

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, June 12, 2015
Springfield Skatepark, 945 W. Meadowmere, 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: Amanda Becker, Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Kris Cottrell, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Greater Springfield Board of Realtors: Jessica Hickok, Rachael Shepherd, Ava Snyder

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. John Price made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2015, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Belote welcomed and introduced Mr. Jim Fisher, our new Assistant Director, who joined the Park Board on June 1. Mr. Fisher shared information about his career and family, and that he was looking forward to his new duties with the Park Board.

III. SPRINGFIELD SKATEPARK UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, welcomed the Park Board to the Springfield Skatepark facility. Ms. McGrath stated that the management of the Skatepark officially transferred to the Park Board in September, 2014. The transition has been a collaborative project with the assistance of many people. Our Park Operations staff has worked to repair and maintain ramps and equipment used by our patrons. We have also enhanced our security inside and outside of the facility. With the assistance of Information Systems staff, we have installed new phones and updated Internet capacities. The Skatepark now has a well-stocked concessions and pro shop area. Ms. McGrath appreciated the help of many other Recreation Division staff who helped by preparing new membership forms and providing computer and POS training.

Ms. Amanda Becker is the Community Recreation Coordinator at the Skatepark facility. She stated that the number one goal at the facility is safety, including safety equipment for the patrons and the maintenance of the various ramps and bowls. Ms. Becker is appreciative of how responsive our Park Operations staff has been to the facilities needs. Hours for the Skatepark have been updated to match other Park Board facilities. Several experienced skateboarders have been helpful to new members and providing them with some basic knowledge of the sport. Currently, the Skatepark facility has 293 members, which is up nearly 60 memberships since January. Mr. Kris Cottrell, the Community Recreation Specialist, who worked for the Skatepark previously, has been most helpful during the transition. Mr. Cottrell oversees the high quality apparel and equipment that is stocked in the Pro Shop, along with providing a wider variety of food options in the concessions area. Ms. McGrath mentioned we are hosting "Go Skateboarding Day" on June 21 from noon to 4:30 pm. There will be learn- to-skate classes, contests, and prizes throughout the day. Two graphic artists will also be giving away some custom-designed skateboards, along with creating two graffiti art display pieces that will be hung in the facility.

IV. SPRINGFIELD REALTORS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, stated that the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors Association wanted to give back to the community by enhancing one of the areas in Phelps Grove Park. The Rose Garden at Phelps Grove Park started to decline due to a plant disease that attacked the roses. The only way to rid the area of the disease is to remove all plants and renovate the area. Representatives from the GSBORA were in attendance of today's Board meeting to present the Chair a check in the amount of \$2,200.00 towards the renovation of the rose garden area. Ms. Jessica Hickock stated that their organization applied for a national grant and was awarded the funds for a local project to enhance their community. Ms. Ava Snyder stated that as realtors they wanted to help keep Springfield a great place to live and raise a family. Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, accepted the check on behalf of the Board and indicated how much the Park Board appreciated their support. Without our partnerships, we simply could not accomplish all that we do.

V. JORDAN VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Ms. Lana Woolsey stated that the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee is an advocate for Parks and for city-wide development of the Jordan Valley Area. It was created in 1998 by the Park Board, and the Rules of by-laws were formally adopted in 2006. A proposed change to the Rules of Procedure has been recommended by the JVAC regarding the membership of the Committee. JVAC proposes to amend the Rules by stating the Park Board can appoint someone to serve on the committee if they are current or retired Park Board member or other individuals who have demonstrated an interest in Parks. Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to approve the updated Jordan Valley Advisory

