

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, August 9, 2013, 8:30 a.m.**

Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shryack, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Phyllis Ferguson, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, Tim Shryack, Vice Chair

Members Absent: John Price, Jerry Clark Quinn

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

Guests: Norma Tolbert, Friends of Gray-Campbell Farmstead
Bob Childress, Friends of the Gardens

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2013, Park Board Meeting, and the minutes from the July 19, 2013, Closed Park Board Meeting, as a group and as distributed; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. LIBERTY SCHOOLHOUSE PROJECT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that fund-raising efforts to move the Liberty Schoolhouse to a parks location have been ongoing for several years, primarily due to Ms. Norma Tolbert's efforts. Thanks to a generous donation by the Close Family, plans to move the Liberty Schoolhouse to the Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park are moving forward. The schoolhouse will be located near the Gray-Campbell Farmstead area, which depicts life in the 1860's. The one-room schoolhouse will be a good addition in providing another unique learning opportunity for visitors. The Park Board will help oversee the moving process and prepare the site location for the structure.

Ms. Tolbert, a former student of the Liberty Schoolhouse, and one of the campaign organizers for the preservation of the schoolhouse, stated that the mission was started by Ms. Vera Chandler. Now the Friends of the Gray-Campbell Farmstead are continuing in her memory with fund-raising efforts that will be needed to fully restore and renovate the schoolhouse once it is relocated to the park. Volunteers currently provide tours and demonstrations at the Gray-Campbell Farmstead on weekends or by special arrangements, including working with the 5th grade students at Springfield Public Schools. Mr. Belote stated that through the many partnerships the Park Board has such as the Friends of Gray-Campbell Farmstead, Friends of the Garden, and a number of other organizations, the overall park experience is greatly enhanced.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Ms. Paula Glossip stated that Ms. Jerry Clark Quinn submitted her resignation from the Board. Ms. Quinn is in the process of moving to Greene County, and she is currently a City Representative on the Board. With one year left of Ms. Quinn's term, the Nominating Committee will review recent applications and potentially interview selected eligible candidates along with the City Manager's Office. The Board acknowledged Ms. Quinn's extensive dedication and efforts during her tenure as Chair and as a Board Member.

Mr. Belote stated the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee has asked the Park Board for approval of the recommendation of Dr. Charles Mahaffey, a local dentist with a strong interest in the Route 66 Park concept, to join the JVAC Committee. Mr. Tim Shryack, Vice Chair and member of the JVAC, stated that Dr. Mahaffey was highly recommended to join the committee. Mr. Shryack made the motion to approve the recommendation of Dr. Charles Mahaffey to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager

Mr. Cumley mentioned that the 3rd annual Fireworks at the Field was held on July 4. It was a great event for the downtown area which included activities at Mediacom Ice Park, Discovery Center, the Creamery, and a fireworks display at Hammons Field to end the evening. Mediacom Ice Park recently hosted an employee appreciation event for O'Reilly Auto Parts. Over 2000 O'Reilly employees enjoyed food catered by Robert Uckele, Parks Concessions Administrator, along with inflatable play houses, BINGO, and ice skating. The organizers were pleased with the event and have already booked the space for next year's employee appreciation event. The Ice Park also hosted a recent Good Morning, Springfield event. Parks staff brought the Dickerson Park Zoo's specially-made giraffe trailer, Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park's cow train, our solar tram used primarily at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park, a Park Ranger vehicle, and the Ice Park's zamboni to showcase a variety of vehicles used in the Parks Department. Mr. Cumley stated that now the second sheet of ice is back in place as Mediacom Ice Park gears up for Missouri State Ice Bears hockey practice and games.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

The latest Park Bench publication is available and will be distributed to schools and facilities/centers soon. Ms. Edwards appreciated the help of graphic designers Kristen Milam and Mark Montgomery for their assistance. During the month of July, Ms. Edwards worked diligently on tasks centered around the Springfield Lasers including the game day flyer for each of the seven home matches. The August "Know Your Parks" television show will feature Bass Pro's Outdoor Days activities at Lake Springfield Park, along with the Japanese Fall Festival at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. Mr. Mellinger commented that he has been a Springfield Lasers' fan for many years, but this year as a Board member, he attended and noticed things from a different perspective. He stated that he noticed a significant difference in the match atmosphere, more attendance and involvement with the local community, including sponsorships. He believes it is getting better each year. Mr. Belote mentioned that as a Mylan WTT Championship Finalist we received a crystal plate from the league and shared it with the Board. Mr. Belote mentioned that having

