

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, September 7, 2012, 8:30 a.m.
Mizumoto Stroll Garden Pavilion in Nathanael Green/Close Memorial Park
2400 South Scenic, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Jerry Clark, Phyllis Ferguson, Howard Garrett, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, John Price, Chair, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: none

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

Guests: Kuniko Yamamoto, Storyteller; Carolyn Gerdes, Springfield Sister Cities Association

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Howard Garrett made the motion to approve the minutes listed below as distributed; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Minutes were approved unanimously.

August 8, 2012	Park Board Orientation Meeting
August 10, 2012	Park Board Meeting

III. JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL PRESENTATION—SPRINGFIELD SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

Mr. John Price, Chair, stated that the Sister Cities' mission was Peace through People, which was a concept started by President Dwight Eisenhower. President Eisenhower believed that citizens from foreign countries could assist in achieving diplomacy by working together. The Springfield Sister Cities Association (SSCA) started in 1985. The SSCA is a board of dedicated volunteers who enjoy the cultural experiences that they can bring to the community, and especially, children. Since 2004, we have participated in cultural exchanges with performing groups and sports exchanges with both of our sister cities, Isesaki, Japan and Tlaquepaque, Mexico. More recently, we have been providing citizen tours to Isesaki, Japan and Tlaquepaque, Mexico, including academic exchanges, mostly with Kickapoo High School and Missouri State University students.

Cindy Jobe serves as the Park Board liaison with the Sister Cities Association. Cindy, Ben Kellner, and the Sister Cities volunteers worked together to host the Japanese Fall Festival, which was held September 7-9, 2012. The gate revenues from the event are split between the Park Board and Sister Cities Association. Last year's festival resulted in \$14,000 for each entity. The Park Board strives to reinvest their portion of the proceeds back into Nathanael-

Greene/Close Memorial Park and the Japanese Mizumoto Stroll Garden. Sister Cities often assists the Park Board financially in a similar manner.

Carolyn Gerdes, Co-Chair of the Isesaki Committee, thanked the Park Board for their support and involvement in SSCA. Ms. Gerdes expressed her appreciation of staff for their coordinated efforts in making the necessary preparations to host the festival. Ms. Gerdes stated that over 200 volunteers assist with the event's success each year.

IV. COMMUNITY OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE (CODP)

Mr. Belote stated that Jeff Cumley and Kim Reser are working with CODP Director, Linda Dollar, and CODP Treasurer, Jodie Adams, with the preparations for the upcoming Annual Directors' Meetings, which will be held in Springfield October 3-5. It is quite an honor to host this conference as this will be the first time in the 15 year history of CODP Director Conferences that the meetings are being held at a different location other than the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We will host Conference Directors from around the country, which will include touring our facilities and learning more about our programs. As one of only nine sites in the country, it is a select group of dedicated organizations who have met the required standards to be an approved site. To become a site, the process with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) takes approximately two years. Each CODP sport has to have a separate agreement with the corresponding National Governing Board of that particular sport.

Jeff Cumley stated that as a CODP site, it allows us to provide local youth an opportunity to learn, play, and grow in their sport while remaining close to home. The USOC believes in taking care of the athlete as a person, and the CODP Coaches share these values, along with appropriate nutrition and life skills, with the CODP athletes. Ms. Jerry Clark stated that bringing this national group to Springfield should provide more awareness in the community about CODP programs. Mr. Cumley stated that the recent CODP logo change, which now includes the Olympic rings, was designed to be more recognizable. Ms. Kim Reser mentioned that our local CODP Coaches also provide instructional clinics and visit Springfield Public Schools to introduce youth to the sports and also provide invitations to learn more about CODP programs.

Mr. Belote stated that we will continue to review the CODP program and how we may include programs in other departmental areas for the future.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that staff is preparing Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park for the upcoming Harvest Fest weekend activities. Harvest Fest begins the weekend of September 22 through October 28 with major corporate organizations sponsoring a variety of themed weekend activities. Mr. Moore mentioned that Daisy, the cow, is pregnant and is due in May, 2013.

Following the Board meeting, Mr. Moore will be heading to Lake Springfield Park for the Media Day Challenge as part of the Outdoor Fitness Festival activities. Eleven teams were participating

to take home the traveling trophy award. Mr. Moore reported that a local volunteer at Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center personally raised over \$2,000 through an employee-volunteer grant program at Wal-Mart, her employer. Mr. Grant Schneidman will be returning for a second visit on dressage which is sponsored in part by the Ozark Dressage Society. The Black Stallion Literacy Program will be offered at select elementary classrooms in the near future. At Lost Hill Park, picnic and trail usage has increased.

