

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 9, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.
Park Administrative Offices, 1923 N Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Jerry Clark called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

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

Members Absent: Howard Garrett, Paula Glossip, Andrea McKinney

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

Guests: Bill Garoutte, Lake Country Soccer
Matt Bochner, Local architect

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to approve the minutes below as a group; seconded by Mr. Bob Horton. Minutes were approved unanimously.

February 10, 2012 Park Board Meeting
February 10, 2012 Closed Park Board Meeting

III. 2011 CITY OF SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY SURVEY

Mr. Belote shared that approximately 1200 households in Springfield were sent a survey, and the City received 70 percent of the surveys completed with responses either by mail or phone. As in the 2008 City of Springfield Survey, there were nine survey areas related to Parks. Mr. Belote highlighted a few of the areas that pertained to Parks:

***Level of Satisfaction with Various Aspects of Park and Recreation Services**

Citizens who responded stated that they were very satisfied with maintenance, cleanliness, and location of City parks, along with walking and biking trails in the City. Overall, Parks was up in eight of the nine areas reported on through the survey.

***Trends: Satisfaction with Various Aspects of Parks and Recreation Services—2008 & 2011**

We are 17 percent above of the national average (satisfaction level), but survey totals indicated that satisfaction levels were down one percent regarding walking and biking trails. Citizens' satisfaction results of swimming pools increased from 42 percent to 58 percent, which is most significant. It appears that citizens are noticing our recent aquatic renovations. Citizens rank maintenance and cleanliness as the two areas that should receive the most emphasis over the next two years.

***Importance-Satisfaction Rating (Priority Areas)**

Citizens responded that an important area that needed improvement was the quality of city youth and adult recreation programs. Mr. Belote stated that we will review and determine what we can do with our own programs, as well as those we conduct with other partnering groups, to make more programs available. In reviewing the "*Importance-Satisfaction Assessment Matrix*", citizens' again

voiced the need to emphasis maintenance and cleanliness of parks, and walking and biking trails in the city.

Mr. Bob Horton commented that the survey results are consistent with the voter-approved Parks Sales Tax. The Parks Sales Tax will continue with a 1/8 cent tax for perpetuity to provide operations and maintenance for the capital improvement projects, which the survey results repeatedly demonstrated was important to citizens.

The second part of the City Survey is the Benchmarking Analysis report. Mr. Belote reviewed the list of agencies that participated in the Benchmarking Survey noting that the company that conducted the Citizen Survey, ETC, is the same company that conducted the Park Board's independent Benchmarking Study a few years ago. We will use the information gathered in the survey and benchmarking analysis report to incorporate with our Strategic Plan. As we participate in community events, along with our own programs and activities throughout the city and county, we will seek input from citizens for future ideas on how to improve current facilities and programs, and find out what they would like to see in the park system for the future.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Special Facilities' staff spent most of February preparing various properties for upcoming spring events. Easter at the Farm will be held on Saturday, March 31 at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park with over 21,000 Easter eggs for children. Mr. Moore mentioned events at Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center, which included hosting the Las Vegas Mounted Patrol along with the Greene County Posse. The Watershed Building is now open with regular hours. The April Park Board meeting will be held at Valley Water Mill Park.

Bob Belote mentioned that Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator, just completed her first production of the television show, "Know Your Parks." Management Team staff submitted some innovative story ideas, which may also involve Park Board members participating in upcoming segments of the show.

Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager

Mr. Cumley mentioned that he and other staff are enjoying their new home at the Jordan Valley Maintenance Office. Staff is removing one sheet of ice and laying turf for the upcoming Springfield Wolfpack indoor football season. Mediacom Ice Park will host 5-6 home games this season.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Mr. Cumley will assist with a CODP Olympic Day event in Springfield in coordination with the Summer Olympics held in London. We will also host the CODP Annual Meeting in October.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Recreation staff are preparing for "March Madness" which includes preparing several outdoor locations for upcoming events, leagues, and activities, along with collegiate activities in tennis, softball, and baseball. The Outdoor Initiatives staff will be organizing Sequiota Cave boat tours this spring. Ms. Reser reported there are over 100 teams signed up for the spring baseball leagues and about 150 teams signed up for adult softball leagues.

The Park Bench publication is currently available online and through Springfield Public Schools.

Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park reported that improvements and repair work continues at the Meador and Westport bathhouses in preparation for the opening of pool season. Field preparation work is in full swing on outdoor baseball and softball fields. Golf maintenance staff are mowing and maintaining greens and fairways at golf courses. All areas have begun hiring seasonal staff for the spring and summer seasons.

Mr. Park also provided project updates for Dan Kinney Family Center, Doling Aquatics Center, and the Doling Lakes, Streams, and Waterway project.

Mr. Park reported that he accepted, on behalf of Parks, an award in the category of "Municipality and Government" from the Missouri Community Forestry Council for our participation in the Urban Tree Canopy Policy that Public Works developed and the Board endorsed, which protects the urban forest throughout the City.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the golf season has had a good start and that special promotions are available on the park board website.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoo has completed and submitted their accreditation materials, and they are ready for their accreditation inspection. Maintenance staff remodeled two restrooms, repaired or replaced damaged fence areas, painted various areas throughout the Zoo, and remodeled the lake board walk. A new exhibit will open soon funded by a private donor.

Bob Belote, Interim Director Mr. Belote reported that several staff recently attended the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association annual conference. At the awards banquet, Jodie Adams was honored with a MPRA Retirement Award. Additionally, it was noted that several Park Board staff were elected to leadership positions within the MPRA organization, including Tim McCrea and J. C. Loveland. Kate Plank recently served as the past chair of the Southwest Region, and Bob Belote served on the Hall of Fame committee this past year.

The World Team Tennis draft is scheduled for March 13, and the Springfield Lasers will be drafting second. We hope our position will help us yield several quality players signing with the Lasers this season.

Mr. Belote mentioned that at the recent Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau Salute to Travel and Tourism event on February 16, the Pinnacle Award was awarded to Dan Kinney. The Pinnacle Award is a lifetime achievement type of honor typically given to someone who has contributed significantly to the travel and tourism industry over an extended period of time. It is unique that a Parks Director would receive this award, but it emphasizes the work we do to provide many destination-type opportunities, activities, and events throughout the Park system.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Clark stated that conversations continue with three members of the Park Board and three members of the YMCA Board who are meeting to exchange ideas each of our entities can implement and work together on in an effort to make our community a better place to live. There will be another meeting in the next 30 days, so if the Board had any thoughts or ideas to carry forward to their Board, please relay your input to Ms. Clark, Mr. Price, or Mr. Shryack.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

VIII. CALENDAR

The Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden opens March 31st with the Cherry Blossom Kite Festival.

The Easter at the Farm event is March 31 at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park.

The next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2012, at 8:30 am, at the Valley Water Mill Park Equestrian Center Headquarters facility.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

There were no items to discuss in Closed Session today.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.