

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD**

Friday, January 10, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Dan Kinney Family Center, 2701 S. Blackman Road, Springfield, Missouri.

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Matt Bailey, Phyllis Ferguson, Kevin Hogan

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Bill Ingemi, Jordan Kirbey, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Audra Schupbach, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to approve the minutes from the meetings listed (December 13, 2013, Park Board Meeting; December 13, 2013, Closed Park Board Meeting; and December 18, 2013, Fees and Charges Workshop) as a group and as distributed; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTION OF DAN KINNEY FAMILY CENTER STAFF

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Audra Schupbach, Coordinator at the Dan Kinney Family Center. Ms. Schupbach stated that the Dan Kinney Family Center has approximately 3,500 members. With the center celebrating its' first year in operation, Ms. Schupbach reported that they have retained 88 percent of their memberships thus far. Industry standards are usually 40-50 percent less on average. Fitness programs are available for all ages including Silver Sneakers, which is a reimbursement program through an individual's health insurance and is very popular for our senior members at the Center. Ms. Schupbach indicated that there are currently 40 corporate memberships at the Center. Youth programs that feature health and human performance are also available. Bill Ingemi, Fitness and Wellness Supervisor, stated that he and his staff are also working to provide health education and wellness activities for numerous interested groups.

IV. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2014-2015 BUDGET YEAR

Mr. Belote stated that at the December 18, 2013, Fees and Charges Workshop, the Board and staff reviewed and discussed the proposed fees and charges document in great detail. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the staff's efforts in continuing to provide services at a reasonable price and good value. Mr. Belote mentioned that the commercial photography fee, which has been in place since 2001, was better addressed at the fees and charges workshop.

We believe the outcome from the meeting should be well-received within the photography community.

We will discuss the overall budget at an upcoming workshop in early February. As we prepare for our third year as a financially-sustainable department, we will continue to review long term revenue streams. Our records indicate that sales tax funds have not grown and remain relatively flat, which challenges us to continue to grow programs and services without new identified funds. We will need to reduce our budget by more than \$600,000 in order to obtain a balanced budget. Mr. Price stated that in reviewing the market study reports that provided fees both locally and regionally, we still provide programs and services at a reasonable price that is on par or below other organizations providing similar opportunities.

Mr. Belote mentioned that at the February Park Board Meeting, we will have a report on the departmental Scholarship Program, which has been at an all-time high with the number of requests and the number of dollars distributed. We will also have the Developmental Center of the Ozarks staff at the meeting to recognize their involvement with the Turkey Trot event.

Mr. Scott Bailes made the motion that the Park Board approve the proposed Fees and Charges for the FY 2014-2015 Park Board Budget as presented and outlined in the document provided; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley reported that First Night activities were well attended in the Jordan Valley Park area and in downtown Springfield. Mediacom Ice Park had both sheets of ice open and many families enjoyed ice skating together. Mr. Cumley reported that former Springfieldian, Gracie Gold, is in the lead for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating team. Ms. Gold became interested in ice skating after attending a birthday party at Mediacom Ice Park. With the Winter Olympics scheduled February 7—23, Mediacom Ice Park plans to provide big screen TV's throughout the facility to watch the Olympics, along with special Olympic-themed activities. We plan to host the February Park Board meeting at Mediacom Ice Park.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated she has been assisting with print and radio ads as we continue to pursue hiring a Marketing Director. With inclement weather, comes many weather-related cancellations and postponements which our staff work together to get the information out to our patrons as soon as possible. Ms. Edwards included a year-in summary regarding the social network totals to show how much they have grown during the past year.

Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the efforts of Ms. Edwards and Mr. Tom Adams, our website administrator, for keeping our website updated and our patrons informed of Park Board activities. Additionally, he stated that the Park Operations staff should be commended for keeping our facilities and centers safe and clear during inclement weather.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore stated that Special Facilities staff is focusing on spring programs, along with summer camps and activities. We are accepting applications for garden plots at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center will host Sister Cities' student delegates from Isesaki, Japan again over Memorial Day. Students will get to dress up in period costume, ride a horse, visit with animals from Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, and enjoy other themed-activities.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Operations Mr. Carney stated that snow removal was the safety topic of the month for park operations staff. With over 13 ½ inches of snow so far this season, the information has been helpful. Mr. Carney stated that the weather causes many interruptions of in-house projects, but staff does a good job of balancing their many tasks. There was 42,000 pounds of litter in December, despite cold temperatures. Mr. Carney presented a year-end summary of product usage fun facts prepared by Mr. Tim Giese.

Mr. Belote mentioned that despite cold and snowy weather, our Park Ranger team still patrols our parks and picks up deposits on a regular basis, too. We appreciate the Park Rangers efforts to keep our parks, facilities, and patrons safe.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that the Friends of the Garden volunteers, under the guidance of the Botanical Center Coordinator, are proposing three new gardens in Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. Preliminary design work for the new gardens has already begun. The first garden is a Railroad Garden being sponsored by the Ozarks Garden Railroad Society, who has volunteered to maintain and operate the garden, and will include an elevated track with tunnels and caves. The second garden is a Founders Garden recognizing the efforts of the volunteers who were instrumental in forming the Friends of the Garden organization. The third garden is the Magnolia Garden, incorporating unifying elements into the Red Bud Garden.

Mr. Park mentioned that we received notice of a donor willing to fund the bell tower installation for the Liberty Schoolhouse project. We received a year-end summary report from the volunteer caretaker at the Grant Beach community garden. Over 1,000 pounds of vegetables were harvested from the gardens at the site. Volunteers increased composting to improve crop production. With the help of several MSU students, we were able to produce starter crops for surrounding neighborhood families to take home for their own gardens. Mr. Belote stated that the Grant Beach community garden is a model operation for other prospective neighborhood garden groups.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker reported that the overall attendance for 2013, was the second highest in Zoo history with over 218,000 visitors. Mr. Crocker mentioned that the media did a story about how the Zoo takes care of the animals in colder weather. Mr. Crocker stated on December 21, 2013, a special memorial service was held to honor Mr. John Bradford, the Senior Zoo Keeper who was killed in a tragic accident in October. Many of John's family members attended the ceremony, along with current and former Zoo staff. A special memorial stone has been placed in the Zoo to honor Mr. Bradford's over 30 years of dedicated service to the Zoo.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser complimented the Recreation staff for providing as many services as possible safely during inclement weather, and Park Operations staff for assisting in keeping parking lots and walkways as clear as possible. Ms. Reser reported that the new Active.net software is in full transition and staff is continuing to add new activities to the system. With new operational program software comes many challenges, but with the assistance of several Park staff members and the Information Systems Department, it has been going well. Ms. Reser mentioned that she was proud to have been a part of the Parks' Centennial Celebration last May and continues to appreciate our citizens' trust to allow us to use the voter-approved county-wide sales tax funds to grow our park system. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Reser for the time and energy she has spent on the Active project, which includes gearing up for online registration later this year.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote mentioned that we will have a workshop to review the proposed 2014-2015 budget in early February. Mr. Belote reported that each Accreditation standard leader met our first deadline in December, which helped to determine which required documents we have or don't have. Our next step is to begin developing the documents that we do not have as required by the standards for formal Park Board review and consideration.

Mr. Belote stated that we continue to work with the Human Resources Department on our position reclassifications as part of our five-year reorganization staff plan. The reclassification of the Superintendent of Recreation position remains a high priority, with plans to advertise for applications in mid-February. Ms. Lana Woolsey continues to work with Human Resources staff on four other departmental positions that require reclassifications.

Mr. Belote reported that there have been some changes in the Mylan World TeamTennis League for this summer. With the marquee draft coming in February, an announcement about the franchise changes should be made public soon.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Price mentioned that he was impressed with the number of new and renewed memberships at each of the family centers. He was proud to serve on the Park Board during the Centennial Celebration. The nine-page calendar of events and activities as of January is evidence of a very vibrant and diverse park system. The Board looks forward to reviewing the data collected from the RecreateParks.com survey to see what citizens would like to see in their parks in the future.

Mr. Belote stated we would continue to take feedback as we continue to find ways to enhance the park system. We could not do all of what we do without our volunteers and groups that we work with, and as our budget remains tight this coming year, we will continue to look for more organizations that would like to partner and work with us moving forward.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be held on Friday, February 14, 2014, at Mediacom Ice Park.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.