Jenny Filmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that the current "Know Your Parks" episode highlights the fall festivals throughout the park system, and includes interviews with Matt Coats, Park Ranger Supervisor, and Corporal Jennifer Flood. Corporal Flood discusses the unique partnership with the Greene County Sheriff's Posse at Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. Mr. Belote mentioned that Ms. Edwards worked with our webmaster, Tom Adams, to update the Park Board's visibility on the website. The website has a drop down window called "Your Board" which provides Park Board Agendas and Minutes and information on how to apply to serve on the Board. Additionally, contact information for the Administrative Staff has been added. Visit the Park Board to see the new updates at www.parkboard.org.

Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley reported that Jordan Valley Park is busy in the months of September and October hosting weddings, charity walks, and a variety of other event rentals. The MSU Ice Hockey Bears are beginning practice on the east rink in preparation for the upcoming season which begins in October.

Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser mentioned that over 100 dogs participated in the recent Dog Swim at Fasnigh Pool, which marks the end of the outdoor pool season. With the increase in outdoor pool operational hours, the Aquatics division reported over 83,000 outdoor visitors and participants this season, which is up over 10,000 people from last year. Ms. Reser appreciates the cooperation of the maintenance staff for their help in developing a rotating maintenance pool schedule this season.

Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that the Botanical Center has been monitoring the number of visitors during the evening hours of the winter months since the facility opened. As there are considerably fewer visitors during this time frame, the Botanical Center will adjust their hours beginning in November. Winter hours beginning in November through March will be:

Monday through Saturday	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am to 5:00 pm

The building will revert back in April to regular hours of Monday-Saturday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Botanical Center staff will still accommodate special activities and after hour rental events with advance reservations and space availability.

Mr. Park reported the repairs at Chesterfield Aquatics Center indoor pool are on schedule to be completed this month. The minor work still left to perform will not affect utilization of the pool. While the pool was being repaired, Maintenance Staff took advantage to perform their annual repair and maintenance duties, which including deep cleaning and polishing of the fixtures and pool. Mr. Park provided updates about the Doling Aquatics Center and Dan Kinney Family

Center projects. Both projects appear to be on schedule to open in January, 2013. Additionally, the new 1200 feet of trail at South Dry Sac is now in place and available for trail users.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker reported that August 2012 was the second highest recorded August attendance at the Zoo. The Dickerson Park Zoo had over 100 volunteers visit the Zoo to perform a variety of projects as part of the United Way's Day of Caring event. The Zoo staff was impressed and appreciative with the volume and quality of work completed by the volunteers. It was suggested that the October Park Board meeting will be at the Zoo, with a dedication of the Tortoise Building to follow the board meeting.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote mentioned that our water conservation plan has been shared with the Board as it was developed and implemented. Administrative staff has reviewed everything we can do and takes our responsibility as environmental stewards of our natural resources seriously. However, it is also our responsibility to keep fields safely maintained while meeting field requirements for league play, along with high school and college championships standards. We have cut back on water usage as much as 50 percent in some areas and have begun manually watering overnight at other locations. Additionally, we have shut down the water features at golf courses and Dickerson Park Zoo. We also have been following the City Utilities irrigation schedule by watering appropriately by street address. With the help of the Public Works Department, we utilized 3500 gallon tanks to drain Meador Pool, and then used the pumps to irrigate the ballfields at Meador and Ewing Parks.

Several Parks staff will attend a Missouri Parks and Recreation Association "Did You Know" workshop hosted by Lake Springfield Boathouse Staff and Kate Plank, who is the Region 3 Director, and organizer of this event. Mr. Belote attended the training at the MPRA State Conference which provided valuable information on how to promote the benefits of local parks within the community. Board members are welcome to attend.

Mr. Belote announced that we will host an Employee Appreciation Picnic on October 21 at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Again, the Board is welcome and encouraged to attend.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. John Price, Chair, stated that he continues to be impressed with the depth of programs that the Park Board provides to the community even in tough economic times. Mr. Price mentioned that the number of people who participate in the activities and services provided by the Park Board is impressive, too. He credits the Park Board staff for making programs so accessible in the community.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, October 12, 2012, at 8:30 am. We will meet at the Dickerson Park Zoo. The Tortoise Building dedication will follow the meeting at 10:30 am.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Howard Garrett made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Section 610.021(1); seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.