

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

Friday, May 8, 2015

**Connie Morris Learning Center, at Rivercut Golf Course, 2846 W. Farm Road 190
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: none

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Amy Francka, Karen Herron, Steve King, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Rick Grayson, Heart of the Ozarks Junior Golf Foundation, and several members of the Rhoades Golf Group from the Rivercut Subdivision

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2015, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed the Board to the Connie Morris Center at Rivercut Golf Course. Mr. Belote introduced Mr. Rick Grayson, co-founder of the Heart of the Ozarks Junior Golf Foundation. Mr. Grayson mentioned that after the Board meeting today we would dedicate the new Betty's Clubhouse, a one-of-a-kind 35-feet tall fun house/club house. Children, when accompanied by an adult, can use the clubs and golf balls free of charge on the 4-hole Betty Allison Junior Course. The Heart of the Ozarks Junior Golf Foundation has donated nearly 2 million dollars to golf activities and facilities for juniors to learn the game of golf over the past decade.

Mr. Belote also welcomed members of the Rhoades Golf Group, many of whom live in the Rivercut neighborhood and have played at Rivercut since it opened. Recently, some concerns were expressed about the maintenance of Rivercut by the Rhoades Group. Mr. Belote explained that we have had indeed experienced a few unique operational and personnel challenges in recent months that have impacted Rivercut's operation and caused us to fall behind on a few critical tasks. We appreciate the correspondence with the Rhoades Group, and we have already addressed a number of these related issues earlier this week. It will take continued diligence to address all the concerns, but we will do our best to complete our commitments.

III. PARK BOARD ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, has been overseeing the Park Board's volunteer program for the last five years. Ms. McGrath explained the history of the screening and qualifying process of our volunteers. In 2009, we became part of the National Recreation and Parks Association national volunteer program, TLC2 Making Communities Safe. As a charter member of this initiative, we agreed to establish a consistent volunteer management process and follow a strict protocol in the screening identification and training of all Park Board volunteers. We celebrate that volunteers play a critical role in the programs, activities, and operation of many of our programs, events, and facilities. A summary of the last five years showing the number of volunteers screened and the number of volunteer hours recorded was shared with the Board. In 2014, we recorded 73,171.55 volunteer hours, which equates to \$1,511,168.58 of donated time. It would be the equivalent of 47 full-time employees. We attract a diverse group of volunteers, and the areas with the highest number of volunteers are: Dickerson Park Zoo: 12,655 hours; Northview Center: 13,504 hours; Botanical Center: 26,442 hours. During National Volunteer Week, our sections have a variety of ways in which we celebrate our volunteers and recognize their many hours of service to the Park Board. Mr. Belote stated that our volunteers have a significant impact on our system. We work with over 300 organizations annually, and we appreciate everyone's commitment to assist our park system in a variety of ways.

Mr. Steve King, Golf Professional at Rivercut, welcomed everyone to the Connie Morris Learning Center. He mentioned that over the next several days we will host the National Home School Golf Championships with 65 high school youth from across the country. We will also host the Missouri State High School Boys Golf Championships on May 18 and 19, with 90 high school boys competing for the prestigious title. Mr. King also acknowledged the Rhoades Group for their volunteer service with several tournaments throughout the year.

IV. RAILROAD HISTORY MUSEUM DEPOT PROJECT REVIEW

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, provided background information about the proposed Railroad History Museum Train Depot Project at Grant Beach Park. The Railroad History Museum is operated by a group of dedicated individuals, many of who are retired railroad engineers or just have an interest in the preservation of railroad history. The Museum is open on Saturdays from 2-4 pm, May through October, or by special request. The Railroad History Museum Board has raised the required funds for the project, which will be a 600 square foot building that will serve as a point of arrival and provide additional space for historical displays. It will be an added amenity to the renovated locomotive, baggage car and caboose. The Board expressed continued support for this project, as well as the Railroad History Museum in general.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Belote reported that the Nominating Committee continues to accept applications for perspective Board members.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that the recent favorable weather conditions have been good for the animals and the crops at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. We are in the process of building a new play area and trail, which will include a pond and butterfly garden. The Botanical Center staff is assisting with plant selection that will help attract butterflies. Mr. Moore stated that recently the Special Facilities division received donations of plants from Wal-Mart and Cabbage Patch Nursery. In partnership with Missouri Department of Conservation, we are offering free fishing classes. The first class had 80 participants at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Mr. Moore reported that we continue to work with MDC and City Utilities in reviewing the impact the vegetation in Lake Springfield has on fishing and recreational activities. At Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center, three horse shows were held in the indoor arena.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that the weather in April was overall warmer and dryer, with warm days and cool nights. This type of weather provides optimal growing conditions, but then presents more of a challenge to keep up with the growing activity. On April 5, we hosted the Cherry Blossom Kite Festival. With good weather and the cherry blossom trees in full bloom, we had great attendance at the event. Park Operations staff is preparing the pools for opening weekend coming up soon. Spring and summer leagues are in session, so our turf crews are staying busy keeping up with the intense schedule of practice and games. Our landscape crew continues to work on the large project in front of Doling and Northview Centers. Mr. Carney reported that we have begun working with the Environmental Services Department on increasing our recycling program throughout the park system.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath reported that youth and adult leagues are underway this spring and summer registration deadlines are fast approaching. The Miracle League has 160 participants for the spring season. We currently have 293 members at the Skatepark. We will host a special event at the Skatepark on June 21 called "Go Skateboarding Day" with information about learn how to skate classes, games, and contests. Outdoor pools open May 23. Artsfest was well attended this year thanks to the good weather for the weekend of May 2 and 3rd.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Manager Mr. Cumley reported that Mediacom Ice Park hosted an ice show with 70 skaters on April 17 and 18. The "Give Ozarks Day", an online fundraising event hosted by Community Foundation of the Ozarks, was held at Jordan Valley Park, and included over 50 local charities with booths to raise awareness and funds for their organization. In 24 hours, over \$900,000 was raised. The Community Olympic Development Program will host a benefit golf tournament at Rivercut Golf Course on June 6, with the proceeds benefitting the program. The golf tournament will follow an open house at the Davis Property which is from 9 am to 11 am the same day.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that the spring episode of "Know Your Parks" features the Skatepark, including some skate boarding demonstrations. We also recorded a segment on the summer job opportunities at the Park Board including positions for lifeguards, concessions workers, and cashiers. The moving of Timmons Temple to Silver Springs Park was recorded, and the video is available to review online.

