

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 8, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
Riverbluff Cave Field House, at Missouri Institute of Natural Science
2327 W. Farm Road 190, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Matt Bailey

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: Matt Forir, Springfield-Greene County Parks Naturalist, Lead Paleontologist & Executive Director, Missouri Institute of Natural Science
Kevin Barnes, Greene County
Virginia Yohe, Figure Skating Club Member

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Jerry Clark made the motion to approve the minutes listed below as a group; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion passed unanimously.

February 8, 2013	Park Board Meeting
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III. RIVERBLUFF CAVE UPDATE—MATT FORIR

Mr. Bob Belote introduced Mr. Matt Forir works for both Greene County and the Park Board providing expertise in the areas of geology and paleontology. Mr. Forir shared with the Board about how Riverbluff Cave was discovered accidentally on September 11, 2001, while Greene County was conducting blasting for construction of a new road. When the entrance was uncovered, Greene County secured the entrance and created an air-tight locked door and passageway to guard against intruders and to protect the untouched condition of the cave. Riverbluff Cave is open for scientific research purposes and is well-known internationally among scientists and universities. Mr. Forir stated that Riverbluff Cave is approximately 1.1 million years old, making it the oldest fossil cave in North America. Mr. Forir mentioned that he can

accommodate school groups for field trips which include a tour of the museum and fossil collections.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Park Board Nominating Committee will reconvene soon to begin reviewing applications to fill Mr. Howard Garrett's City representative seat on the Park Board. Mr. Garrett has served two consecutive terms on the Park Board. We also have two County representatives, Paula Glossip and Tim Shryack, who are eligible for reappointment. Mr. Belote mentioned that we do provide the links to apply to become a Park Board member on our website for both city and county representatives.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park is ready for "Easter at the Farm". Over 20,000 eggs will be prepared for the controlled Easter egg hunt. The Farm welcomed two new baby rams recently. At Lake Springfield Park, the Audubon Society will host a clean-up day on the north and south shores. Recently, the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center added a new horse to assist with many classes and workshops offered at the Park. Trail usage at Lost Hill Park and Valley Water Mill Park remains very strong.

Ms. Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards thanked Ms. Paula Glossip who represented the Board at the Doling Aquatics Center dedication. A video of the dedication is available on the "Know Your Parks" page via the Park Board website at www.parkboard.org. Ms. Edwards mentioned that the Springfield Lasers' acquisition of Andy Roddick received national attention through "Twitter". The Park Board Centennial Exhibit will end on March 16 with a free admission day at the Springfield History Museum sponsored by the Springfield Amateur Softball Association. We will host a Birthday Bash honoring the Park Board's Centennial on May 18 from 12-4 pm at Phelps Grove Park. The formal program will begin at 1:30 pm. Concessions, games, and music will all be themed circa 1913. Commemorating the event will be the burial of a time capsule to be opened in 100 years.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mediacom Ice Park recently welcomed Ms. Linda Alexander, a decorated figure skating coach, to offer seminars for coaches, skaters, and parents. Next week, Mediacom Ice Park will host the National Collegiate Division III Tournament. MSU will co-host the event. With over 500 players and coaches in attendance, this week long event will be a good economic impact driver for the community.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that crews are preparing fields and facilities for the many dedications, along with spring events and activities. The Doling Aquatics Center mechanical staff continues to learn the new system. A new touch screen kiosk was installed at the Grey-Campbell Farmstead in Nathanael-Greene Close Memorial Park. The Parks Garage has been busy throughout the last month with 98 orders performed on the various engines and vehicles.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park indicated that the Park Ops staff has been participating in safety courses initiated by Mr. Jon Carney. In the last month, 29 safety

inspections were completed on playgrounds as part of the rotating schedule. At the Botanical Center, Mr. Peter Longley is providing narration for programs on a variety of botanical historical perspectives. The forestry crew removed 34 stumps from Payne Stewart Golf Course that were left over from the 2007 ice storm. At the recent trail dedication, despite the inclement weather, over 80 people attended the event.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that in its first days of operation at the Doling Family Center, nearly 1200 people had visited the new pool. Staff is getting prepared for spring and summer activities, including CPR, First Aid, and new lifeguard certifications training. Mr. Belote mentioned that Ms. Reser has spent considerable amount of time overseeing the Active software installation and training of all areas. Ms. Reser mentioned that staff attended and several presented at the recent Missouri Park and Recreation Association Annual meeting.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that schools from Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas bring school classes to the Zoo during spring breaks. The giraffe that is being bottle fed is doing well and towering nearly 7 feet already.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Ozark Greenways moved forward with a new section of trail at South Dry Sac which now links David C Murray trailhead to Ritter Springs Park. Several City of Springfield Staff, along with Parks officials, will be meeting with several EPA staff members about opening a section of trail near the Fulbright landfill.

Mr. Belote and Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations, met with the City Manager's Office to present the Parks' proposed 2013-2014 budget. Mr. Belote stated that Parks was interested in assisting with the new Route 66 Park, but would not take away current park resources to do so. Part of the 2013-2014 budget proposal was for Parks to maintain and operate the new Route 66 Park with a nominal increase in the funds we currently receive for the Jordan Valley Park areas.

Mr. Belote announced that Andy Roddick will play his first home match out of retirement for the Springfield Lasers on Friday, July 12. On Saturday, July 20, Sloane Stephens, Philadelphia Freedoms, will visit Springfield, along with Sam Querry, Sacramento Capitals, who will play in Springfield on July 23. The draft for the rest of the team will take place on March 12. Season tickets will go on sale on March 18, and tickets for individual matches will be available on May 6.

VI. **Mr. John Price, Chair** Mr. Price congratulated Mr. Belote on recently receiving the MPRA Fellow Award. He commented that it is a tribute to Bob and the staff for what the Park Board staff does on a daily basis, as we continue to receive statewide and national recognition. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated the Board's support for staff to keep up with training, certifications, and professional involvement at the state and national levels.

Mr. Price stated that the Sister Cities Annual Meeting is March 8 at 6:30 pm at the Savoy Ballroom. Current and new members are welcome to attend. Mr. Price mentioned that on April 25 at 6 pm, there will be a ceremony in the Victim's Memorial Gardens located in Phelps Grove Park commemorating National Crime Victim's Week.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howard Garrett made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously.