith Park as they are interested in modeling their project after the one at Grant Beach Park.

The Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau will host their annual Salute to Travel and Tourism event on February 20. The Diplomat Award will be presented to Ted Hillmer, superintendent at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for his significant support to tourism as a government employee. Tim Flatt, with the National Christian Homeschool Championships, will be presented with the Ambassador Award for an individual who has generated significant economic impact to the area through an event or convention. We applaud both of these individuals for their efforts as we also work with them in a variety of ways.

The week of February 25-28 several Park Board staff will attend the Missouri Park and Recreation Association annual conference. We will provide a report at the March Park Board

meeting. Mr. Belote mentioned the Springfield's Moving Mobile Summit, featuring special guest Mark Fenton, is scheduled for Thursday, March 6 beginning with a trail opening at 9 am at Doling Park. A flyer with event details was provided to the Board for their review.

Mr. Belote recognized Public Information Supervisor, Mr. Vince Crunk, who has attended over 200 Park Board meetings since 1995, by providing audio-visual services. We appreciate his assistance, along with his crew members Jared Willard and Jeff Gilmore, for streaming the Park Board meetings live, and then making them available on the City of Springfield and the Park Board's website for citizens to view. Mr. Crunk will retire later in February, but we hope to see him at upcoming Park Board events and programs.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair Report to discuss.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XII. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2014, at Lake Springfield Park, at 8:30 a.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.