

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, June 8, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.**

Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2401 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Jerry Clark called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and welcomed the guests attending the meeting.

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

Members Absent: Matt Bailey

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Ben Kellner, Peter Longley, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Katie Steinhoff, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Matt Boehner, Local landscape architect
Marthe Close, Friends of the Garden member
Nancy Hopkins, Friends of the Garden President

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to approve the minutes listed below as a group, with one minor correction from Mike Crocker, Assistant Director, on the status of a female tiger stated at the last meeting; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Minutes were approved unanimously.

May 11, 2012	Park Board Meeting
May 11, 2012	Closed Park Board Meeting

III. BOTANICAL CENTER AND FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN UPDATES

Ms. Katie Steinhoff provided an overview regarding the various aspects of the Botanical Center, which includes Horticulture, Education, and Guest and Member Services. With over 100,000 living organisms on the park property, a major amount of time is spent with plant care, irrigation, pest management, and overall garden master planning. Working with the Friends of the Garden, along with 17 other Park Partners, allows the Botanical Center to offer educational programs, review and plan for new garden development and continued garden maintenance. Education and training of volunteers is a huge component of the Botanical Center. Volunteers help with workshops, field trips, special events, camps, and guided tours to name a few. In the 20 months the Botanical Center has been opened, they have hosted over 100 field trips. Additionally, the Botanical Center staff assisted with the over 500 park/building rentals that have taken place since the building opened in October, 2010.

Ms. Nancy Hopkins provided information about the new gardens in progress and updates about the Friends of the Garden organization. The Friends of the Garden currently have 1100 members, with over 300 regular volunteers who help with a variety of projects at Nathanael-Green/Close Memorial Park. A new garden proposal process has been implemented which includes obtaining an underwriter for the proposed garden. The Butterfly House has welcomed over 6,000 visitors since opening this season in May, along with over 400 volunteer hours

reported for this season. Upcoming projects include obtaining donations for a sensory garden and edible kitchen garden to provide additional educational opportunities to citizens and guests.

IV. MCKAY PROPERTY UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote reported that the McKay property consists of 16 acres and is immediately north of the Dickerson Park Zoo. It was an identified property in the Zoo's Master Planning document and now is the only remaining available property surrounding the Zoo. The Zoo has developed most of the property it currently owns. The McKay property would provide an opportunity for future use and development, but in the mean time, would serve as a good buffer from other developments. Ms. Lana Woolsey reviewed the terms of the Purchase Option Agreement that the McKay's signed in preparation for the Board's review and approval. Mr. Howard Garrett made the motion that we move forward with the Purchase Option Agreement and purchase of the McKay property north of the Zoo, and that we authorize the Parks Department and our Chair, Jerry Clark, to sign the Purchase Option Agreement, which has already been signed by Mr. and Mrs. McKay, and that we move forward with the purchase as noted in the agreement, executing the necessary documents and taking any and all further actions necessary to accomplish the purpose and intent of this motion; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee Ms. Clark stated that the Nominating Committee was charged with accepting nominations for 2012-2013 officers and presenting a slate of names for the Board Officers election. Additionally, the committee will review the Board applications to fill the three City Board representatives positions. The Committee will make a recommendation to the City Manager. Orientation of new Board Members should take place in July, and the new members will join us in August.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley reminded everyone that the official dedication of the new Springfield Wagon playground in Jordan Valley Park will be Thursday, June 14. The Springfield Southeast Rotary raised \$50,000 needed for the custom-designed play feature.

