MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, May 10, 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 8:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Phyllis Ferguson, Kevin Hogan

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Howard Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2013, Park Board Meeting, and the minutes from the April 12, 2013, Closed Park Board Meeting, as a group and as distributed; Mr. Tim Shryack seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. PARK BOARD 100TH BIRTHDAY BASH CELEBRATION

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, discussed the upcoming Park Board 100th Birthday Bash Celebration coming up on May 18th and indicated that the planning at the staff level has been ongoing for several months. Our co-chairs Anne-Mary McGrath and Jenny Edwards have worked together, along with the Planning Committee, to see that this historic event is a memorable one. Guests at the event can sign a register that will be included in the time capsule, Dixieland music will be played by the New Creole Band to enhance the park setting which features games, activities, and concessions at 1913 prices! Tennis, badminton, croquet, and horseshoes will be available and staffed by the Recreation division for families to enjoy, as well. The formal program will begin at 1:30 pm with City, County, and State Officials offering their congratulations with proclamations. Mr. John Sellars, Director of Springfield History Museum, will provide some interesting history about Springfield and the Park Board, along with Mr. Dan Kinney, former Parks Director, who will also share some unique stories from his 30 years as Director. Mr. John Price, Park Board Chair, will recognize the 18 or more former Park Board members who plan to attend the event. The program will conclude with the sealing of the time capsule, with copies of its items displayed at the pavilion for guests to review. A bronze plaque with the centennial logo will mark its location within the park.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Park Board Nominating Committee** Mr. John Price stated that the Nominating Committee, along with the Director of Parks, City Manager and Assistant City Manager,

interviewed three candidates. Ms. Jerry Clark made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation of the candidate presented in the provided documentation; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Price stated that the approved candidate will be properly notified of the recommendation by the Director of Parks and the name will also be forwarded to City Council for formal adoption.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Nominating Committee has recommended the reappointment to a second term for County representatives, Ms. Paula Glossip and Mr. Tim Shryack. It is anticipated that Ms. Glossip and Mr. Shryack reappointments will be confirmed by the Greene County Commission at their May 20, 2013, meeting.

B. **Jordan Valley Advisory Committee** Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Joe Fearn, former Park Board employee at Jordan Valley Park, and currently an employee at Drury University, has been recommended to join the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee. According to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee by-laws, the nominated committee member must be approved by the Park Board. Hearing no objections, Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Fearn to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee; seconded by Ms. Jerry Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore mentioned an upcoming event with our Sister City, Isesaki, Japan. Over 100 students from Isesaki will visit the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center to participate in an "American Experience" on Memorial Day which will include horseback rides, horse demonstrations, a campfire with hot dogs and s'mores, hay ride and other planned activities.

Mr. Belote mentioned that staff recently met with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) officials who were invited by some members of the equestrian community to consider Springfield as a potential Community Olympic Development Program Equestrian site. The USEF visited five public and private locations, including the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. Mr. Belote noted that the Equestrian Center looked great and staff did a nice job sharing with the USEF about our programs and activities.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Belote stated that the internal audit report suggested that we provide a quarterly financial review statement to the Board; therefore, a report has been provided for the Board's review. The Park Board Administration Team meets frequently, monthly or weekly if needed, to review financial situations. Mr. Mitchell explained the document briefly to the Board.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley provided an update of the various events that took place in Jordan Valley Park, including the non-competitive 5K Color Run with over 10,000 participants and the Urban Warrior Challenge, sponsored by MSU ROTC. This event included obstacles and challenges in five different locations, with four of them at Park sites. Mr. Cumley reported that no damages occurred at any of the Park areas.

At Jordan Valley Park, the fountains are running and the schedule is posted. Recently, staff from the Arts Council met with the SPARC staff to help provide more training in art education. The

Wednesday Lunch Concert Series in Founders Park is ongoing during the months of May and June from 12:15 to 12:45 pm.

Mr. Matt Coats, Park Ranger Supervisor Mr. Coats announced that we have hired a new Park Ranger, Mr. Paul Byer, who has 38 years of law enforcement experience. He recently retired from Anaheim, California to the Ozarks and has also worked with a law enforcement posse program in his former position.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that normally May is a peak attendance month, but with the recent inclement weather, many schools have cancelled or rescheduled their annual visit to the Dickerson Park Zoo. Mr. Crocker stated that the Zoo recently acquired Chacoan peccaries, and the animals are becoming acquainted quite well with the new exhibit that was remodeled for them.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported on behalf of Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services, that staff has been working to prepare the swimming pools despite the inclement weather conditions. Maintenance staff performed 63 safety inspections on playground equipment last month. Turf crews are quite busy preparing and maintaining fields.

