

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

Friday, December 13, 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 8:34 a.m.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, John Price, Chair,

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, Phyllis Ferguson, Tim Shryack

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser

Guest: Dr. Peggy Riggs

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2013, Park Board Meeting, as distributed; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. PARK BOARD ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Dr. Peggy Riggs, retired Deputy Superintendent at Springfield Public Schools, who we have contracted to work with us on the departmental accreditation process. Dr. Riggs is familiar with the accreditation process and our programs as she helped develop our school-park program with former Director, Jodie Adams. Mr. Belote stated all of the Parks Management Team will play a role in the accreditation process, but Dr. Riggs will assist us in the preparation and collection of all the required documents.

Dr. Riggs stated that there are 119 accredited parks and recreation departments in the United States and only four in the state of Missouri. There are 144 standards for completion with 36 of them considered required fundamental standards. We must also achieve 85 percent of the remaining standards to receive accreditation. Accreditation certification is reviewed every five years. Once all required documents are submitted to Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), a required site visit will be scheduled. The accreditation process will highlight the areas where we excel and allow us to strengthen areas that need improvement. Mr. Belote mentioned that we will likely need one or two workshops with the Board to update them on the accreditation process, which may include possible approval of new or revised policies or any other required documents. Mr. Belote stated that the City of Springfield has four other departments that have received accreditation which includes Emergency Management, Fire, Police and the Public Works departments.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Operations Mr. Carney mentioned that several areas of the Park Administration Building are currently undergoing a remodeling project including new paint and carpet. The latest safety topic workshop was about individual healthiness, and Emily Hegg from the Health Department presented ideas and activities on how to stay healthy through the holidays. Staff replaced the roof and added some fresh paint to upgrade the pavilion at Tom Watkins Park. Eighty trees were planted at various locations including 45 at Horton Smith Golf Course as part of our tree restoration plan from the 2007 ice storm. Mr. Carney mentioned that Mr. Don McCullough, a 25-year employee, recently retired from the Parks Operations Division. Mr. McCullough was our point person for HVAC system problems and repairs. We wish him much happiness in his retirement.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that we achieved great success with the 19th annual Turkey Trot despite the colder temperatures. This month's "Know Your Parks" television show features upcoming activities at the Botanical Center, including the holiday train display and our first bridal show scheduled for the spring. Along with Katie Steinhoff and Peter Longley from the Botanical Center, our guests included David Burton from the University of Missouri Extension Center and Norma Tolbert with the Liberty Schoolhouse project.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley mentioned that we recently hosted a CrossFit event with 800 participants at Mediacom Ice Park. Pictures were included in Mr. Cumley's report to show how the ice was covered, not removed, for the event. Festival of Lights activities continue through New Year's Eve concluding with the First Night event that features fireworks at midnight at Hammons Field. Patrons can purchase one ticket and attend all the First Night event activities and events downtown. For more information, interested citizens can visit www.itsalldowntown.com or www.goartsnow.com.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that Park Operations staff was challenged trying to keep parking lots and sidewalks safe for our employees and patrons during the recent inclement weather, and they did a good job keeping up with the precipitation. Mr. Park mentioned that in reviewing the visitor report of the Dr. Bill Rosten Butterfly House in Nathanael-Greene Close Memorial Park, we welcomed 28,000 people. He stated that our Butterfly House is the only one in Missouri that features native butterflies. Our reports also indicated that nearly 500,000 people visited Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park this past year. Mr. Park shared additional report numbers regarding programs and activities conducted in the park and Botanical Center. Mr. Park attended an appreciation dinner for Bob Childress, who is stepping down as the Garden Chair of the Friends of the Garden organization. Mr. Childress has been a leader throughout the years and will remain active in his volunteer support for the gardens. Mr. Park reported that discussion has begun about developing a model railroad garden for the park. Framing for the Liberty Schoolhouse project has begun and progressing well. Mr.

Park stated that a dedication will be planned for early spring with the City of Springfield and Ozark Greenways to open the LINK Trail at Doling Park.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker reported that with inclement weather, most of the animals stay indoors. With 50 buildings on Zoo property, staff is challenged with keeping all heating units in working order this time of year. Zoo staff will have a float in the Springfield Christmas Parade this year. Friends of the Zoo will host Zoo-la-la this weekend, which is a thank you event for their volunteers and supporters. Approximately 100-150 supporters will attend this annual event.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that Doling Family Center became the first facility in the state of Missouri to offer POUND fitness classes, which is a full-body cardio jam session combining light resistance with constant simulated drumming including pilates, isometric movements, and plometrics. The Concessions area is now featuring 8" and 10" pizzas and refreshments requests via text service and delivered to guest's seat at Mediacom Ice Park. Ms. Reser mentioned that we had 8,100 runners/walkers for the 19th Annual Turkey Trot on a very cold Thanksgiving morning. Staff received compliments from runners on the extra precautions to ensure safety for all participants and how efficiently the race is operated from registration, packet pick up process, and race day activities.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the Park Board was recently honored with the Community Partnership's Reaching for the Stars Award, which recognizes an entity who gives back to other community groups. We received this same award several years ago for our efforts to develop school-park areas throughout the community. This time we are receiving the award for restoring neighborhood parks with the assistance of those involved neighborhood groups.

Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Park and Ms. Lana Woolsey for their assistance with the closing on the McKay Property, located immediately north of the Dickerson Park Zoo. We currently do not have funding to develop the property, but it allows us to protect the area and expand the Zoo in the future should funding become available. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Davis Property use agreement with the Greene County Commission has been signed by all required parties. The property will house the Community Olympic Development Archery Program allowing for both indoor and outdoor activities. We appreciate the cooperative efforts of the Greene County Commission as the lease agreement allows us to provide services in that area we would not be able to offer otherwise.

Mr. Belote thanked the Park Board members for being part of our special Centennial year and their service to our organization. Additionally, he thanked all our volunteer and support groups that help us throughout the year. We could not do what we do without everyone's support.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price, Chair, stated that it was a special year to be a part of the Park Board from the Centennial Birthday Bash to Turkey Trot. He appreciated the staff's efforts to keep the Board members well-informed in a timely manner on parks-related issues and items.

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 Park Board meeting will be Friday, January 10, 2014, at Dan Kinney Family Center.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Mr. Kevin Hogan. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:42 am.