

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, July 13, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.
Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

John Price, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Jerry Clark, Paula Glossip, Bob Horton, Andrea McKinney, Sidney Needem, John Price, Chair, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: Howard Garrett

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, Lisa Zimmerman

Guests: John-Laffnie DeJager, Springfield Lasers Coach
Bill Garoutte, Lake Country Soccer Board

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Jerry Clark made the motion to approve the June 8, 2012, minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD LASERS/WORLD TEAMTENNIS UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote introduced Coach John-Laffnie DeJager welcoming him back to Springfield for his sixth season as Coach of the Springfield Lasers World TeamTennis franchise. Three of those seasons, he was selected as WTT Coach of the Year. Coach DeJager is a former Davis Cup player for his native county of South Africa, and he has had much success internationally as a player, and now as a coach.

Coach DeJager commented he is confident about the talent of the young Springfield Lasers team. He has seen noticeable improvement in their playing ability each night as they get acquainted playing together as a team. Coach DeJager stated that the Cooper Tennis Complex provides an unbeatable facility for World TeamTennis, and the stadium is filled with dedicated tennis fans.

Coach DeJager also explained about his foundation, the J.L. Tennis Foundation, which he formed to support less fortunate children with an emphasis on the sport of tennis. As his prospectus states: "The Foundation's main objectives are to assist, both financially and educationally, those children either disabled, underprivileged, or from a poor background." Coach DeJager explained the three main beneficiaries the foundation supports are: The Tennis Academy, Akani Home for disadvantaged children, Muriel Brand School for learners with physical and/or other disabilities. Mr. Belote mentioned we will host a silent tennis memorabilia auction at the Springfield Lasers final home match in which the proceeds will be donated to the J.L. Tennis Foundation. Last year, approximately \$1000 was donated to the Joplin High School in support of their tennis program.

IV. RECREATEPARKS.COM PATRON FEEDBACK PROJECT

Mr. Belote mentioned that we have discussed on several occasions about visiting with our park patrons to hear their ideas for future planning and input about the park system overall. We are 10 years into a 20 year successful plan, so we are excited about checking in with our citizens regarding their thoughts and dreams for the next 10-year period.

Today we unveiled a new signature “tree” that will be used at a variety of park and community events inviting visitors to tell us their ideas, answer questions, and share their favorite park stories and memories. Mr. Belote thanked staff members who have worked on this project, including a survey that is nearly completed. The survey will be available online through the Survey Monkey service, which helps to provide instant reports and maintain controls to eliminate duplication of completed surveys by same email addresses or the ability to forward surveys. We are planning to conduct online surveys through the use of i-pads which are integrated into the new tree, or by providing paper surveys to visitors, at a variety of community events over the next 18 months. Park Board staff will receive training on the survey collection opportunities, and Park Board members are invited to also participate in obtaining citizen input through the survey. Our process will allow for interested citizens to take a short online survey or share more in-depth stories on how parks impact their lives.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Ms. Paula Glossip stated that we have three City representatives whose terms have expired and will now be going off the Park Board. Ms. Glossip explained the process of selecting new Board members, which included reviewing applications and interviews with the City Manager's office. Ms. Glossip made the motion to recommend that the Board accept and approve the three candidates to the City Manager's office, for approval by City Council, in which the first reading will be July 16, and the second reading will be July 30; seconded by Mr. Bob Horton. A memo detailing the nomination and interview process, along with the three selected Board members, will be maintained with the meeting records. Motion passed unanimously. It is anticipated that these three new members will be able to participate in the August 10 Park Board Meeting.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager

Mr. Cumley mentioned that the Snowfest event was held on June 23, and with the largest pile of snow they have ever had, thousands of people came to enjoy the festivities. The Mediacom Ice Park west rink hosted free skating for five straight hours, while the east rink was set up with lots of inflatables for kids to enjoy. The fireworks display also brought large crowds through the park. Jordan Valley Park is hosting a record number of events with 74 scheduled for 2012. In an average year, Jordan Valley Park hosts 62-64 events.

Mr. Cumley stated his appreciation for the recently restored Ice Park hours and has noticed the increase in visitors to the Ice Park just in the last two weeks since they now open at 12 noon instead of 4 pm.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards reviewed recent activities and events including the latest “Know Your Parks” show, which is now available to view on Mediacom Channel 22. This month we feature the Springfield Lasers at Cooper Tennis Complex. Ms. Edwards, along with Jeff Cumley and other key city and county first responder emergency personnel, will participate in an emergency training exercise “disaster camp” that is specifically designed for Springfield-Greene County. The disaster camp was funded by a national grant in which we were selected to participate.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that 24,000 people have visited the outdoor pools since Memorial Day weekend. In response to the recent heat advisory alerts, we have extended pool hours and provided the community access to our facilities that serve as cooling centers. Ms. Reser reported that we have over 3,000 children participating in school-park camps this summer. Ms. Reser mentioned that we also recently hosted the Senior Games, which included 18 events with 246 participants. The oldest female athlete was 89 years old, and the oldest male athlete was 92 years old.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that the annual Butterfly Festival will be held on July 21 at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. Katie Steinhoff, Botanical Center Coordinator, along with the Friends of the Garden volunteers, are working together to host this event, which includes showcasing the Dr. Bill Rosten Butterfly House. The Butterfly House will have a caterpillar petting zoo, along with educational activities about the various life cycles. Admission will be free to the Mizumota Japanese Stroll Garden from 9 am to 6 pm on July 21.