The "Give Ozarks" Campaign was a new event for the community and has a lot of potential to grow in the future. The Park Board participated in this inaugural event and the Miracle League and Park Board Scholarship fund received several donations. Ms. Edwards is confident that next year we will have even greater success. On May 26, we have partnered with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks for a scavenger hunt type activity designed to help citizens discover fun and healthy activities within the community.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that she recently has been attending Neighborhood Committee meetings as part of the City Manager's initiative to meet and listen to citizens about their topics of concern and interest. The meetings have been informative, and the citizens have shared that they would like to see more park programming in their areas and cited a few areas where they would like facility improvements. The neighborhood groups appreciated the improvements made in parks so far and would like to see more. Mr. Belote stated that we began our push to restore and enhance our older neighborhood parks during our 2013 Centennial Celebration, and we plan to continue improvements in the parks each year as funding is available. Mr. Belote reported that one of the community's strong supporters of neighborhood partnerships is Phyllis Ferguson, who until recently, served as a Park Board member. We are confident she will continue that involvement as she begins her new role as a City Council member. Mr. Belote mentioned that he is appreciative of Ms. Maria Johnston who serves as our neighborhood liaison including helping to coordinate the many neighborhood night out events and other activities that we have in the parks in August.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that there are several upcoming events at the Botanical Center in May including National Public Gardens Day on May 8, Young Sprouts in the Garden on May 16, which is a hands-on, free activity. On May 23rd, we will have a dedication of the Founders Garden, which honors the founders of the Friends of the Garden, who had the vision and worked to help create the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Mr. Park stated that the Timmons Temple was placed over the foundation, the hydraulic lifts have been removed, and staff is building the foundation walls. Restoration work will follow soon. The Save Timmons Temple group continues in their fundraising efforts to provide for cover the restoration work and other necessary tasks to make the facility a safe and usable structure.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that several hundred people attended the Friends of the Zoo and Sister Cities Cindo de Mayo first time event recently held at the Farmer's Park. On Mother's Day, moms can visit the zoo for free, which usually is one of the busiest days of the year. The new locomotive for the Zoo should be arriving soon, and the retired engineers that drive the train are excited to begin driving it.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the candid and honest conversations with the Rhoades group regarding the course conditions at Rivercut. He explained that we have had some difficulties filling the golf superintendent's position after the person retired in the fall. We have been reviewing the position responsibilities and are working to reclassify the position in order to be more competitive from a compensation perspective. Through this process, we will continue our efforts to make sure Rivercut provides the high quality golf experience that it has been recognized and honored for in the past. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated the golf staff, from Stewart and Horton Smith Golf Course, who have been helping out the staff at Rivercut. Additionally, Mr. Belote appreciates the patrons who frequent

Rivercut Golf Course, who took time to share their concerns because it shows how much they truly care about the course.

Mr. Belote stated that Parks Administration will begin reviewing potential parks/stormwater projects, along with items suggested in the Field Guide 2030 and the Vision 2020 documents. The most critical projects will be prioritized and shared with the Board for future discussions.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Scott Bailes, Board member, mentioned that the Springfield Cardinals recently held a special night at the ballpark honoring Officer Aaron Pearson, who was injured in the line of duty. He said it was a good event and many supporters attended.

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Board member, thanked the Park Board staff on behalf of Missouri State University, for their efforts in helping with MSU's accreditation site visit and social event. MSU received very positive feedback and results from the site visit and appreciates the partnership that they have with the Park Board.

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated he appreciated the volunteer report and the many volunteers who assist the Park Board with programs, activities, and events.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

- a. The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be at the Springfield Skatepark on Friday, June 12, at 8:30 am.
- b. The Park Board will host a social at the Springfield Cardinals game in the City of Springfield suite on Monday, June 22.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Sarah McCallister made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.