

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

Friday, October 10, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

**Connie Morris Learning Center, at Rivercut Golf Course, 2846 W. Farm Road 190
Springfield, Missouri.**

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shryack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Phyllis Ferguson

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

Guest: Jeff Wells, Architect
Timmons Temple Initiative Supporters: Ralph Plank, Paula Ringer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2014, Park Board Meeting, and the September 12, 2014, Closed Park Board Meeting, as a group and as distributed; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. GOLF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed the Board to Rivercut Golf Course and introduced Mr. Steve King, who has been the Golf Pro and General Manager at Rivercut for 17 years. Mr. King introduced several key staff members and stated that Ken Ault, the Golf Superintendent who helped to open Rivercut, recently retired. He shared several interesting facts about Rivercut including that the course was selected as the number one Municipal Golf Course in Missouri in 2009. Rivercut has hosted 20 state golf championships, 16 city championships, and recently held the 8th American Junior Golf Association championship tournament for 100 of the top junior golfers. Since Rivercut opened, over 400,000 rounds of golf have been played, and there have been 900 special events or outings hosted at the course. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. King and the Rivercut staff for what they do on an everyday basis which allows the golfer's to experience a challenging, high quality course at an affordable price.

Mr. Rick Grayson is our golf pro at Connie Morris facility and one of the founders of the Heart of the Ozarks Junior Golf Fund. Mr. Grayson along with Mr. Doryl Sweet started the Heart of the Ozarks Junior Golf Fund to help carry on the tradition of golf and introduce it to youth, and provide opportunities for families to play together. Through the help of private donors and events, the Junior Golf Fund has raised 1.9 million dollars to provide an environment for youth to learn the game of golf, including providing youth golf clubs and balls to be used at the course. Mr. Grayson mentioned he was part of a recent Ozarks Public Television production, "Links to the Past, Fairways to the Future" golf documentary regarding the evolution of golf in the Ozarks. Personal interviews and stories, along with archival and current pictures are included in the documentary.

IV. TIMMONS TEMPLE INITIATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Belote stated that Parks Assistant Director, Mr. Miles Park, has continued to work with the Timmons Temple Initiative supporters on their proposed project to relocate the Timmons Temple structure to Silver Springs Park. As part of their proposal, the Park Board requested architectural drawings, including site work, grading and elevation details. Mr. Jeff Wells, a local architect, stated that he has been preparing the drawings as requested, and the drawings are almost complete and ready to be submitted to the City of Springfield for a building permit. The design is a single story structure, with one room, and includes updated mechanical, plumbing and electrical materials, and a restroom. Mr. Belote stated that once architectural drawings are firm and ready for City review and permitting, the Timmons Temple Supporters can work with trade groups to define the scope of work and discuss their commitment to the project. Mr. Wells agreed to help coordinate the work of the trade groups if the project moves forward. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the efforts of the group thus far, and once the proposal with the requested information is available, the Park Board has agreed to meet and review the proposal in a special session if necessary.

V. JORDAN VALLEY CONCEPT MASTER PLAN UPDATE REVIEW

Mr. Belote stated that the Jordan Valley Concept Master Plan has recently been updated to show the areas that have been developed or improved as consistent with the original plan. The updated plan better defines the projects and how much green space has been acquired. In accordance with the Committee By-laws, the updated plan has been adopted at the Committee level at their September Board meeting and the Committee now seeks the Park Board's approval. Mr. John Price made the motion to approve the Jordan Valley Park Master Concept plan as updated and presented; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion was approved unanimously. The Board requested that Senior City Planner, Olivia Hough, attend an upcoming Park Board meeting to share the recent Jordan Valley Park Master Plan developments and updates.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Committee Reports to discuss.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Moore stated that the attendance at Rutledge-Wilson's Farm Park Fall Festival is off to a good start this season. The Farm Park is hosting school bus field trips throughout the day and even scheduling bus trips after normal school hours. Lake Springfield Park hosted Outdoor Days and welcomed the largest attendance for the event. Lake Springfield Park also hosted 37 cross country running meets. Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center staff gave 441 pony rides in one day in conjunction with Fall Fest at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Mr. Belote thanked the Special Facilities staff, along with Anne-Mary McGrath, for their help and coordination with the Outdoor Days event.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that the Dogfest and Dachshund Dash, the annual canine festival, hosted 40 vendors at Chesterfield Park, with both commercial and non-profit organizations participating. We partnered with Springfield Public Schools and hosted the Springfield Invitational Tournament at Cooper and Killian Sports Complexes. We had 20 teams participate traveling from Lee Summit, Camdenton, Columbia, and Waynesville. We also co-hosted with the United States Tennis Association Missouri Valley the Adult Mixed Doubles Championships with 525 participants from a five state region. During the weekend of October 17-19, we will host MSHSAA Girls State Tennis Championships and the MSHSAA Girls Softball Championships.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Operations