Andy Roddick as a Springfield Lasers was indeed exciting and most likely contributed to our increased attendance at home matches, which was up 45 percent. We averaged 1600 people each night, with the largest attendance being the July 12th home match featuring Roddick. With extra bleachers around the court, we welcomed 3200 visitors at Cooper Tennis Stadium. Sponsorships were also up 40 percent during the 2013 season. Mr. Belote would like to see the players associated with the 2013 Springfield Lasers Team return to play for us again next year.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that this month's safety training workshop discussed distracted driving with Jonn Strahl from Human Resources. The Park Operations staff has recently supported several large events by preparing and maintaining complexes and parks, including the Springfield Lasers' activities at Cooper Tennis Complex, along with the National Public Park Tennis Championships, and the Butterfly Festival at Nathanael Greene Park. Staff also assisted with the re-installation of the ice rink safety glass at the Ice Park and construction of a car port and storage area for the Park Rangers.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore stated that the first Fantastic Family Fun Fish Day event was a great success with over 175 people in attendance. Participants were allowed to catch and keep the fish this time, which helps control the fish population in the pond. Mini-ponies and goats made a field trip to the Dickerson Park Zoo as part of a petting zoo experience for guests. Mr. Moore mentioned that the officer from the Greene County Posse assigned to the Equestrian Center has accepted a patrol position. The position has been posted internally, and the interview process will begin soon. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park will host the Parks Employee Picnic on October 12. The Board is invited to attend.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that Cooper Tennis Complex hosted the National Public Parks Tennis Championships just after the regular Springfield Lasers' season ended with the help of lots of volunteers. Ms. Jodie Adams, former Parks Director, also assisted in the organization and preparation of the event. Mr. Kyle Wartick, head tennis professional at Cooper Tennis Complex, ran the tournament for the 105 adults and 50 youth who participated in the event. Ms. Reser complimented the Concessions Staff for their efforts in providing catering for the O'Reilly employee event at the Ice Park as it was the largest one to date. The Concessions Staff has added catering park events and rental catering requests, including Springfield Lasers' VIP dinners during the season, while maintaining the day-to-day responsibilities needed for concession areas at complexes and facilities.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that the annual Butterfly Festival event was held on July 20, which included over 1500 who visited the Dr. Rosten Butterfly House. Mr. Park stated a dedication ceremony for the new additions and renovations to the Westport School was held recently. Westport is a School-Park site and a good example of shared amenities by Westport students and by neighborhood park patrons when school is not in session. Mr. Bobby Allison provided additional funding to help with some of the amenities such as two playground areas and a six-lane walking/running track at the school.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoo welcomed 35,753 visitors during July, which was relatively close to normal numbers for the month. Mr. Crocker stated that McDonald's Dollar Day at the Zoo will be on August 10. Mr. Belote stated that the Zoo offers free and reduced admission prices to help give everyone an opportunity to visit the

Zoo. Zoo staff is raising a baby colobus monkey because the mother rejected the baby and appeared to be frightened by the baby. The baby monkey is doing very well so far.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote and Mr. Park attended a recent event to accept an award from the North Springfield Betterment Association for the Park Board's improvements to Doling Park over the last 10 years. Project highlighted included the Doling Family Center, Northview Center, the new Doling Aquatics Center, and the recent Doling Park Lake improvements. The award will be on display at Doling Family Center. Mr. Belote stated that the Sports Commission and KY3 hosted the first "1 Awards" recognizing the best local high school athletes. The Price Cutter Charity Championship was held at Highland Springs Golf Course. Our golf staff hosted the qualifying round at Rivercut Golf Course, the Junior-Amateur round at Betty Allison @ Oscar Blom, and assisted at the Golf Welcome Center. Additionally, other Park Board staff volunteered as marshals at the 15th hole during the tournament. We appreciate everyone's participation and involvement as our support allows us to be one of the recipients of the charitable funds raised during the tournament, which are placed in the Park Board scholarship fund. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Annual Park Day Reunion was held in Silver Springs. The weather conditions caused Sunday outside activities to be cancelled, but we are working with the Reunion Club to reschedule some of the activities on Saturday, August 10.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's State Conference will be held in Springfield in 2015. All area park departments from across the state will be invited to attend, participate, and help establish the conference program. As the host of the event, we will showcase our new facilities and programs.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack recognized Ms. Jerry Clark Quinn's contributions to the Park Board and appreciated her dedication.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 6, at 8:30 am at the Mizumoto Stroll Garden Pavilion in Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park in conjunction with the annual Japanese Fall Festival Event.

X. CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:45 am.