

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, December 12, 2014
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller
Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shyrack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, John Price, Tim Shyrack, Chair.

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, Phyllis Ferguson

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, Paul Nahon, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2014, Park Board Meeting, and the November 14, 2014, Closed Park Board Meeting; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously.

III. U.S. SENATE RECOGNITION OF SPRINGFIELD LASERS FRANCHISE – SENATOR ROY BLUNT’S OFFICE

Mr. Dan Waddlington, a representative from Senator Roy Blunt’s Office, presented the Congressional Records to the Park Board, in which the Springfield Lasers were recognized for their outstanding achievement of making it to the World TeamTennis Championship match for the second year in a row. Senator Blunt, who presented the document in September, 2014, stated in the document that he applauds the community partnership that we have with the Cooper Family, who purchased and donated the franchise back to the Park Board, along with providing financial assistance in building the Cooper Tennis Complex. In 2015, we will celebrate the 20th season of the Springfield Lasers, who are recognized as one of the oldest franchises in the WTT League, and welcome on average 1,400 people at each home match. Mr. Waddlington wished the Springfield Lasers continued success in growing and building the fan base for tennis in the community.

IV. SISTER CITIES JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL CHECK PRESENTATION AND PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that Ms. Cindy Jobe was unable to attend today’s meeting as previously scheduled. Mr. Belote mentioned that this year’s Japanese Fall Festival set attendance records at the admissions gate and at the souvenir tent. The proceeds from the admission gate are split between Sister Cities Association (SCA) and the Park Board, but the SCA supports the Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park and the Mizumoto Stroll Garden with most of their proceeds, as well.

Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the Japanese Fall Festival and plans are already underway for the celebration.

V. O.T.O. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION FOR DRY SAK GREENWAY TRAIL

Mr. Miles Park stated that we have prepared a matching grant application through the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) for a trail enhancement project. Mr. Park is working with Terry Whaley and Scott Miller at City Utilities, to obtain an easement that will lead back east to Lost Hill Park. This trail link is listed in the Vision 20/20 and Field Guide 20/30 documents. The trail would begin construction next summer and extend east of the David C. Murray trailhead. The OTO requires an adopted local resolution of support from the sponsoring agency. Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion that the Board endorses the support of the application and approves the letter of resolution indicating support; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Belote commented that this a beautiful site with natural habitats and wildlife throughout the vistas on the trail.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that "Candy Cane Lane" had 476 cars drive through the lighted driveway at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park on opening weekend. This total already exceeds last year's attendance numbers. In cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, we will offer "How To Fish" sessions. MDC will supply the fish, equipment and an instructor, along with continued monitoring of the health of the fish and the quality of the water. Mr. Moore mentioned that Gypsy the goat gave birth to twins, Pixie and Penny. Trail usage has been up at Valley Water Mill Park. We have been hosting corporate Christmas parties and family birthday celebrations at all of the Special Facilities locations.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Operations Mr. Carney reported that the boiler that services the Parks Administration Building is undergoing repairs and supplemental heaters have been placed throughout the building. The safety presentation for this month was on chainsaw operation best practices given by Missouri Department of Conservation staff. A group of Eagle Scout's completed Phase 3 of trail improvements at Sequiota Park. The forestry division planted 100 trees at various park locations.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell and the Business Operations staff prepared the materials for discussion at the Proposed Fees and Charges for the 2015-2016 budget meeting on Monday, December 15, 2014. Mr. Belote applauded the thoroughness of their efforts.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that she and Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, are transitioning from Turkey Trot-related media preparation and releases to radio ads for Park Board gift certificates and encouraging citizens to start the new year by joining our Family Centers. The next "Know Your Parks" TV show will be filmed next week featuring the family centers, along with figure skating and ice hockey lessons and open skate options throughout the holidays.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that the 20th Annual Turkey Trot 5K walk/run event was again a great success with over 7,600 participants. We will have representatives from our community partners, Developmental Center of the Ozarks and Ozarks Food Harvest, at the January meeting. We will present a check to DCO for 50 percent of the proceeds and provide the food collection totals from the event. Ms. McGrath reported that we have a billboard on Kearney Street advertising memberships at Doling Family Center. Recently, we were awarded the bid by the Missouri State High School Association's to host the State Spring Softball Championships for 2016-2018 and the State Fall Softball Championships for 2015-2018. In addition, we will host the State Golf Championships the in three of the next four years at Rivercut Golf Course.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Manager of Jordan Valley Park

Mr. Cumley reported that the Festival of Lights kick-off was held on November 22 and was a great community event with lights blinking to the music throughout Jordan Valley Park. The 25th Anniversary of First Night will be held on New Year's Eve at various venues downtown, including Jordan Valley Park. This family-friendly event features free ice-skating and fireworks at midnight at Hammons Field. Mr. Cumley announced that the MSU Ice Bears have been playing at Mediacom Ice Park since 2001 as a Division II team. Next season they will move to Division I, and their Division III team will move to the Division II.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker reported that the Dickerson Park Zoo remains open even throughout the winter months. Recently, the Friends of the Zoo held their member and volunteer appreciation event, Zoo-La-La. Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Titus Foundation, who bought the Zoo's original train, is purchasing a new locomotive for the Zoo. The new locomotive takes about six months to build, but they are hopeful to have it in place in early summer.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser stated she has been working with the MPRA Conference Program Committee finalizing the sessions and seeking approval for Continuing Education Credits for the sessions. Additionally, the on-site tours are being finalized to offer educational and fun opportunities for the conference attendees. The Conference Committee is working to provide additional opportunities for students to interact with professionals and attend sessions that are beneficial for their career development. The Annual Awards Banquet and social event, in which Board members are welcome to attend, will be held on Thursday, February 26th.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park reported that staff conducted 27 playground safety inspections as part of our normal inspection process. Staff completed infield improvements at Killian Softball Complex. The Botanical Center will host a "Friends with Santa" event, which includes making ornaments, visiting with Santa, and seeing the train in the atrium. The company contracted to relocate Timmons Temple has begun making preparations for the move. Once the foundation and footings are completed, the actual move of the building can take place. Board Member John Price asked if staff could notify the Board when that actual move becomes imminent.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote mentioned that City and County created a Task Force to identify, discuss, and address common concerns and challenges. The narrative and report were made available for Board members to review. Mr. Belote stated that there were three primary focus items which included the City and County's financial sustainability, Federal and State unfunded mandates, and the Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice system. We look forward to discussing community needs similar to the parks/stormwater projects we collaborated with Public Works on in 2006. Parks Administration will conduct a Budget Review meeting with Greene County Officials on

December 17. Parks Administration recently reviewed and commented on the latest Safety Village Concept feasibility study, so it is now moving forward to the City Manager's office. The Parks Department will host an Employee Holiday Luncheon at Northview Center today at 11 am. Park Board members are welcome to attend.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the fees and charges documents are in the packets for review in advance of the meeting on Monday. He thanked the Board for their time, commitment, and energy during this holiday season as we move forward with the budget process. Mr. Belote also stated that he was proud of the Park Board's involvement with Timmons Temple, and the work we facilitated with a number of community partner groups this past year. Mr. Belote wished the Board a safe and happy holiday season.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated he was impressed with the amount of food collected at the Turkey Trot event, which was over 7,600 pounds. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Shryack thanked the staff members for job that they do each day in providing great programs and activities in our community.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The Fees and Charges Work Session will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014, at 5:30 pm at the Park Board Administrative Offices. The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, January 9, 2015, at the Park Board Administration Offices.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Sarah McCallister made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.