Mr. Park mentioned that May is Arbor Month and a number of tree planting ceremonies and activities are occurring during the month. The City of Springfield earned the Tree City USA designation for the 28th year, City Utilities was recognized for its 19th year named as Tree Line USA, and Missouri State University was recognized for the first time as a Tree Campus USA facility.

The Dr. Bill Rosten Butterfly House opens May 10 for the season on weekends. Mr. Park mentioned that the Rosten Butterfly House is the only such facility in the state of Missouri that features native butterfly species.

Bids for sections of trail and sidewalk for the LINK route are scheduled to be opened soon. Included in this project is a bike/pedestrian path from Benton Avenue to Doling Park. Cox Hospital is the most southern point and Doling Park is the most northern point of the LINK route. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Park for his work with the LINK project and for meeting with neighbors near Doling Park to explain the benefits of the LINK route and the minimal impact to surrounding properties.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that staff has been hiring seasonal employees and providing training for them as they gear up for summer lessons, leagues and programs. Springfield Public Schools are out of school a week earlier this year, so outdoor pools will open on Monday, May 20 at 1:00 pm. Ms. Reser mentioned that there is an outdoor pool open every day of the week and citizens can be admitted for free with a canned item after 5:30 pm. The Chesterfield and Doling Family Centers indoor pools will also honor the outdoor pool rates Monday through Thursday.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the Springfield Cardinals Baseball Players attended and volunteered as “guest buddies” during a recent Miracle Field

youth league game. The Springfield Cardinals are sponsors of the Miracle Field facility and program and their attendance made it extra special for the players and their families.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we are hosting the National Christian Homeschool Golf Tournament and the Missouri State High School Athletic Association Class 4 Golf Championship back to back at Rivercut Golf Course.

Mr. Belote reported that Missouri was recently recognized as the "Best Trail State" by American Trails Magazine. Terry Whaley, Executive Director of Ozark Greenways, worked with State Parks Director, Bill Bryan, to accept the award as he has been a strong supporter, advocate and organizer to promote Missouri trails to the national level through the development of the Missouri Trail Alliance. The Missouri Trail Alliance was founded three years ago with partners from all regions of the State.

Mr. Belote stated that we work together with City Utilities (CU) on a variety of projects, including water conservation. As a follow up to the City Utilities discussion at the fall workshop meeting, Mr. Belote conveyed to CU that the Park Board was considering Chesterfield Park as a potential site for future City Utilities' improvements as needed. A public forum was held on April 24 to review various sites. It was held at Chesterfield Family Center and Parks staff was present to answer any questions from the public.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Ms. Lana Woolsey is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for the Park Board to potentially manage and use the Davis property currently owned by Greene County.

Mr. Belote stated that Cooper Tennis Complex will host the USTA National 12's Open Tournament, along with the MSHAA Boys Tennis Championships in May. In July, Cooper Tennis Complex will be home to the Springfield Lasers. The Springfield Lasers ticket brochure will be ready next week.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price mentioned he has been seeing the 100th Birthday Bash posters and banners within the community and invited everyone to make plans to attend on May 18th.

Mr. Price said that the Sister Cities Board thanked the Park Board Staff for their efforts in hosting the upcoming event at the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center for the Isesaki students. The Isesaki students coming to Springfield are enrolled in an elite academic program, similar to the Springfield Public Schools' Wings Program. Mr. Price acknowledged Ms. Cindy Jobe's efforts during the ArtsFiesta event in which we hosted officials and performers from Tlaquepaque, Mexico. The performers visited 34 locations in one week to share their music and talents with the community.

Mr. Price stated that after six years of continued support at Park Board meetings, dedications, and various events, Mr. Howard Garrett's term as a Park Board member has come to an end. Mr. Price presented Mr. Garrett with a plaque honoring his service on the Park Board. Mr. Garrett stated that he appreciated the Park Board Staff and all that they do for the citizens. He

also encouraged his fellow Board members to be very active and visible with Park Board programs and events.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. CALENDAR

a. The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 14, 2013, and will be held at the Northview Center within Doling Park.
b. The Doling Park Lake Waterway Improvement Project dedication is scheduled for June 14, 2013, at 10:30 am, following the Park Board meeting.

X. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Howard Garrett made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.