

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**Friday, February 13, 2015**  
**Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller**  
**Springfield, Missouri**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Tim Shyrack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. John Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2015, Park Board Meeting and the minutes of the February 4, 2015, Budget Workshop meeting as distributed; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

**III. OZARK GREENWAYS TRAILS UPDATE AND OVERVIEW**

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Mr. Terry Whaley, Executive Director of Ozark Greenways. We are proud of our partnership with Ozark Greenways and how we have worked together over time to develop and maintain trails as a joint community effort.

Mr. Whaley provided a brief history of how Ozark Greenways was started in the late 1980's as a group of people who wanted to add trees on roadways and develop more trails for citizens to walk, bike, or run. Mr. Whaley became part of this group in mid-1995 and help them get more involved as a part of the Vision 2020 document. Expanding trails and providing better walking access from neighborhoods to schools and around the city is now a part of the updated Field Guide 2030 document, as well. Mr. Whaley reviewed a map that showed current trails, trails undergoing expansion, and trails that still need to be developed. The Galloway Creek trail was the first trail project and was a result of the 2001 Parks Sales Tax initiative. With the passage of the 2006 Parks Sales Tax, trail development accelerated even further.

Other initiatives that Ozark Greenways have been involved in include helping to make the Ozarks more of a bicycle destination. Developing this initiative will help to bring economic and health benefits to the community, and with the addition of historical aspects, helps to create an eco-tourism destination. Ozark Greenways also partnered with the James River Basin to help protect water quality for the James River. Additionally, working with citizens and businesses,

including Rivercut Golf Course, over 20 miles of the river corridor is being preserved helping to protect forestry, wildlife, and still support recreation and eco-tourism. “Let’s Go Smart” is another initiative that Ozark Greenways participated in with the Healthy Living Alliance and the YMCA. “Let’s Go Smart” supports developing active transportation to improve air quality within the community.

The Frisco Highline Trail is the second longest rail-to-trail conversion in the State and one of the oldest in our community as it is 20 years old. The next few years will be more focused on the Frisco Highline Trail, along with the Trail of Tears. We have identified a section where Native Americans actually walked on the corridor before it was a railroad. Ozark Greenways has also taken over the management of the trail to help organize biking events, which will help streamline the event rental process, enhance services of the trail, and increase awareness of the trail. Trails have been included in medical research studies that state for every \$1.00 invested in a trail, the community benefits with \$2.94 in medical savings.

Mr. Whaley spoke about the three trail projects currently in progress, which include a trail that will join South Creek to Wilson Creek near Rutledge-Wilson Farm from funds associated with a Recreational Trails Grant. Secondly, with funds from a Federal grant, Ozark Greenways partnered with Greene County to construct a trail under FR 141 to link to the Fulbright Landfill corridor. Thirdly, a trail link has been developed under Chestnut Expressway, by OTC, to the Jordan Creek Trail. Mr. Whaley appreciated the dedicated help from Mr. Dennis McMan, Parks Senior Park Planner, and Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, along with the assistance of the Park Operations crews, in preparing maps, grant applications, and the maintenance of the trails.

#### **IV. 2015 MPRA CONFERENCE STAFF REPORT AND INVITATION TO THE BOARD**

Mr. Belote updated the Board about the upcoming Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference educational and social events and invited them to attend as their schedule allowed. The conference is February 24-27 at University Plaza here in Springfield with its theme of “State of Health and Happiness”. Mr. Belote announced that he has established a large conference committee, which was dedicated to providing informative educational sessions, great off-site tours of facilities in our community, and relaxing socials. In addition, we have received a record number of sponsorships for the conference. Mr. Mark Fenton, a national health and transportation expert, will be the keynote speaker. He is a dynamic, interactive speaker whose message will resonate well with park professionals.

#### **V. ADOPTION OF FY 2015-16 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET**

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Board met to review the FY 2015-16 Departmental Budget during a recent workshop in which staff’s budget recommendations were discussed in great detail. Staff discussed the budgetary impact of the increased federal minimum wage and the Affordable Care Act during the meeting, as well. Mr. Belote also mentioned the new activities available to City Employees as part of the InBalance health and wellness initiative. Mr. Belote thanked all of the staff who played a role in addressing the most critical issues and helped us to show a better cash position at the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year and continue our commitment to increase our reserve fund. Board Member Scott Bailes inquired if there had been any further discussion regarding the possibility of a joint parks and stormwater tax renewal. Mr. Belote indicated that he had not had any further discussions, but was still more than open to options to

partner with stormwater initiatives that would generate funds to complete multiple types of partnership projects. Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to approve the FY 2015-16 Departmental Budget as presented; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Belote thanked the Board for their time and energy in reviewing and discussing the budget in such great detail.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Appointment Recommendations to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee (JVAC)** The JVAC submitted recommendations for the following individuals to become members of the Committee: Brooks Miller, Phyllis Ferguson, and Leslie Forrester. According to the JVAC Bylaws, the Park Board must approve committee recommendations. After discussion and review of candidate information, Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to approve the above mentioned candidates as recommended by the JVAC; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Belote mentioned that Ms. Olivia Hough, Senior Planner with the City, and staff liaison to the JVAC, will attend the March Park Board meeting to provide an update about the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee's activities and those developments for the Jordan Valley area.

## **VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager** Mr. Cumley mentioned that both MSU Ice Bears and the 417 Express ice hockey teams are doing well this season. The 417 Express team may host the first round of the playoffs, as well. Mr. Cumley stated that we recently assisted our CODP Archery Coach with a private event at the Archery Range located at the Davis Property. Mark Stutzman, a silver medalist in the Paralympic Games in London, provided a shooting demonstration and shared an inspiring message about achieving your goals.

**Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation** Ms. McGrath mentioned that our School-Park section hosted an archery tournament at Parkview High School which included 16 teams, totaling 221 archers from Missouri and Arkansas with individual and team competitions. As part of our health and wellness initiatives, we have developed the Lifestyle Academy, which includes health and wellness topics conducted at our three family centers: Chesterfield, Dan Kinney, and Doling. It is a free class for members or a daily use fee for non-members. On February 20, Doling Family Center staff will host the annual Daddy and Daughter Dance with a winter wonderland theme. Guests will enjoy dinner, while the young girls receive a white rose, bracelet, and will decorate a frame to hold their professional photo. Our Concessions staff is catering the event and a DJ will provide music for the evening. Our Community Sports staff is accepting registrations for leagues, and our Aquatics staff is gearing up for the seasonal hiring process.

**Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator** Ms. Edwards mentioned that she and Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, have been focused on MPRA Conference related materials, but have also began working on marketing spring and summer registrations and activities. Ms. Edwards is chairing the Recreation Sports and Leisure section of the Community Focus Report which includes red flags and blue ribbons regarding 18 focus areas for the community. Many of our community leaders base decisions on the report findings, so we are glad to be a part of this important study. Ms. Edwards has also begun working on promoting

the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of the Springfield Lasers, along with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mylan World TeamTennis League. Ms. Edwards reported about other topics of media interest such as Eagle Days, Turkey Trot updates, and romantic dates within park locations. A candlelight vigil honoring Hailey Owens, who was tragically killed a year ago, is scheduled to be held on February 18 in Westport Park. Park Board staff, along with the Springfield Police department, is working with the event organizers. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Edwards, Ms. Tyndall, and Ms. Kristen Milam for the development of the MPRA Conference logo and related printed materials.

**Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services**

Mr. Carney stated that the safety topic of the month was protecting hearing loss while working with loud equipment, and Dr. Jason Box, with Mercy Audiology, was the presenter. Mr. Carney reported that work has been completed to meet safety and ADA standards at the Davis Property. Our crews have been working to prepare infields for MSU and Drury softball practices. Mr. Carney shared that Ken Ault, who recently retired from Rivercut Golf Course, passed away, and mentioned that the family appreciated Park Board Staff and Tim Shryack, Chair, for attending the funeral. Congratulations go to Ben Kellner, Parks Supervisor, who recently passed the Certified Park and Recreation Professional exam.

**Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director**

Mr. Park mentioned that staff completed 44 playground site inspections last month as part of our normal inspection rotation. Peter Longley presented several sessions on historical American Gardens last month at the Botanical Center. Additional sessions are available in February, as well. Mr. Park provided an update on the relocation of Timmons Temple to Silver Springs Park. Timmons Temple will be temporarily moved to an adjacent holding site until site work at Silver Springs is completed, which will allow the contractor to continue with his project on the original Timmons Temple site and surrounding property.

**Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director**

On behalf of Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities, Ms. Reser mentioned that the community gardens at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park have been cleaned and prepared for rental. Lake Springfield staff reported that nearly 2,000 people visited the Park during Eagle Days. In cooperation with City Utilities and the Missouri Department of Conservation, we are removing vegetation on Lake Springfield to allow for healthier water space for recreation and to improve the water quality. Mr. Belote stated he greatly appreciated the partnership with CU and MDC, which makes the water and dock more accessible, and provides a clean, but attractive, habitat area.

**Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director**

Mr. Crocker mentioned that the above normal temperatures have brought many visitors to the Dickerson Park Zoo. Last Saturday, the beautiful weather encouraged 2000 people to visit the Zoo, which would be a typical attendance day in the spring. In January, there were 3,500 visitors to the Zoo. The Friends of the Zoo are moving forward with acquiring property across the street from the Zoo on behalf of Parks and future parking needs. FOZ representatives received no opposition at the Planning and Zoning meeting, so the proposal will be forwarded to City Council for approval. In May, the Zoo will partner with Sister Cities for a Cinco de Mayo special event. Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoo will welcome 33 interns for this spring and summer.

**Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks**

Mr. Belote stated he appreciated FOZ purchasing the property across from the Zoo on behalf of Parks as we have no additional capital funds available.

The property could serve as overflow parking when the Zoo and Fairgrounds have special events. Mr. Belote mentioned that he was extremely pleased with another partnership example with City Utilities and the Park Board, and our recent property agreement for long-term water and park needs. Sister Cities will host their Annual Meeting on March 13 and Park Board members and staff are invited to attend. Mr. Belote mentioned that Dickerson Park Zoo and Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park were listed as the number one and number two destinations to take children in the recent Best of the Ozarks listing through the Springfield News-Leader. Rivercut Golf Course was listed as the number one golf course.

Park Board members are invited to attend an upcoming Springfield Cardinals game in the City of Springfield's suite. More information will be sent once a date is confirmed. Mr. Belote stated that interviews are being conducted for the Assistant Director position. This Assistant Director would serve in Mr. Belote's former position before he was promoted to Director nearly three years ago. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau Salute to Travel and Tourism event is scheduled for February 19. They will unveil a new marketing campaign that features an outdoor theme and should appeal to our community and prospective visitors in much the same way that Parks activities and facilities do.

**VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, mentioned that he is excited that Springfield is hosting the State conference, so that we may showcase our City and highlight our park system to other professionals.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**XI. CALENDAR**

The Park Board Social at Mediacom Ice Park is scheduled for Friday, February 13. The next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2015, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. John Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.