

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, May 11, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.
Park Board Administrative Offices, 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, Matt Bailey, Bob Horton, Sidney Needem, 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: Matt Boehner, Local landscape architect
Kristy Bork, City Internal Auditor
Bill Garoutte, Lake Country Soccer Board President

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to approve the minutes listed below as presented and as a group; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Minutes were approved unanimously.

April 13, 2012	Park Board Meeting
April 13, 2012	Closed Park Board Meeting

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley reported that the Jordan Valley Park fountain is on and running. Staff is working on a few operational issues to make sure the fountain is running according to programmed schedule.

Mr. Cumley and Ms. Amy Francka were invited to participate in the USOC Paralympic Wounded Warrior Project event in Kansas City. Over 40 wounded soldiers participated in archery instruction drills as part of the event.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards provided the Board with a recap of recent news releases and activities, along with upcoming events and social networking statistics for the month. Ms. Edwards reported that we have 3000 active users in our social network. Trip Advisor voted Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park as the number one travel destination in the area recently. Congratulations to the Staff and the Friends of the Garden volunteers who assist with the design and maintenance of the park and gardens on a daily basis.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Belote thanked the Staff for hosting the Park Board meeting at the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center last month.

Mr. Moore reported that the "Dairy Days" event is May 12. Activities include introducing the new "cow train" which will offer families a new way to tour the park and a collection of antique tractors that will be on site. Missouri State's Community and Service Learning program (CASL) recognized the Staff for their partnership in providing volunteer opportunities for students the past five years. Goat

triplets are a new addition at the Farm, which is the first live birth at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. A naming contest will likely be scheduled to name the kids.

Staff is again working with Bass Pro Shop for this year's Outdoor Fall Fitness Festival event. In conjunction with the event, we will host area Boy Scouts who will camp on site. Organizers expect up to 1000 Boy Scout participants.

The Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center Staff received a thank you plaque and commemorative t-shirt for their help and assistance with the Greene County 4-H group. Mr. Moore reported that Terry Whaley and his daughter donated over 50 horse-themed reading and instructional books to the Equestrian Center. The books will be used in the Summer Camp and 4-H reading programs. Fishing crowds continue to be large on the weekends at Valley Water Mill Park.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that staff is involved with registration for summer camps, programs, and activities, along with hosting several tournaments at various complexes throughout the Park system. In this year's School-Park Step-Club program, which promotes children walking with their family or staff at their school, we had 677 children participate. In April, Recreation Staff partnered with the American Heart Association to promote healthy activities, which included a walk around Drummond Lake at Nathanael-Greene Park over the lunch hour. Ms. Reser mentioned that we will host the Missouri Youth Soccer Championships with 16 teams playing over 289 soccer games in five days.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that staff is preparing pools to open on May 24. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at Westport Pool on May 24 at noon and welcome the community to the newly renovated neighborhood pool.

Mr. Park reported that the playground surface is now in place at the new universal playground site at Jenny Lincoln Park. Upon completion, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Downtown Kiwanis Club who provided the funding for the new playground equipment.

Staff is making final preparations for the installation of the Springfield Wagon play equipment in Jordan Valley Park. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned in June with Southeast Rotary Club who provided funding for this one-of-a-kind playground feature.

Mr. Park also provided updates regarding progress on the Dan Kinney Family Center and the Doling Aquatic Center projects.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that during the month of May, the Zoo will host several school field trips. Security guards provide assistance with the additional vehicle and foot traffic during these peak periods. Mr. Crocker mentioned that we may have a pregnant tiger at the Zoo.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that he has noticed schools from Springfield and surrounding communities are taking full advantage of the Park system with their field trips. Mr. Belote mentioned that we are working to revise the Park Board's website to make it more user- friendly. Soon current and past "Know Your Parks" television shows will be available to view on the website, along with Park Board Agendas and approved meeting minutes.

Mr. Belote reviewed a handout regarding upcoming ribbon cutting and special events coming up within the next 30 days. We are hosting or co-sponsoring several important economic impact events over the next several weeks, which include State golf, tennis and baseball tournaments. Our Community Olympic Development Program is hosting a Golf Tournament on June 9. Proceeds from the tournament benefit our CODP programs in tennis, archery, ice hockey, and volleyball.

Springfield Lasers' season is coming soon. A brochure highlighting the players and their accomplishments was distributed. Mr. Belote mentioned that Lindsay Davenport with the Orange

County Breakers will be the featured marquee player on July 16. Tracy Austin will offer a special clinic on July 19 and will be available for autographs, as well.

The Miracle Field leagues are in session on Monday and Thursday evenings. Mr. Belote acknowledged the Springfield Cardinals' recent donation of \$15,000 to the Miracle Field League program. The funds were raised during a recent St. Louis Cardinals vs Springfield Cardinals game.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Clark stated that she thought the public will welcome the expanded pool hours and new features at Westport Pool. Ms. Clark participated in the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War special event on April 29. The commemorative marker was placed at the entry into Phelps Grove Park. Members of the Phelps family attended and were pleased with the celebration.

Ms. Clark appointed Ms. Paula Glossip and Mr. Tim Shryack to the Nominating Committee to accept nominations for the Park Board officers. The names of nominees will be presented and elected at the June Park Board meeting. Newly elected officers will begin their Officer positions in July. Three of our City Park Board members second term has come to end. Applications are currently being accepted and will be reviewed soon, with interviews following shortly thereafter. We are planning to present new Board members at the August Park Board meeting.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. John Price thanked the Park Board Staff for their hard work and partnership with the Sister Cities ArtsFiesta event. Attendees and participants were extremely pleased with the activities and music for the event. Mr. Belote mentioned that Cindy Jobe arranged for the Mariachi Band to perform at a number of schools in the community. The children enjoyed the cultural experience very much.

Mr. Belote acknowledged the recent resignation of Mr. Jim O'Neal and thanked him for his service and support to Parks during his tenure as Mayor. The Park Board looks forward to working with newly appointed Mayor, Mr. Bob Stephens, who had frequently participated in Park Board functions in his former role as Mayor Pro-Tem.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2012, at 8:30 am, at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:24 am.