

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

Friday, September 6, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

**Mizumoto Stroll Garden Pavilion @ Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park,
2401 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri.**

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present: Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, John Price, Chair, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: Matt Bailey, Phyllis Ferguson, Paula Glossip, Jerry Clark Quinn

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

Guests: Carolyn Gerdes, Springfield Sister Cities Association
Bill Houser and Max Johns, Railroad History Museum

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tim Shryack made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2013, Park Board Meeting, as distributed; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL EVENT AND WELCOME

Ms. Cindy Jobe, Sister Cities Coordinator and Liaison, introduced Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, President of the Springfield Sister Cities Association. Ms. Gerdes welcomed the Board to Nathanael-Greene Park and the Japanese Fall Festival, a weekend-long event. Ms. Gerdes stated that this was the 18th year for the event and shared the activities planned throughout the weekend. There will be Samurai group from New York, Kuniko will tell traditional Japanese stories using a combination of magic and costumes, top spinning demonstrations, a children's activity tent, and vendor booths and artisan tents will also be available. Each year the gate proceeds are split 50/50 with the Park Board and Sister Cities. Ms. Jobe mentioned that we have an active city relationship with both of our sister cities, Isesaki, Japan and Tlaquepaque, Mexico. We focus on youth exchanges both academically and athletically, and recently, we have been working to connect the two sister cities together culturally, as well. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Gerdes for her involvement and guidance of the volunteer driven group. Mr. Belote recognized Ms. Cindy Jobe for her 25 years of service with the Park Board. Mr. Belote also mentioned the recent Parks Employee Departmental Meeting where over 40 employees were recognized for specific milestones years of service, which totaled over 500 years of service.

IV. RAILROAD HISTORY MUSEUM DEPOT PROJECT

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, introduced Mr. Bill Houser and Mr. Max John, two dedicated volunteers at the Railroad History Museum, which is located in Grant Beach Park. Mr. Houser made a presentation showing pictures of past projects that have been completed by volunteers with Park Board approval. Mr. Houser and volunteers have prepared a proposal for a small depot facility to be constructed on the site. The Depot will be used as an entrance to the Museum and to display larger exhibits. The timeframe for the project would be 12-24 months, with charitable foundation funding and additional site work completed by Park Board staff. Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Houser has worked with Mr. Park and Mr. Dennis McMan in the development of the project to make sure all city requirements are met and is confident in their experience and workmanship from past projects. Mr. Tim Shryack made a motion to approve the volunteers Train Depot proposal in collaboration with the Park Board; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion passed unanimously.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Price stated that the nominating committee is working with the City Manager's Office to replace Ms. Jerry Clark Quinn's position on the Board. The Nominating Committee has made a recommendation of a candidate to the City Manager, and with the City Manager's approval, the recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for approval. We anticipate the position being filled by the November Park Board Meeting.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Moore mentioned the Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival will be held at Lake Springfield September 6-8. Bass Pro and Missouri Department of Conservation will host over 500 campers, including a large group of Girl Scouts, at the Northwoods site. Night time activities for campers, fishing demonstrations, along with a variety of vendors will be at Lake Springfield during the festival. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park hosted the McKesson Corporation for a company function that included bounce houses, hay wagon rides, and campfire cooking. Summer camp participation at RWF saw an increase this past summer.

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney stated that the safety presentation topic this month was "tree trimming". The staff has provided support for the many athletic tournaments that took place over the last month. The Botanical Center will host the MPRA Playground Maintenance Safety seminar this month. Mr. Carney mentioned that two of his employees celebrated milestone anniversaries and were recognized at the Parks Employee Departmental Meeting. Mr. Mike Batson and Mr. Fred McConkey both celebrated 40 years of service with the Park Board.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager

Mr. Cumley stated that Mediacom Ice Park recently hosted Good Morning Springfield and pictures from the event were included in his report. The Missouri State Ice Bears begin hockey season this month and continue through February. The Jordan Valley Park outdoor staff will begin setting up Christmas displays this month for the Mayor's tree lighting ceremony, which is November 23.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards stated it is definitely festival season in Parks. Recently, the "Know Your Parks" television show featured Anne-Mary McGrath and Cindy Jobe as they shared information about the Outdoor Festival and the Japanese Fall Festival, respectively. We have received a lot of media coverage for the recent Dog Swim held at Fassnight Pool.

Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations, was already beginning to prepare the budget for next year's cycle. Mr. Matt Coats, Park Ranger Supervisor, continues to stay busy this time of year with providing outside security for overnight activities.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker mentioned that he also had an employee, Ms. Blanche Jones, who celebrated 40 years with the Zoo. The Dickerson Park Zoo launched a new website that is easy to navigate. Mr. Crocker stated that zoo animal inventory is always changing, and they are expecting new cheetahs and red river hogs from Calvary soon.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park stated that plans for the Liberty Schoolhouse to be located at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park have been submitted to the City for permitting. As part of one of the final Parks Sales Tax projects, a stormwater project has begun at Drummond Lake to correct erosion and make improvements to the South Creek Greenway trail. Additionally work began at the Ward Branch Trail to continue the development of the trail and stream bank stabilization to protect water quality. It is anticipated that both projects will be completed in the Spring of 2014.

Mr. Park mentioned he and Mr. McMan have been involved with discussions, including preliminary design, regarding the development of Route 66 Roadside Park. Since it has been determined that Parks will eventually maintain the Route 66 Roadside Park, he appreciates the opportunity to be involved from the beginning to create a master plan that includes input from the public. Public Works has agreed to provide funding for the design process. Although the master plan for West Meadows area is not completed, it is likely that these two projects will work hand-in-hand together due to their close proximity and historical ties.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser reported that 80,000 people participated in aquatics activities or visited the pools this summer even with the cooler and wetter summer season. This was the second year of operating pools seven days a week, with at least four pools open daily. At the recent Dog Swim event, we had 130 canine friends participate in the swim at Fassnight Pool. We recently hosted the 2013 Amateur Softball Association Northern National Men's Slow Pitch "D" Championship at Killian with 51 teams participating. Cider Days will be held on historic Walnut Street September 20 and 21, and the Park Board will have a booth showcasing our park programs and activities.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote thanked the staff that helped with the Price Cutter Charity Championship tournament in August as our support allows us to be one of the recipients of the charitable funds raised during the tournament. Mr. Belote presented an overview of a letter sent to the City of Springfield from the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds regarding their recent events that have been held without incident and alcohol was served during the events. At the Fairgrounds request, the Park Board transferred ownership of the property to the City of Springfield so that the Fairgrounds could explore additional rentals and events that included alcohol in hopes of increasing revenue and providing better service. Recently, Parks

Administrative Staff and the Skatepark Association President met to review the Skatepark's operations during the transition period over the next 12 months. We are actively working together with the Skatepark to assist them with repairs and landscaping on the property.

Currently, Parks Administrative Staff, along with Lake Country Staff, are meeting to discuss a master plan to enhance Cooper Park Soccer Complex. Suggested improvements and amenities include a press box, media room, locker rooms, new seating, and additional turf fields. Once the overall infrastructure and design are complete, we will discuss funding opportunities.

Mr. Belote mentioned that although we do have a commercial photographer fee in our fees and charges document, not all photographers are aware of it. He recently met with a local photographer to review the policy and ways to publicize it more, along with possible suggestions to make the policy and accompanying fees more user-friendly.

Mr. Belote stated that we continue to make renovations at Westport Park that include restoring the tennis courts, recoloring the basketball courts, and currently, we are restoring the restrooms and the pavilion. At Tom Watkins Park, we also restored the tennis and basketball courts and are working with the neighborhood association to better utilize the Frisbee golf course.

Mr. Belote reported that at the Parks Employee Departmental Staff meeting, we reviewed this year's budget priorities, recent projects completed and planned for the future, and as mentioned previously, recognized employee service milestones.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Price stated that he continues to be impressed with the diversity of events and operations that take place throughout the Parks System. Parks Staff is involved in so many "special events" such as Outdoor Days and the Japanese Fall Festival, but "regular" activities such as lessons, leagues, and tournaments continue and are successful. It shows the deep dedication of the Parks Staff in making sure that every participant experience is a good one.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regular scheduled meeting will be Friday, October 11, 2013, at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tim Shryack made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.