Mr. Carney stated that Operations staff work closely with Recreation staff in the preparation of events, tournaments, and activities held within the parks and facilities. He complimented his staff for how beautiful the Mizumoto Stroll Garden and Nathanael-Green/Close Memorial Park looked for the Japanese Fall Festival held in September. Mr. Carney reported that staff completed the sidewalk and ramp leading to the Liberty School house in time for the dedication on September 20. Mr. Carney mentioned that one of his maintenance employees, Darrel Baldwin, recently retired. We wish Mr. Baldwin the best in retirement. Mr. Carney stated that 49,000 pounds of litter was collected last month.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the quarterly financial report with the Board. Mr. Mitchell stated that we had had a positive cash balance at the end of June, 2014, which is a credit to the staff for diligently obtaining appropriate revenues from grants before the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenues have been up the last several months, so this has helped us to increase our Park reserves account. Mr. Belote stated we will prepare a memo to the Park Board and City Council once the end of year numbers are finalized. Mr. Belote reminded the Board that they are welcome to ask questions or review financial reports any time.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards stated that there has been a lot of media interest and coverage on the various park events. She and Diana Tyndall have been speaking with groups, doing radio interviews, and preparing a

variety of media announcements and publications about upcoming park events. Ms. Edwards shared that the Park Board's Facebook Page has reached 5,000 followers.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker stated that the Dickerson Park Zoo recently held the Kids Fair for the second year and welcomed 4,700 visitors for the event. Spooktacular, sponsored by Simmons Bank, will be held Thursday through Sunday until October 31. In cooperation with Missouri State University Foundation, Alumni Association, and Student Government Association, the Zoo unveiled the new MSU "Bear Country" on September 27, representing the official launch of a 5-year partnership to support bear conservation. Mr. Belote stated it was great to honor and recognize this partnership with Missouri State University as many of our employees are graduates from the institution.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser reported that the Active.com online transition is completed with over 200 accounts set up. We have about 75 percent of our programs online. Our next phase is to work to make online registration available for facility rentals. Ms. Reser stated that seven Recreation Division employees will attend the National Recreation and Park Association conference in Charlotte. The conference provides a great opportunity for staff to interact with others in the industry, attend classes, and obtain CEU's as required for various certifications.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park stated that the Liberty Schoolhouse had a ribbon cutting ceremony, which celebrated the eight-year effort to move the schoolhouse to Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. The process was started by Ms. Vera Chandler, a local citizen, who had attended the school when it was in operation. Mr. Park thanked the many people who donated funds, furnishings for the schoolhouse, or their time for fundraising events, such as Norma Tolbert, who was an integral partner throughout the process. This month, the Botanical Center celebrates its fourth year in operation. Next year will be the 15th anniversary of Friends of the Garden and the 30th year anniversary for the Mizumoto Stroll Garden. Mr. Park reported that over 26,000 people have visited the Dr. Bill Roston's Butterfly House located within Nathanael-Green/Close Memorial Park. Mr. Park stated that Public Works is working on restoration plans for the South Creek channel along Sunset extending from Kansas Expressway to Campbell. The project is mostly ecological improvements to improve storm water quality using natural elements within the corridor. City storm water engineers are also developing plans to construct a pair of stormwater detention basins to partially alleviate flood events within the Ravenwood Subdivision. One of the basins will be constructed on city-owned land to the north of Lake Springfield Park. The other basin will be constructed within a green space area at the northern edge of Lake Springfield Park. Construction is planned to begin in the spring of 2015.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote stated that he attended the annual Community Olympic Development Program conference this week with former director and current treasurer, Jodie Adams, and the CODP Director, Linda Dollar. We are one of 11 CODP sites nationwide, and the only park agency that offers CODP programs. Most agencies only have one CODP sport, but the Park Board is proud to offer four programs, including volleyball, hockey, archery, and tennis. Our CODP staff and coaches are well-respected

throughout the CODP organization, and we feel proud to allow our local athletes to train and compete at a high level within our community.

Mr. Belote state that we are reviewing final lease agreement revisions with City Utilities regarding placement of a water tower in Chesterfield Park. As part of the lease agreement, we have proposed to extend current agreements with CU at three park locations to 50-year leases. As part of the budget preparation process, we have begun the review of the fees and charges at the staff level. The Board will have a special workshop to review the fees and charges in December and another workshop in January to review the entire proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Belote stated that the City is completing this year's United Way Campaign over the next few weeks. Our Parks United Way representative, Karen Herron, met with 16 departmental staff groups to share information about United Way and distribute pledge cards. Last year, Parks employees contributed more than \$10,000 to the campaign. The Employee Appreciation Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Board members are welcome to attend.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we will host the 2015 Missouri Park and Recreation Conference February 24-27. Our theme for the conference is "State of Health and Happiness". We are collecting and reviewing session proposals, and we will have our committee kick-off meeting on October 22. We are excited to bring park and recreation professionals back to Springfield and offer some unique site tours and fun social gatherings, along with providing quality educational classes and an expo comprised of recreational vendors and partners regarding the latest trends in equipment, software, and playground developments and materials.

Mr. Belote mentioned that a City Councilman recently brought up the topic about offering alcohol at Mediacom Ice Park. Ms. Lana Woolsey, Assistant City Attorney, briefly shared the legal issues with this topic and the history of addressing this issue in the past, but would gather more specific information for the Board's review.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated he recently attended the 417 Express hockey team's season opener, which was a fun event, and he was impressed with the caliber of players. Mr. Shryack invited everyone to participate in the 20th Annual Turkey Trot, the largest walk/run event, held on Thanksgiving morning.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be held on Friday, November 14, 2014, at 8:30 am, at the Park Administrative Offices.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. John Price made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.