

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 14, 2014, 8:30 a.m.**

Lake Springfield Park Boathouse, 5324 S. Kissick Avenue, Springfield, Missouri.

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Matt Bailey, Scott Bailes, Mike Mellinger

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Mark Nelson, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Ricky Ryan, Misty Trent, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Barrett Barker, Eagle Scout, and Barker Family

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2014, Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion was approved unanimously.

Special Guest: Mr. Jon Carney introduced Barrett Barker, a high school student and Eagle Scout, who recently completed a labor intensive trail project at Sequiota Park. Barrett secured donations for gravel and equipment to improve a heavily used path that was not developed. He excavated the mud and added gravel to improve the trail on the east side of the park. We appreciate his hard work, along with the 36 volunteers who spent 360 hours on the project, to make it far better for park patrons who use this popular trail.

III. INTRODUCTION OF LAKE SPRINGFIELD SPECIAL FACILITIES STAFF

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities, welcomed the Park Board members to the Lake Springfield Park Boathouse noting that there are seven different public access areas within the park. Mr. Moore introduced Ricky Ryan, Senior Parks Caretaker, and Misty Trent, Parks Caretaker, who work together to maintain the facilities and grounds of the park. Mr. Moore stated that we have solid partnerships with City Utilities for use of the property and residents from the surrounding neighborhood, who visit the park frequently.

IV. MISSOURI PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that several Park Board staff attended the recent Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference. Susan McLeod, Community Recreation

Supervisor at Chesterfield Family Center, was elected as the new incoming President of our MPRA Southwest Region. Several of our staff also served as presenters during the conference.

One of our partnering organizations, City Utilities, was awarded the prestigious Citation Award at the annual conference. Mr. Belote stated that he nominated City Utilities for the award due to their cooperation with us in the development of Lake Springfield Park, Valley Water Mill Park, Dan Kinney Park, and several Ozark Greenways trails on City Utilities property. It is the highest award our state association gives to a partnering agency, and we appreciate CU for their continued support of recreation and outdoor efforts. We will present the award to City Utilities here locally at their March 27, 2014, Board meeting.

Mr. Belote introduced Mr. Mark Nelson, Community Recreation Supervisor in Athletics, who was presented with the MPRA Excellence in Service in Sports award during the MPRA Conference. Mr. Nelson has been with the Park Board for 29 years, and throughout his career, he has been involved in 57 ASA State Championships, 18 National Amateur Quarter Finals, 18 National Amateur Tournaments, and has been the recipient of the James Ferrell Award of Excellence 17 times. Mr. Nelson stated he remains involved with the ASA Board both locally and nationally, which includes reviewing policies for the organization.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the 2015 MPRA Conference will be held in Springfield, and we will serve as the Conference Committee, along with several key partner park agencies in southwest Missouri. We look forward for the opportunity to showcase our parks and invite Park Board members to participate, as well. We anticipate working with MSU to have more student presentations and opportunities for young professionals to participate in the Conference.

V. NOMINATION TO JORDAN VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Belote explained that when the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee (JVAC) has a change in membership, the nominee must be approved by the Park Board. Ken McClure, past Chair of the Committee, along with other current members, has recommended Mr. David Vaughan, Director of Environmental Management at Missouri State University to the JVAC. Ms. Paula Glossip approved the recommendation of Mr. David Vaughan to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Belote invited Tim Shryack, Park Board Vice-Chair, and current Jordan Valley Advisory Committee Chair, to make a report at a future Park Board meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Belote reported that the internal budget meeting with the City Manager's Office was held on February 19th. He shared the Board's concerns regarding the internal charges with the City Manager, who offered to meet with the Board to explain the City's philosophy regarding these charges. We have already met with the Greene County Commissioners in November regarding our budget proposal. Mr. Belote thanked the Board for their time and effort in reviewing the budget with staff in such a comprehensive manner.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney stated that his monthly safety topic was the Reporting Process after an accident occurs. Dan Dudley, legal investigator with the City of Springfield, was the presenter. Park Operations staff continue to work at the Davis Property including cleaning up outside debris, installing an entry sign and additional lighting for the property, and adding heating and air-conditioning provisions for the inside archery range. The trash collection for February was 38,680 pounds.

Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Moore reported that Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park staff is preparing for the "Easter at the Farm" event. The Farm Park staff is working to develop a partnership with a local bee keeper. The Horse Tales Literacy Program recently received \$1,500 from a local fund-raiser.

Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager

Mr. Cumley mentioned that the Missouri State Ice Bears won the regional championships and are headed to the Nationals Championship in Boston. This will be their first appearance at Nationals. We welcomed 101 participants on March 1 at the "Try Hockey" free day and 22 youth signed up for hockey leagues or lessons. Mr. Cumley reported that a Junior Hockey Program from New Mexico is considering making the Mediacom Ice Park their home rink. Agreement details are being discussed with the owners. This Junior Program is designed to develop hockey players for Division one schools, so the Junior Team and the Missouri State Ice Bears programs would complement one another.

Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards reported that the Gracie Gold Watch Party was successful with many figure skating fans coming early and staying late. The Community Olympic Development Program held their Board Meeting that evening at the Mediacom Ice Park. Members of the CODP Board include several local Olympians who brought their Olympic medals and mingled with the crowd. This month's "Know Your Parks" TV show features Cyrus Taylor and Mark Nelson, who discussed accessible programs and community sports, respectively. A new fitness activity, Pound Fit, was also demonstrated for viewers. Ms. Edwards is preparing the guidelines for a revised departmental Photo Policy, including a permit registration form, which will be implemented shortly.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks, on behalf of Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Mr. Belote stated that Ms. Reser was attending USTA Board Meetings, but he wanted to mention that the Recreation Division facilities did a good job with the many Snow Day/School's Out activities. The usage at the family centers definitely increased during those periods. Long-time employee, Melvin Johnson, from the Outdoor Initiatives area, retired on February 21. A reception was held at the Watershed Committee building that day to honor Melvin and his many contributions to the outdoors.

Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park shared several photographs of the stormwater project progress near Drummond Lake on the south side of Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. He explained the project, which includes a small water feature for children. Mr. Park stated that new white pine siding was integrated to match the panels in need of repair on the Liberty Schoolhouse. A proposal has been developed for the initial phase of the Route 66 Park. Progress continues on the Westport Park Pavilion.

Mr. Park has been working with Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards and Friends of the Gardens' members on updating the branding of the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center and surrounding gardens at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. A name change has been proposed to help unify the park partnering organizations, but also market the individual amenities of the property. While this is encouraging news, Mr. Belote stated that it was important for us to retain the history of the park, along with the recognition of financial support from Greene County and significant donors such as the Close family.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker stated that the Dickerson Park Zoo officially opens on April 1 with new hours. The Zoo has welcomed many students who have been out of school due to spring break. The train is running, the giraffe deck is open, along with the petting zoo. Mr. Crocker mentioned several remodeling projects that had recently been completed. Due to our high success rate in the past, the Zoo will receive female cheetahs soon to begin breeding. The Zoo also received a large number of trees from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote mentioned that recently in conjunction with Ozark Greenways and the City of Springfield, we dedicated the Link at the Doling Talmage Trail. Ozark Greenways invited Mark Fenton, a well-known walking advocate and motivational speaker on public health and fitness issues, to meet with community officials and review recent progress made to improve walk/bike trails in the area.

Staff recently attended the Convention Visitor's Bureau Salute to Travel and Tourism event where Tim Flatt, with National Christian Home School Tournaments, was honored. We have worked with Mr. Flatt to host home school cross country, basketball, and golf championships. Mr. Belote mentioned he recently returned from the World TeamTennis ownership meetings to finalize the Springfield Lasers 2014 Player Draft. A news release with the details about our 2014 Springfield Lasers Team was distributed.

Mr. Belote mentioned that there are several meetings that we will be contacting the Board for their availability soon, including the budget discussion with the City Manager and NRPA accreditation workshops to review the information collected so far.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price, Chair, stated that the Springfield Sister Cities Annual Meeting will be March 14, 2014, and is open to the public. Mr. Price mentioned that in the past, Sister Cities has brought in a mariachi band during ArtsFest. This year, Sister Cities is combining efforts with Friends of the Zoo and Friends of the Garden to be part of the Ball of the Wild event and the Butterfly Festival, respectively. Although the mariachi band usually visits elementary schools, they will instead visit the Boys and Girls clubs and our summer camps. More details to follow.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The next scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, April 11, 2014, at 8:30 am at Betty Allison Junior Club House at Oscar Blom, part of the Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Complex.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously.