

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, July 19, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Members Present: Jerry Clark, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, John Price, Chair, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: Matt Bailey, Phyllis Ferguson

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Larry Haugness, Karen Herron, Trey Metzelthin, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Paul Nahon, Miles Park, Susan Provance, Kim Reser, Kyle Wartick, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Lisa Bakerink, President, Friends of the Garden
Wayne Pearce, Citizen

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Jerry Clark made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2013, Park Board Meeting, and the minutes from the May 10, 2013, Closed Park Board Meeting, as a group and as distributed; Ms. Paula Glossip seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, recognized Mr. Wayne Pearce, as a recent recipient of the Lifetime Golf Pass which is awarded to golfers who achieve the milestone of their 90th birthday. Mr. Pearce is a retired Horton Smith Golf Course employee and thanked the Board for his pass.

III. INTRODUCTION OF COOPER TENNIS COMPLEX STAFF

Mr. Belote introduced Mr. Larry Haugness, Community Tennis Coordinator, who oversees leagues, tournaments, and outreach programs, along with assisting the Springfield Lasers Franchise operation. Mr. Haugness welcomed the Board to Cooper Tennis Complex and introduced Mr. Paul Nahon, Director of Sales for the Springfield Lasers, and Mr. Kyle Wartick, who is the head professional tennis instructor for lessons and the academy program. Ms. Susan Provance provides support to the Springfield Lasers operations and supervises community athletic programs. Mr. Haugness mentioned that as one of just eight cities, it is an honor to host a World TeamTennis franchise. Cooper Tennis Complex is also home to Drury and Evangel University's tennis teams and local high schools utilize the Park Board's courts throughout the community. Through tennis outreach programs, tennis has been shared with 18,000 kids annually. We are fortunate to host several national, regional, state, and local tennis tournaments throughout the year. At the end of July, we will host the National Public Parks Tournament Championships.

Mr. Belote stated that at the July 15, 2013, Springfield Lasers home match, we honored Mr. Tom Adams for his fourteen years of service as the Lasers General Manager. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Springfield Lasers were currently leading the Western Conference and invited everyone to attend one of the upcoming remaining three home matches. Mr. Mike Mellinger, Board Member, stated that as a parent of a daughter who played competitive tennis, he has traveled to many tennis complexes throughout five states. Cooper Tennis Complex is the best facility and citizens should be proud of it. Mr. Belote acknowledged the Cooper Family's donation of the property to construct the Cooper Tennis Complex facility, along with the purchase of the Springfield Lasers franchise, and donating the franchise back to the Park Board to sustain and operate on an annual basis.

IV. PARK BOARD 100TH BIRTHDAY BASH VIDEO

After the Board viewed the Park Board's 100th Birthday Bash video, Mr. Belote mentioned that the video captured the 1913-era feeling that staff worked to create for the citizens to enjoy. Mr. Belote thanked Jeff Gilmore from the City of Springfield's Television Services department and Ms. Jenny Edwards, Parks Public Information Administrator, for their efforts in the making of the video. Mr. Belote stated that we have taken the "RecreateParks.com" traveling tree on the road obtaining citizen's input through a 5-minute survey, including a presence at the Centennial Birthday Bash celebration on May 18. We welcome citizen feedback on what they want to see in parks in the future.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Paula Glossip stated that nominations had been received for the 2013-2014 slate of officers, which included Mr. John Price for Chair, and Mr. Tim Shryack for Vice Chair. Hearing no further nominations, Ms. Glossip made the motion to accept the nominations for Mr. Price and Mr. Shryack as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, and appoint them as officers for 2013-2014; Ms. Jerry Clark seconded the motion. Additionally, Mr. Belote, as Director, will continue to serve as Secretary to the Board. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Glossip thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Shryack for agreeing to continue serving as officers for the upcoming year.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that staff has baled a record amount of hay from Rutledge-Wilson Farm this year. The hay is used to feed the animals and provide seating and play areas at the Farm. Twin goats were recently born at the Farm. At Valley Water Mill Park Equestrian Center, a local Wal-Mart store employee donated three pickup truck loads of flowers for the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association's garden projects. Staff also completed the first hay cutting at Lost Hill Park.

Mr. Trey Metzelthin, Mediacom Ice Park Coordinator Mr. Metzelthin is substituting for Mr. Jeff Cumley who is out of the office today. Mr. Metzelthin reported that the annual "Snowfest" event was held on June 15. This event has experienced heavy rainfall the last four out of five years, including this year. Despite the inclement weather, the snow mountain and local band performances were enjoyed by many participants. The indoor football team had a great season and made it to the finals in Kansas City, but they were unable to win the championship. At the end of November, Mediacom Ice Park will host the "Show Me Games" figure skating

championships for the first time. The event has not been held in two years, and the event organizers requested Mediacom Ice Park staff to host it.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that June was a busy month and staff worked on several outdoor projects in preparation of special events such as the Dirt Day event at Lafayette Park, DogFest, the dedication at Doling Park Lake, and Cooper Tennis Complex for Springfield Lasers' home matches. Courts were resurfaced at Cooper Tennis Complex adding a clean, fresh look to the overall facility. We hosted the MYSA Soccer State Cup championships over two weekends, and the turf crews' diligent work kept the fields looking great. Mr. Belote complimented Mr. Carney and his staff for the attention to detail on the grounds and parking lot areas at Cooper Tennis Complex.

Ms. Jenny Filmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that the media provided a lot of recent coverage regarding the Doling Park Lake Waterway improvements and dedication. The latest "Know Your Parks" television show features a look at historic Doling Park and the recent renovation. Ms. Edwards has been pleased with the media coverage regarding the Springfield Lasers' this season. A press conference was held with Andy Roddick last week before he played a home match and media had great access to Mr. Roddick and his Springfield Lasers' teammates. Attendance has been good at the "Movies at Founders Park" which features a family-friendly movie on Friday nights and a date-night movie on Saturday evenings.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that the month of June provided better weather for the many softball, baseball, and day camps. Within the 11 day camps, we are hosting 750 campers daily. Recently, campers experienced a special age-appropriate "Camp Olympics". Campers enjoyed games such as disc toss with a water balloon and volleyball with a balloon. We welcomed 24,000 guests throughout the aquatics programs and pools in June, which is slightly lower than last year's numbers. However, in June 2012, we experienced extremely hot weather which helped increase attendance numbers. Ms. Reser reported that the Cruse Dog Park has an average of 70 visits per day.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that Park Operations staff is keeping busy maintaining fields for girls fast pitch tournaments, "Bark in the Park" event, and the many tennis tournaments we are hosting. The Friends of the Garden will host the Butterfly Festival at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park on July 20. A variety of kids' activities are planned including crafts, caterpillar petting zoo, and a costume contest. Mr. Park mentioned that Nathanael-Greene Park has three nationally recognized gardens: Hostas Garden, recognized by American Hostas Society—one of less than 20 gardens in the United States; Mizumota Stroll Garden, recognized by the American Japanese Garden Association, and the Day Lily Garden, one of the top 15 in the United States for the extensive collection of day lilies, and was certified last year by the American Hemerocallis Society as a display garden. Through a generous donation by Ms. Mariel Cardwell, the newest garden is the "Peace Garden", which provides a place for meditation with stones resembling peace.

Mr. Park mentioned that the final Parks/Public Works stormwater improvement project made possible by the 2006 Parks Sales tax initiative will begin soon at Close Memorial Park. The scope of work will address improvements to the outflow area downstream of Drummond Lake at South Creek. The work involves stream bank stabilization, constructing retaining walls, a water

feature, relocating utilities, realignment of the South Creek Greenway Trail to the immediate west of Scenic Avenue, and providing electrical service in the southwest area of the park where the hosta garden is located.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker stated that the Dickerson Park Zoo offered four Free Admission Tuesdays, which brought a total of over 27,000 visitors on those four days. Mr. Belote mentioned that offering free activities help to make activities and programs accessible to everyone. Upcoming events include the Zoobilee, with a variety of children's activities, a pancake breakfast at the Zoo, and McDonald's \$1 Admission Day. Mr. Crocker also mentioned that recently he received five separate calls regarding snakes in businesses and residences.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote distributed the College Street Corridor Plan brochure as a follow-up to a discussion at a recent monthly Park Board meeting. The plan design includes a drive-thru park and trail connection. The Park Board will take a lead on the design portion of the park and continue to review Committee and citizen input. Mr. Belote mentioned that the City of Springfield is also interested in the development of the adjacent West Meadows area. Several Park Board staff members have participated in the development discussions, including proposed long-term funding ideas. There are historical elements to this location including the railroad, Fulbright Spring, Civil War, and Route 66, that with careful planning, these new developments could become good travel destination locations.

Mr. Belote reported that negotiations with the Skatepark Association are moving forward and their Board of Directors continues to make strides to work together with Parks Administration. Mr. Belote visited the Skatepark on June 21 for "Go Skateboard Day" and found hundreds of kids and families having a great time. Mr. Belote enjoyed his visit with the Skatepark's operational staff and discussion about upcoming maintenance projects.

Mr. Belote stated that we have received several inquiries regarding a photographer fee for taking commercial photos in the parks. According to park/city ordinance, vendors cannot utilize parks for financial gain without permission. Mr. Belote plans to discuss the issues with interested photographers and is willing to listen to their concerns and suggestions.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Springfield Sports Commission and KY-3 are sponsoring a new program called the "1 Awards" recognizing local high school athletes. The first ceremony and program is July 30.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price, Chair, stated he was pleased to see so many fans attend the Springfield Lasers' match in which Mr. Andy Roddick played for us. Another well attended event was the Friends of the Zoo's Ball of the Wild at the O'Reilly Event Center. The event is so well attended that the organizers may have to move it to another location. It was previously mentioned that the Friends of the Garden will host the Butterfly Festival at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park on July 20, which also includes a silent auction.

Ms. Jerry Clark stated that as she listened to the monthly reports, she is reminded of how many people enjoy parks and the various activities that the Park Board offers. With the tournaments

and activities we organize and host, the Park Board serves as an economic arm to the community. Ms. Clark thanked the Park Board staff for what seems to be flawless, hard work. Everyone can participate in a variety of outreach opportunities such as Friends of the Garden, Friends of the Zoo, or Ozark Greenways.

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 will be Friday, August 9, 2013, at 8:30 am at the Park Board Administrative offices. Mr. Price will be out of town, so Mr. Tim Shryack, Vice Chair, will conduct the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to adjourn to closed session; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned to closed session at 9:42 a.m.