

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

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shyrack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Members Present: Phyllis Ferguson, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger, Tim Shyrack, Chair.

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, Matt Bailey, John Price

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, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Sarah McCallister made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2015, Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. JORDAN VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed Ms. Olivia Hough, Senior Planner with the City of Springfield and staff liaison to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee (JVAC). The Park Board has had great representation on JVAC, with Tim Shyrack as the Past Chair, and Phyllis Ferguson, who was just appointed to JVAC. With Jeff Cumley and staff managing the Jordan Valley Park area, we are familiar with the master plan developments. Ms. Hough shared a powerpoint presentation regarding the background of the Jordan Valley Master Plan, which began in late 1990's as a result of the Vision 20/20 Planning Process. The actual concept plan was adopted by City Council in 2005. The vision for the Jordan Valley area was to give this area its own identity, revive a sense of "civic" importance, add value to the community, and remain timeless. Ms. Hough reviewed recent projects such as The Commons, and the future plans of the area to improve the greenway trail, add a play feature, and additional elements and landscaping to the Sister Cities Plaza within The Commons site. Another site within the Plan is the West Meadows area in which 18 acres of greenspace were reclaimed, 20 trees will be planted annually, and the historic Fulbright Spring was discovered. In the future, the JVAC Master Plan states to add 4,000 linear feet of trail. Ms. Hough reviewed the updated document with the latest graphic that includes recent completed projects. Ms. Hough reported that most of the improvements have been done through partnerships with various agencies at the federal, state, and local levels such as EPA, DNR, HUD, Capital Improvement Sales Tax, Federal Railroad, as there are no funds

dedicated to the Jordan Valley Master Plan. Mr. Shryack commented that he appreciated Ms. Hough's knowledge of the projects and sharing the background of the plan.

IV. BETTY AND BOBBY ALLISON MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Belote mentioned that Bobby Allison was recognized for he and his mother's generous contributions to the Park Board and the Springfield community at the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Awards Banquet held in Springfield on February 26, 2015. Some of Mr. Allison's contributions include being responsible for the Miracle League Ballfield at Dan Kinney Park, along with the enhanced playground, landscaping, and signage in Westport Park, and the many improvements to the Betty Allison Golf Course at Oscar Blom. In continuing with Mr. Allison's giving nature, he is interested in enhancing the Miracle Field experience for everyone involved and is proposing adding a new video board to the current scoreboard sign. In addition, a special "Celebrating Life" plaque has been proposed to be installed on the wall inside of the pavilion at the Miracle Field. The plaque will tell the story of the Miracle Field and its meaning. We will also recognize our past Miracle League players who have passed away by having their jersey and name on the outfield wall of the ballfield. Mr. Park reviewed the proposed project plans with the Board and stated that staff recommends the enhancements, which would be significant donation from Mr. Allison, for the completion of the project. Mr. Belote stated that the enhancements will be maintained and operated consistently with park ordinances including turning off the video board when the park closes. Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to accept the donation from Mr. Allison and to approve the proposal presented for the enhanced scoreboard and Celebrating Life plaque to be added to the pavilion; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

