

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD**

Friday, August 8, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri.

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shryack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Matt Bailey, Phyllis Ferguson, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, John Price, Tim Shryack, Chair

Members Absent: Paula Glossip

Park Board Staff: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. John Price made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2014, Park Board Meeting, and the July 11, 2014, Closed Park Board Meeting as a group and as distributed; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD SKATEPARK UPDATE AND FEE REVIEW

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, stated that Park Board staff has been working cooperatively with the current Skatepark staff during the transition process. Park Operations crews have been completing maintenance and security projects including lighting improvements and installing safety fencing and netting. Interviews will be conducted soon for two contract employee positions at the Skatepark. Ms. McGrath indicated that we will honor the existing 240 memberships during the initial transition period. We look forward to utilizing our marketing efforts to promoting programs and special events at the Skatepark. Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that the Skatepark Association's President has been cooperative and complimentary of the Park Board's efforts for the two entities to work together. This transition will also allow the Skatepark Association to dedicate their fund-raising proceeds on amenities for the facility.

Ms. McGrath stated we are adopting the current fee schedule at the Skatepark at this time, but staff is proposing a Room Rental Fee and a Skate Camp Fee to the Program and Fee Schedule for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. We will review the current Skatepark fee schedule with other recreational facilities during our normal fees and charges budget discussion in preparation of next year's budget. Mr. John Price made the motion to approve the two proposed fees at the Skatepark; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. MISSOURI TAX EXEMPTION BILLS—PROSPECTIVE BUDGETARY IMPACT ON PARKS

Mr. Belote explained the proposed budgetary impact on our annual Parks budget should State legislators override the Governor's veto of last-minute legislation that would exempt a number of sales tax areas from being collected. For Parks, it could potentially be a \$951,000 cut to current park sales tax revenues not collected. The impact to our annual budget could dictate possible reduction of parks facility hours, loss of programs, and potential staff layoffs. The Greene County Commission and Springfield's City Council recently adopted a resolution discouraging legislators from over-riding the Governor's veto. The City Council has asked the Park Board, E-911 and the City's Law Enforcement Pension Committee to consider taking similar action if it is appropriate. Mr. John Price made the motion that the Board authorize the Director of Parks and the Assistant City Attorney to draft and submit a resolution consistent with the City Council's resolution which strongly opposes the State Legislature override of the Governor's veto of the tax exemption bills and to correct the process of last-minute add-on legislation; seconded by Ms. Phyllis Ferguson. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Belote indicated that applications for the Park Board will be distributed soon to the Nominating Committee for review and interview consideration.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley stated that the football turf has been turned back into ice in preparation of ice hockey season. Tryouts for both MSU Ice Bears and the 417 Express team will take place later this month. As part of the Route 66 ribbon-cutting event on August 8, the Jordan Valley Park staff will offer a drive-in movie in the lot just east of the Expo building featuring "Back to the Future". Space will be designated for spectators in lawn chairs, the car show vehicles, and movie viewers who wish to watch the movie from their car. The side of the Expo building will be the screen and is 58 feet wide! The Ozark Mountain Daredevils concert is sold out for the celebration, but will be simultaneously broadcasted in to the Park Central Square. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Cumley for the Mediacom Ice Park staff's assistance with hosting the Good Morning Springfield event, which included the Mayor's State of City Address.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath reported that summer day camps are winding down, and we averaged 792 children at 12 different sites each week. Before and after school programs, along with soccer and volleyball registrations, are currently underway. The weekend of August 8-10 is the last official pool weekend, and then, Fasnight and Grant Beach Pools will be open on weekends through the end of the month. On August 15, 22, and 29th, we will host Splash 'N Sizzle nights, from 4 pm to 10 pm for \$1.00 admission or a canned food item. Dog Swim is scheduled for September 2. Summer pool attendance was down somewhat due to cooler weather. In the Concessions division, we experienced our busiest weekend recently with catering and/or

concessions being provided at 13 different park facility sites. This included providing catering for 2000 people in Jordan Valley Park for a private rental. Congratulations to the Concessions staff for several jobs well done.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator After the wrap-up of a successful Springfield Lasers' season, Ms. Edwards reported that her office is now working on the next Park Bench publication. Preparations continue for the go live date of the new Civic Plus website conversion. The new photo policy has received media attention and is going smoothly so far. We are selling photo passes at three locations which include the Mediacom Ice Park, Botanical Center, and the main Park Administration Building. Ms. Edwards reported that Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, has been getting acquainted with Parks staff and community leaders and continues to develop sponsorship opportunities. Ms. Edwards stated that Ozarks Public Television will be hosting a viewing party of the golf documentary, "Links to the Past, Fairways to the Future", featuring many of our public golf courses. A flyer with more details was distributed.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that the Park Operations staff safety topic of the month was distracted driving. Officer Jason Pace with the Missouri Highway Patrol was the featured speaker and provided an excellent presentation. With the cooler and dryer weather, maintenance crews have been fortunate to complete many outside projects. Pool maintenance is always a challenge, and our staff has done an excellent job maintaining the pools throughout the season. Mr. Carney reported that there was 76,740 pounds of litter collected throughout the parks in July. Mr. Carney also stated that the Butterfly Festival at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park was a great event and well attended. Operations crews have been working on a variety of maintenance projects at the Skatepark facility including updating the lighting and enhancing the landscaping.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that over 4,000 flowers have been planted at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, Lost Hill and Lake Springfield as a result from a recent donation. Lost Hill Park has been a popular wedding and birthday party site recently. It continues to be a well-utilized site for walkers, as well. Mr. Moore mentioned that one of our Lake Springfield staff members, Chris Hanks, recently passed away. Mr. Hanks started with the Park Board when Lake Springfield Boathouse opened, and his experience as a professional fisherman and knowledgeable outdoorsman was a great asset at the Boathouse facility. He will be missed.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser mentioned that we partnered with Community Partnership of the Ozarks and the Police Department to host "National Night Out" at Meador Park on August 5. Many citizens attended the free event which included several health and safety-oriented booths and park activities, along with offering Meador Pool admission for \$1.00 or a donated canned-food item benefitting Ozarks Food Harvest. Twelve community neighborhoods will host their own Neighborhood Night Out events in the next few weeks, 11 of which will be in our parks.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker mentioned that officials from the Kansas City Zoo, St. Louis Zoo, and the Dickerson Park Zoo, along with Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, recently held a small conference presenting information about the “Kids Save Elephants” campaign. Dickerson Park Zoo launched our campaign in May as an effort to collect 960 letters and drawings from children. On average, 96 elephants are killed every day in Africa for ivory. The campaign is an effort focused on securing a moratorium on the sale of ivory and promoting the protection of African elephants. On August 12, the Dickerson Park Zoo will celebrate World Elephant Days. This is the third of five special animal celebration days. On August 9, the Zoo will partner with area McDonald’s and offer a reduced admission price at the Zoo.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote thanked the Board members who joined us for several Springfield Lasers matches this summer. This was a challenging season with the necessity of us having a total of 12 team members on our roster due to injuries. With the efforts of our Coach and General Manager, they did a great job blending the team together and providing a high quality of play throughout the season. We were honored to host the WTT Finals for the first time in Springfield. One of the highlights of the season was having Billie Jean King attend two matches in Springfield to watch her own team, Philadelphia Freedoms. The Summer Showdown Match with James Blake playing for the Lasers against his friend, Andy Roddick, was an added bonus for Springfield tennis fans. Next year marks our 20th season, and the WTT league’s 40th season. Dr. Sarah McCallister mentioned that she attended the WTT Finals media event and was pleased to hear so many positive comments about our staff from the photographers, owners, players, and league staff.

Mr. Belote stated that we partnered with the Springfield Sports Commission and KY3 for the One Awards Program, which honors the best area high school athletes. It was a good opportunity to recognize these outstanding athletes especially since many of them regularly play at our facilities and may have even started playing their sport in our athletic programs.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Anne-Mary McGrath served as the Parks representative for the 25th Anniversary of the Price Cutter Charity Championship. She and our Golf Staff coordinate our volunteers who serve as the 15th hole marshals, assist with the Golf Welcome Center tent, host the Junior Amateur tournament at the Betty Allison at Oscar Blom, and develop the qualifier tournament at Rivercut Golf Course.

On August 21, the Art Museum will host a “Love Song for All Life” concert benefiting the Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park Sensory Gardens. This special concert features internationally known performing artists, Bettine Clemen, solo flautist, and Richard Patterson, guitarist.

Also on August 21, we will participate in the United Way’s Day of Caring by hosting a group of approximately 75 volunteers from Cox College, who will have a work day at Washington Park. Volunteers will work with Park staff on a variety of projects including painting swing sets and the gazebo, along with conducting mulching and landscaping maintenance

projects. The Zoo has also had several local organizations volunteer to help with a variety of projects throughout the years.

Mr. Belote stated that supporters of relocating Timmons Temple continue their efforts to fund-raise and are working with the developer on possibly repurposing the demolition funds originally designated for the project and using them to relocate the structure.

Mr. Mike Mellinger, Board Member, commented that he has attended many Springfield Lasers' matches each season since the Lasers program began. From the beginning, he has been impressed with the quality of staff's customer service and the overall operation of the facility, along with just the high energy of the teams and the atmosphere of the matches that is truly fun and entertaining. He thanked the Park Board staff for all that they do to create that type of experience for our families.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report to discuss.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2014, and a venue will be announced soon.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. John Price made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.