Mr. Cumley provided an update about the Civility Committee's recent efforts to encourage players and spectators involved with sports to be more civil, including a new sports civility logo for banners to be displayed at our facilities and other civility partners' establishments. We want our local teams, along with the teams that come to play here from out of town, to know what our community expects from them and what they should expect from us regarding sportsmanship and civility.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards reviewed recent activities and events including the next "Know Your Parks" show, which will feature the Springfield Lasers at Cooper Tennis Complex.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore thanked Ben Kellner and Katie Steinhoff for their collaborative efforts in working with Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park Staff in developing a new planting design for the front entrance at RWF. Mr. Moore reported that 32 out of the 50 events scheduled in 2012 are weddings. At Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center, there has been an increase in the number of participants registering for individualized horse-riding lessons. The Lost Hill Trail has also seen an increase in citizen usage. Mr. Belote complimented the Special Facilities Staff who assisted Ozark Greenways with the trail dedication last week.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that pools are open and heavily utilized, along with our summer day camp programs, in which we are nearly filled to capacity at all

sites. Over the last several weeks, we have hosted a variety of Missouri State High School Activities Association State Championships. This week, June 9-14, we will host the Missouri Youth Soccer Association State Cup Championships that will include 8,000-10,000 spectators watching 176 teams play soccer. For the first time, a traveling trophy will be presented to the winner of the State Cup tournament compliments of the Lake Country Soccer Board.

Ms. Reser mentioned that donations to the Park Board scholarship program are welcomed year-round. Scholarships can be used towards the cost of all programs including summer day camps and swim lessons for those who meet the guidelines. Visit www.parkboard.org for more information.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance in providing traffic directional signs for the large crowds anticipated this weekend in conjunction with the State Soccer Cup Championships. Public Works also arranged for the contractor working on HWY 65 and Chestnut Expressway to delay some of their planned work during this high volume traffic situation. The Springfield Police Department will also be providing additional police officers to the Lake Country fields at Cooper Park to help ensure safety and crowd control.

Mr. Park reported that the interior work on the Dan Kinney Family Center is underway. The project is moving along quite well. Plumbing and electrical work continue at the Doling Aquatics Center.

As a way to unscientifically measure park patron usage, the Parks Operations staff collected 50,000 pounds of litter from the parks in the month of May.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that Mrs. Marthe Close and Ms. Nancy Hopkins were instrumental in the early development stages of the Friends of the Zoo organization. Mr. Crocker reported that in March and April, the Zoo set record high attendance numbers, and in May, we were just 179 people short of a new record. Mr. Crocker mentioned the Annual Friends of the Zoo member night and the National Dream Night events recently held at the Zoo. The Zoo Veterinarian is currently attending an invitation-only symposium about emergency planning for pandemic events.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that we recently held a department wide staff meeting. Agenda topics included a presentation from the City of Springfield's Finance Director and a review of Parks' budget including more explanation of how we are moving from capital expenditures to operational budget expenditures with the sunset of a portion of the ending of the 2006 Parks Sales Tax collection. The 2006 Parks Sales Tax will continue with a one-eighth cent sales tax on an ongoing basis as we operate and maintain those projects created through the Parks Sales Tax.

Today the City Council Finance Committee is reviewing the Parks' internal audit report prepared by the City of Springfield's Internal Auditor, Kristy Bork. The report stated how well the 2001 and 2006 Parks Sales Tax funds were managed for the specified and approved projects. Once the report is approved by the City Council subcommittee, the report will be available to the public as well.

Mr. Belote mentioned that two of the Park Board members, Jerry Clark and John Price, have been nominated for the annual Gift of Time Award in honor of their participation in a wide variety of community service projects and committees. A luncheon to recognize the achievements of Jerry, John, and the other nominees will be on June 21.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Clark mentioned what an exciting time to be a part of the Park Board as we begin our first year of financial sustainability when most park systems rely heavily on City financial support. As we continue providing top quality programs and facilities to patrons, we are preparing a campaign to listen even more to the casual park user to gain their input and ideas about ways to grow and improve the park system.

Ballot Results Attorney Woolsey tallied the ballots, finding that Mr. John Price was elected Park Board Chair, Mr. Tim Shryack was elected as the Park Board Vice-Chair, and Mr. Bob Belote was elected as the Park Board Secretary. All ballots will be maintained as part of the Park Board's official records.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at Cooper Tennis Complex on Friday, July 13, 2012, beginning at 8:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.