Mr. Park reported that the installation of the new boiler and equipment needed to repair the heating/cooling system of the Chesterfield Family Center indoor pool will begin August 8 through mid-September. CFC members will be offered free passes to the outdoor pools to be used during normal outdoor pool operating hours. In conjunction with the new equipment installation, in-house staff will conduct their annual extensive cleaning and preventive maintenance procedures. Mr. Belote also thanked the patrons of Chesterfield Family Center for their patience in working through the water temperature issue with us.

Mr. Park mentioned that the Doling Lakes project continues with the process of sealing, and then refilling the lake. The roof structure has been placed on the Doling Aquatics Center. Mr. Park recently visited the site of the Dan Kinney Family Center and stated that one of the LEED features includes natural light panels throughout the facility, which will make the facility welcoming to citizens.

Mr. Park reported that 69,560 pounds of litter was collected from the parks and facilities in June.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the C.W. Titus Ball of the Wild event scheduled for July 13 has over 725 people registered to attend. The site accreditation team will be visiting Dickerson Park Zoo on July 19-20. The accreditation team reviews animal welfare, safety, mission education and conservation, and support of activities, along with finance and staff management.

Mr. Tom Moore, Special Facilities Superintendent Mr. Moore indicated that due to the irrigation system installed at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, the corn maze and pumpkin crop are in good shape. Springfield Lake is down approximately 16 feet and canoes can no longer be launched from the ramp. The Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center has been extremely busy with activities. On July 14, the Equestrian Center will host Olympic Champion, Grant Sneiderman, who will provide a training seminar. The water level at Valley Water Mill Park Lake is also down significantly.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that we have begun the new budget year as a self-sustainable department, which means no general funds are being received from the City of Springfield. This year's budget focuses on restoring services lost during several years of budget cuts. Restored services include increased hours at the outdoor pools and the ice park, and prioritizing restoration of frozen positions, along with completing projects as promised from the 2006 Parks Sales Tax.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the new Art Museum Director, Nick Nelson, will begin August 6. Mr. Nelson is knowledgeable in collaborating and partnering with community organizations. We look forward to working with Mr. Nelson as we increase our activities in arts and cultural programs, as well as strengthen our partnership with the Springfield Regional Arts Council.

Mr. Belote mentioned several upcoming dedications that will take place throughout the Park System soon.

Mr. Belote reported that at the recent Gift of Time Award Luncheon, we were fortunate to have several Park Board volunteers recognized for their service to the community, including Bob Childress with Friends of the Garden, and Pauletta Dunn with Grant Beach Neighborhood Association. A special congratulation was extended to Ms. Jerry Clark and Mr. John Price, as they were two of the ten recipients formally honored with the Gift of Time Award at the event. We appreciate all the efforts from the hundreds of volunteers that assist with a variety of our activities, programs, events, and facilities.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price, Chair, stated that he appreciated the dedicated service of the three Park Board Members whose terms have recently expired. Mr. Bob Horton, Ms. Andrea McKinney, and Mr. Sidney Needem were presented with a plaque of appreciation for their six years of service to the Park Board.

Mr. Price praised the efforts of grace and civility of Ms. Jerry Clark for her service as Park Board Chair over the past two extremely busy years. Ms. Clark stated that her accomplishments as Park Board Chair were due to the efforts and wisdom of all nine members working together for the good of the citizens, along with the dedication of the Park Board staff.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Bob Horton stated that it was a privilege to serve on the Board and to be a part of the growth the system has accomplished. With the addition of the three Assistant Directors, he believes accomplishments will continue to grow. Ms. Andrea McKinney stated that she appreciates the legacy and preservation of the historic parks, along with the state-of-the-art facilities in the community, and she feels fortunate to live here. Mr. Sidney Needem state that it is indeed a privilege to live in the Ozarks, especially in Springfield, and serving on the Board provides an insight of all the Board and the Staff do for the citizens. Additionally, Mr. Needem mentioned that everyone in the community is invited to the Annual Park Days at Silver Springs Park on August 3-5. There is a community picnic and parade on Saturday, a dance at the host hotel on Saturday evening, and gospel music and the Miss Silver Springs pageant on Sunday, along with a variety of other activities throughout the weekend.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at the Park Board Administrative Offices on Friday, August 10, 2012, beginning at 8:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Bob Horton. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.