

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, April 10, 2015
David House & Property, 5780 S. FR 141, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

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

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

Members Absent: Phyllis Ferguson

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Amy Francka, Karen Herron, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Sarah McCallister made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2015, Park Board Meeting, and the March 13, 2015, Closed Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAVIS HOUSE AND PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed the Board to the Davis House and Property. He explained that Greene County acquired the house and land several years ago in preparation for an eventual expansion of Kansas Expressway. Greene County only needed a portion of the land for the highway expansion at the time, so they approached former Director, Jodie Adams, about Parks utilizing or purchasing the land for Park use. With the close proximity to several Park sites including Rivercut Golf Course, Missouri Institute of Science at Riverbluff Cave, and Kreider Park, and along with the fact that we did not have a current parks sales tax opportunity to acquire, expand or develop land in this area, the Board approved for us to move forward to work with Greene County on a mutually beneficial use agreement. We are currently in year 2 of that 10 year lease agreement at no additional cost to the taxpayers. The agreement has allowed us to develop the property to create an indoor and outdoor archery range, a headquarters for the Community Olympic Development Program (CODP), and begin opening up the corridor for the Kreider Park property development. We hope to purchase the property from Greene County in the future, but that is dependent upon identifying a successful capital funding source.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager, has been instrumental with coordinating the move of CODP staff to the Davis House. The CODP program has participated in fundraising activities and used their own budget to provide office furnishings for the CODP staff. We are proud to have Coaches that learn from the USOC Olympic Training Center in Colorado and bring these skills to train youth in the community at the highest levels. USOC officials recently visited the property and were pleased with our new facilities. We have also set up a Park Ranger office to create more visibility and accessibility for park locations on the south side of town.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services, worked with his staff to transform the garage and storage area into an indoor archery range, which includes a storage/repair area, check-in station, and an indoor viewing area in a climate controlled building. Jon's crews have also been instrumental with parking, roadway, and handicap accessibility issues.

Ms. Amy Francka, CODP Archery Coach, shared the current archery lessons that are available, along with the future plans for the program. Upgrades to the outdoor field area are planned with additional funding, so that national tournaments can be hosted on site. Missouri State University's Archery Team currently practices at the facility. Archery equipment is available to borrow for the Learn to Shoot classes. Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, asked if there were plans to expand the CODP program to include other Olympic sports. Mr. Belote stated that we are exceptionally proud of what we have been able to provide to the community so far and will continue to evaluate our ability to expand and offer other possible sports such as ice sports, golf, and equestrian, only when additional financial resources are identified and those new programs can be fully sustainable.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, commented that through the agreement we provide maintenance of the property, but appreciated the assistance of Greene County for the widening of the Davis House driveway. Greene County crews performed the necessary work, and we reimbursed them for time and materials. Greene County has been very supportive of the recent improvements made at the property.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we will have an Open House event for the Davis Property on Saturday, June 6, 2015, in conjunction with the CODP Golf Tournament and fund-raiser, in which the proceeds benefit the CODP programs.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her office has been promoting sports programs and events this past month, along with press releases regarding the 20th season of the Springfield Lasers. Timmons Temple was recently moved to its final destination in Silver Springs Park, which created a lot of media interest and spectators came by to watch the move take place. The next "Know Your Parks" TV show is scheduled for April 22. Ms. Edwards mentioned that the SATO48 amateur filmmaking contest is underway. Our community parks are frequently used as background locations for this amateur contest. Opening night for the Miracle Field leagues is this Monday, April 13. Ms. Edwards informed the Board that the Fassnight Creek Greenway and Stormwater Project dedication will be held on April 30 at 11 am just east of Fassnight Park. Following the May 8, Park Board meeting, we will dedicate Betty's Clubhouse at Rivercut Golf Course.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that the controlled burn on the Native Prairie at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park was completed. Despite inclement weather conditions, the Easter at the Farm event was successful. Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center has had great success with their horse riding lessons. Valley Water Mill Park staff and

the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks are working together to repair the boardwalk near the Watershed Committee's office, which is within Valley Water Mill Park.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that with the nice weather, a lot of citizens visited the parks in March. The month of April signified the opening of all drinking fountains within parks and updating the timers for light poles due to Daylight Savings Time. The Park Ops staff are working on an extensive landscape bed renovation project at Doling Park. Staff collected nearly 50,000 pounds of litter for the month.

On behalf of Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath and Ms. Kim Reser Mr. Belote reported the following information: College sports practices and games have already begun this season. Adult sports leagues started this week, and youth sports leagues start next week. Tonight is the opening night of Springfield Cardinals, and our Miracle League spring leagues begin next week with over 160 participants, which nearly doubled last year's numbers. Online registration is available for summer camps. ArtsFest is scheduled for May 2nd and 3rd on historic Walnut Street. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated Ms. Lana Woolsey for handling recent Sunshine requests and legal matters, and Mr. Jerry Mitchell for assisting with several financial situations and keeping staff up-to-date on our budget situation.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that it has been a busy time of year with schools taking field trips and many schools in the area have been on spring break. The Party for the Planet event is scheduled for April 18. Friends of the Zoo completed the real estate transaction and took possession of the property directly across the street from the Zoo. Friends of the Zoo will partner with the Springfield Sister Cities organization and host a Cinco de Mayo event on May 5 at Farmer's Park on Republic Road.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director The Cherry Blossom Kite and Pinata Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 from 11 am to 3 pm. This event is free with some activities requiring a small fee. The Mizumoto Stroll Garden is open for the season Thursday through Monday from 9 am to sunset. Free tram rides throughout the gardens are given on weekends from 1 pm to 5 pm. The Master Gardners will host their plant sale on April 25, with the proceeds donated to maintain the gardens. Mr. Park is working with the architectural firm for the next phase of the Route 66 Roadside Park and West Meadows area, although the project remains unfunded at this time. Tree City USA is celebrating their 30th anniversary in Springfield today by planting 30 trees around the city. A ceremony will be held at 4:00 pm. Mr. Park stated that the contractor hired to move Timmons Temple indicated that this was the heaviest structure he has moved, weighing 440,000 pounds. The move to Silver Springs Park went very well with several spectators standing nearby. Fundraising efforts continue for the completion of the move, interior upgrades, and future operations of the facility. Recently Great Southern Bank donated funds to repair the roof for the facility.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote distributed the upcoming 20th Season scheduled of the Springfield Lasers. The number one top-rated U.S. male player, John Isner, will play for the Springfield Lasers on Saturday, July 25, with a possibility of a second night guest appearance.

Mr. Belote stated that we recently were made aware of changes to the State of Missouri open carry laws for firearms. We have now fully educated our Park Rangers and briefed staff that patrons with a valid conceal and carry permit are allowed to open carry their gun unless otherwise posted that conceal and carry weapons are prohibited, which often applies to indoor

and contained park facilities. He appreciated Ms. Lana Woolsey's thorough research on the issue, as well as that of Tina Treat in City's Law Department.

Mr. Belote stated that second round of interviews for the Assistant Director position have been conducted, and he hopes to make an announcement soon of the candidate selected. The pool included many high caliber applicants with excellent administrative experience.

Mr. Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager

Mr. Tim Smith stated that periodically he will visit Park Board meetings to continue keeping the lines of communication open and to stay abreast on current park functions. He will also present information about what is going on in the City Manager's Office. Mr. Smith stated that discussion continues within the Joint City/County Task Force. It is the first of its kind in Greene County to discuss challenging and complex issues such as environmental mandates, criminal justice system and budgetary stability. It will take both entities to solve these issues. Mr. Smith shared information being discussed involving the issues and even the potential of a future joint parks/stormwater sales tax to address the mandates and park development issues like we have in the past. He indicated he would continue to keep the Board updated on future discussions involving these important issues.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated that citizens should get outside this spring and visit the parks and take advantage of the wonderful park system.

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 will be Friday, May 8, 2015, at 8:30 am at the Connie Morris Learning Center at Rivercut Golf Course. The dedication of Betty's Clubhouse and Playground will follow the Board Meeting at 10:30 am.

Mr. John Price invited everyone to attend the Cindo de Mayo celebration with Sister Cities and Friends of the Zoo on Tuesday, May 5 at Farmer's Park.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. John Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.