

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

Friday, February 8, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Jerry Clark, Phyllis Ferguson, Howard Garrett, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, John Price, Chair, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: None

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, Amy Torcasso, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Leah Hamilton, Executive Director, Springfield Regional Arts Council
Nick Nelson, Director, Springfield Art Museum
Virginia Yohe, Figure Skating Club Member

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to approve the minutes listed below as group and as distributed; seconded by Mr. Howard Garrett. Motion was approved unanimously.

January 11, 2013	Park Board Workshop Meeting
February 4, 2013	Budget Workshop Meeting

III. INTRODUCTION OF LEAH HAMILTON, SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL, AND NICK NELSON, SPRINGFIELD ART MUSEUM

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager, welcomed Ms. Leah Hamilton, Executive Director, with the Springfield Regional Arts Council. Mr. Cumley explained that he and Ms. Hamilton have worked together for many years, starting with the Artsfest event, and because the SRAC is located in the Creamery Building within Jordan Valley Park. Ms. Hamilton stated that she is proud to officially become a part of the Park Board organization, though SRAC and the Park Board have worked together for many years. Ms. Hamilton mentioned that through the Park Board's support, the SRAC plans to continue the high level of excellence and sustain a good quality of life in Springfield

through cultural facilities and programming. Discussions are already beginning regarding short and long term projects, educational opportunities, new events, and additional programming needs for the community.

Mr. Cumley and Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, also introduced Mr. Nick Nelson, Executive Director of the Springfield Art Museum. Mr. Nelson appreciates the opportunity to meet with the Park Board and is interested in working together on projects and helping the Art Museum become a collaborative resource center for the community. Mr. Nelson shared some of his new ideas such as the "Sculpture Walk" and the revamping of the amphitheater to include concerts and plays. Ms. Jerry Clark mentioned that collaborating with the local arts community is a great way to kick off the Centennial Celebration, creating a well-rounded recreational experience for citizens and visitors.

IV. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED FY 2013-2014 PARK BOARD BUDGET

Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the Board's time and their detailed review of the proposed FY 2013-2014 Park Board Budget. In the coming year's budget, the Park Board will continue to be resourceful as we move the park system forward without City general fund support and no additional parks sales tax funds. Our partnerships, with over 200 groups, play a key role in using our resources wisely. We plan to review older and less utilized parks to possibly provide upgraded amenities to those parks. Reallocated funds will also be used to continue restoring services, programs, and positions previously lost through City budget cuts. Mr. John Price, Park Board Chair, stated that he is impressed with what we accomplish through our fees and charges as most have not been increased since 2006-2007 budget cycle. Mr. Belote mentioned that staff reviews our program and service costs carefully to offer a great value and affordable prices. The nominal online transaction fee provides a fair way to reimburse the Park Board for enhanced convenience for the citizens to register and pay for programs.

Mr. Belote stated that the Golf Fund is considered separately and the staff has made a tremendous effort to reduce the debt in the golf area. With the economy and weather conditions the past 3-4 years, most golf courses saw their rounds drop on the average 9-12 percent; however, we experienced only a 3 percent drop in rounds and have since picked those rounds back up. Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion that the Board move forward with the proposed Springfield-Greene County Park Board FY2013-2014 Budget, as presented by Staff. In addition, she recommended the Board give the Administration the latitude to make minor adjustments to the proposed Springfield-Greene County Park Board FY 2013-2014 Budget, as needed, pending Springfield City Council and Greene County Commission actions/approvals; seconded by Ms. Jerry Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager

Mr. Cumley introduced Ms. Amy Torcasso, the new Figure Skating Director, who started on New Year's Eve at the First Night of Springfield event. Ms. Torcasso has over 20 years experience in the field. She is looking forward to working together with the Board and the Figure Skating Club to make the program bigger and better. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Figure Skating Director position was one of the positions frozen due to previous City budget cuts.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Moore stated that staff is replanting trees at Rutledge-Wilson Farm. The new trees will be native to Missouri. The goal is to have every Missouri tree species planted at the Farm Park. Mr. Moore reported that the staff has added three additional summer camp sessions. Lake Springfield Park hosted 22 buses of school kids on the Friday during Eagle Days. Telescopes and binoculars were provided to help spot the eagles. Trail usage is exceptionally strong at Lost Hill Park.

Ms. Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator

The recent "Know Your Parks" show was recorded at Dan Kinney Family Center. A two-minute video of the Center's dedication is available for review on the Park Board's website. The Community Olympic Development Program was featured including interviews with Linda Dollar and Lori Endicott Vandersnick. Matt Coats, Park Ranger Supervisor, was also a guest on the show reminding park patrons to keep their valuables safe when visiting parks. Ms. Edwards announced that the Doling Aquatics Center will host a dedication ceremony on Saturday, February 23 at 10:30 am. In cooperation with the Springfield History Museum, we will host a Free Admission Day on Saturday, March 16 for visitors to see the Parks' Centennial Celebration exhibit. Parks will host its 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 18 from 12 noon to 4 pm at Phelps Grove.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney reported that staff has been undergoing CPR and AED training through the Fire Department as part of the City Manager's goal to have all City employees trained in CPR and AED. Staff is also working on a variety of repair projects both inside and outside throughout the park system. Training continues on the daily operation of the Doling Aquatics Center mechanical and filtration system. Mr. Carney reported that 35,000 pounds of trash were collected in the month of January.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park stated that staff is working with the contractor to complete the last of the punch list items at the Doling Aquatics Center.

Bids for the Drummond Lake repairs came in over budget, so the scope of work will be revised and rebid later in April. This will be the last project from the 2006 Countywide Parks Sales Tax initiative. The plan is to keep the trail opened; however, there may be periods of time when the pedestrian trail may be closed under the underpass. Mr. Park reported that Dan Kinney Family Center is off to a good start, and we are pleased to offer the facility to the public. Mr. Belote stated that it has been a busy month for Kim Reser and the Recreation Division due to the preparations to open two new facilities and intense training sessions for the new Active.net software package. He expressed his appreciation to the Recreation Division for maintaining the day to day operation of programs and other facilities while the new projects were being completed.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser commented that it has been a team effort, but everything has run smoothly because the plans were well organized and executed. Staff spent much of December and over the holidays learning the new web-based POS system. Ms. Reser expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the Business Operations staff as well, who have assisted with the new software learning process. Over the last three months, more than 240 hours have been spent in training sessions.

Ms. Reser reported that in one month of operation at the Dan Kinney Family Center, we have issued 1,239 passes—927 of those passes were family memberships. New upgrades have been added to the Fitness On-Request software module to keep it fresh and challenging. Recreation and Park Operations staff are working together to prepare fields and facilities for upcoming sports and special event activities.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker reported that Zoo staff is working on a variety of maintenance projects, with the help of the Park Operations staff. Fencing projects have been completed on viewing decks. Remodeling projects are in progress at the Petting Zoo, and there are three new art pieces in the giraffe exhibit area.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote announced that Ozark Greenways will dedicate a stretch of trail off Highway 13 that links the David Murray Park to Ritter Springs Park. The dedication will take place on Saturday, March 2 at 10:30 am with a membership meeting and chili lunch to follow the dedication. Mr. Belote mentioned that the World TeamTennis marquee draft will take place next week, and the Springfield Lasers will have the first pick of the draft.

The Missouri Park and Recreation Association State Conference is scheduled for February 26-March 1. Several Park Board staff will be presenting. Park Board members should let Karen know if they would like to attend the Awards Ceremony or any of the daily sessions.

Mr. Belote reported that as part of InBalance Health Program to offer City employees a discount on family center membership programs, 433 family memberships have been

purchased to our Family Centers, which affects more than 1300 employees and their families, who are benefitting from the program after just eight months of the program's inception. Greene County employees will also be offered a discount to join the three family centers or Cooper Tennis Complex, which registration began the first week in February. The InBalance Committee and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will provide some baseline research data on the positive effects the new program is having on the health of City employees.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price, Chair, reminded everyone to visit the Centennial Celebration exhibit at the Springfield History Museum on the Park Central Square. The last day is March 16, and admission will be free and open to the public. Mr. Price announced that the Springfield Sister Cities Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8 at the Savoy Ballroom.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8 at 8:30 am, and will be held at the Riverbluff Cave Field House at the Missouri Institute of Natural Science.

XI. CLOSED SESSION Pursuant to Section 610.021(1) and (17) RSMo.

Mr. Howard Garrett made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Jerry Clark. Meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:55 a.m.