V. CVB BRANDING CAMPAIGN AND DEPARTMENTAL MARKETING REPORT

Ms. Diana Tyndall, Parks Marketing Coordinator, stated that the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau unveiled their new marketing campaign at the Salute to Travel and Tourism event last month. The CVB reviewed their data on who travels to the Springfield area and what makes southwest Missouri such a great place to visit. The campaign appeals to the traveler within 3-4 hours driving distance, who enjoy our arts and culture, and for communities who rely on our education, healthcare and technology. Springfield also offers great outdoor opportunities, which include park activities and trail events, so we are excited about the potential of visitors to our community. In addition, Ms. Tyndall discussed other advertising opportunities such as 417 Magazine, which provided a scaled-down Parks directory and an ad for our golf courses. We appreciate the partnership with 417 Magazine as we receive a huge presence on their website, as well. Ms. Tyndall has been meeting with media outlets and spreading the word about the various park activities, events, leagues, and classes we offer. The "Welcome to Springfield" magazine that is distributed in area hotels featured Mediacom Ice Park on the cover of the January/February issue, and the March/April issue will feature the Cherry Blossom Kite Festival, which is April 11. Ms. Tyndall continues to build relationships with past and current sponsors, along with developing new partnerships with potential sponsors.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Cumley for hosting the Park Board social at Mediacom Ice Park and arranging for Park Board Members, Scott Bailes and Mike Mellinger, to drop the puck for the start of the 417 Express hockey game. Mr. Cumley announced that MSU Ice Bears and the 417 Express both made the playoffs in their respective leagues. MSU Ice Bears were able to bypass regional competition and invited straight to the national championships. We are proud of both of these teams that call Mediacom Ice Park their "home" and wish them the best of luck in their post-season competition.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath reported that the School-Park section hosted a 3-on-3 basketball tournament as a fundraiser for the Park Board Scholarship fund. This year we had 38 teams and raised nearly \$2,000, which is double from last year's tournament. The National Home School Basketball Championships recently held their tournament in Springfield for the seventh time. With 338 teams, 30 area gymnasiums were used throughout the community, including the Park Board's gyms at O'Reilly-Tefft, Chesterfield and Doling Family Centers. Last year's economic impact was over 3.6 million, so this tournament will again have a significant impact for our community. The Skatepark is accepting reservations for birthday parties and has two scheduled for April. Park Operations staff have done a great job getting facilities up and ready for spring league practices and games. Mr. Shryack, Park Board Chair, was honored to throw out the first pitch for the MSU Women's Softball at a recent home game.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated her office has been busy with weather updates and program cancellations and appreciated the staff's cooperation in relaying information in a timely manner. Ms. Edwards continues as a member of the Community Focus Report Committee that reports blue ribbons/red flags within our community. Coming soon to Springfield will be the Animal Planet show, "Finding Big Foot". Producers are working with Ms. Edwards to visit the site near Camp Winoka and the Old Iron Bridge where there was an alleged sighting in 1988. Ms. Edwards stated that we received good media attention of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference and Awards Ceremony in which Kim Reser, Assistant Director, received the Associate Fellow Award, and Bobby and Betty Allison received the MPRA Citation Award.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore stated that the recent weather has slightly delayed pre-spring related maintenance and program activities. Special Facilities staff attended the MPRA Conference Vendor Expo to see the latest developments in maintenance equipment. Staff is implementing a Critical App for employee phones, which is similar to as Amber Alert that staff already utilize at special events and summer camps. Mr. Moore reported that staff has worked with Missouri Department of Conservation and City Utilities to divide Lake Springfield Park into zones to better manage each entity's resources and the park more efficiently.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that this month's safety topic was inspection of equipment including a presentation and hands-on training component. The Botanical Center participated in the Lawn and Garden Show at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, with a booth displaying landscaping and information about the variety of

programs and activities at the Botanical Center and throughout the park system. There were 31,000 pounds of litter removed from parks and facilities last month.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker reported that City Council approved the Friends of the Zoo property acquisition across from the Dickerson Park Zoo. FOZ will proceed with completing the real estate contract transaction. The Zoo recently set a new record of 67 Friends of the Zoo memberships sold in one day.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser has been attending several civic organization meetings, including the Neighborhood Advisory Council, in which Park Board member, Phyllis Ferguson, is co-chair of the Committee. We have great partnerships with our neighborhood groups, and we appreciate their efforts to support and enhance the programs and activities we provide. "Easter at the Farm" will be held at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park on March 28.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park mentioned that Mr. Peter Longley is conducting several oil painting workshops and a series on American Historical Gardens this month at the Botanical Center. Parks will be working with Public Works to complete the construction document of the Route 66 Roadside Park, although at this time, there is no funding for the project. The weather has delayed the relocation of the Timmons Temple to Silver Springs Park, but the move should take place within the next 30 days. Mr. Park stated that Dennis McMan, Senior Park Planner, has been preparing tree planting plans for several park sites, developing construction documents for two trails, and designing accessible ramps at the Davis Property. Mr. Park reported that Parks has a joint nursery with Public Works where we grow trees in a controlled environment until they are ready to be planted within parks to minimize expenses.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Botanical Center has updated their gardens map and a copy has been provided to Park Board members today. The Sister Cities Annual Meeting will be held March 13 at the Old Glass Place beginning at 6:30 pm. Mr. Belote mentioned that he, Paul Nahon, and John Cooper will attend the Mylan World TeamTennis Draft and accompanying WTT Ownership meetings for the 20th season of the Springfield Lasers on March 14-18. Mr. Belote thanked the MPRA Conference Committee who put together an educational and fun conference for the nearly 500 delegates who attended the four-day conference. Mark Fenton was an inspiring and energetic keynote speaker. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon made a guest appearance to push trail and park use throughout the state. We rounded out the event with entertaining and relaxing socials, which included live music on three evenings. We were honored to award Bobby Allison with the MPRA Citation Award and Kim Reser with the Associate Fellow Award.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Park Board Chair, indicated that he thought the MPRA Conference was great, and a good opportunity to showcase the park system and the community with the many park professionals throughout the state.

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 is Friday, April 10, 2015, at 8:30 am. It will be held at the Davis House and Property.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to end the Park Board meeting and to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Phyllis Ferguson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 10:10 am.