Committee Rules of Procedure; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that on behalf of the Nominating Committee, we have received applications to replace those three Park Board members leaving the Board due to residency or resignation. We plan have those recommendations to the City Manager's Office for formal consideration very shortly.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that he will be providing a monthly financial update instead of quarterly update to the Board as was recently requested. He mentioned that revenues appear to be strong and June sales tax numbers are up from last year. Mr. Mitchell believes we will finish the fiscal year in good shape, though we will not know July and August sales tax numbers until the end of August. Mr. Belote stated that should we experience a budget surplus once all revenues and expenditures have been recorded, some of the funds will be used to continue building our reserve fund for Parks. We will continue to monitor the budget situation closely just as we do throughout the year.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that over the last six months, his crews have been working on several projects at the Skatepark facility. They include painting, installation of garage doors, repair of equipment and plumbing in the restrooms, and removal of graffiti in the bowls. He appreciates the knowledge of the Skatepark staff on ramp safety and the necessary maintenance to keep all surfaces smooth for our patrons. Rainfall always affects the Park Operations Maintenance Staff, and this past month, rainfall was reported on 23 days. Opening day of pool season was a huge endeavor and most pools experienced little difficulty with the start of the season, except for Meador Pool. A leak was discovered over Memorial Day weekend. The staff has been narrowing down the source of the leak with the help of Cleanwater Services and their camera operation staff. Significant rain took place on May 30 just before the start of a tournament at Cooper and Meador Parks, but staff had fields ready to go on time. Mr. Carney reported that the Golf Superintendents are working well together as a team to address.

Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park also thanked the Environmental Services staff who has been helping with the process of eliminating which pipes might be causing the leak at Meador Pool. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated the understanding of several community groups and rentals that had to be moved to other locations because of the leak.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that the last “Know Your Parks” television show featured skaters and bicyclists on location at the Skatepark. Ms. Edwards reported that our long-time television host recently resigned. The host has been with the show since it started in 2007. Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, shared information about several events coming up including Snowfest, along with HGTV’s host, Paul James, who will make a guest appearance at the Botanical Center, and Outdoor Initiatives with many camping and other outdoor activities for families. Ms. Tyndall mentioned that with the help of a MSU student working on a final class project, they completed a brochure, Partner with the Parks. This brochure will provide information about several giving opportunities or ways individuals, businesses, or organizations can partner with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that we had three big tournaments three weekends in a row, which resulted in over 125 teams, along with their parents and spectators, coming to play either softball or baseball at Killian, Cooper, or Ewing Parks. Arlene Heaton, a cashier who had worked at Killian Complex for over 30 years, recently passed away. We offer our condolences to her family, in which several of them also work for the Park Board. At the Cooper Tennis Complex, we hosted a Division 2 National Region tournament, the Ozark Conference Championships, along with the Missouri USTA District tournament, which brought 1400 spectators to the complex. The Southwest Missouri Senior Games were held earlier this month, with 99 participants competing in over 20 events. The oldest participant was 85 years old and won three medals. Our family centers are partnering with the American Heart Association in a 12-week program for the Go Red for Women campaign. Ten participants will get customized training and guidance in fitness and nutrition, along with a membership to work-out during the program.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager Mr. Cumley stated that the Wednesday Lunch Concert series has started in Founders Park. Stop by during June at 12 noon and be treated to a variety of performances. Mr. Cumley stated he was pleased with the Open House and ribbon cutting ceremony at the Davis House on June 6. Our CODP Archery Program is growing in popularity since moving to the new location at the Davis House. Snowfest is scheduled for June 20 with live entertainment, art projects and recreation activities, and a large mountain of snow for everyone to enjoy. The Bass Pro Polar Bear Run is then held in Jordan Valley Park, including a special snow obstacle for participants to enjoy. Fireworks at the Field will be held at Hammons Field in celebration of the 4th of July. The Springfield Cardinals game begins at 6:10 pm, with a concert and fireworks to follow.

Mr. Bob Belote for Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Belote stated that Rutledge-Wilson Farm staff welcomed the addition of the “Grain Train”, which is similar to the “Cow Train”. The Kids Fishin’ Day held at Rutledge-Wilson Farm on June 6 was successful. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Valley Water Mill Park staff

works closely with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks as the organization is housed within the Park. It was suggested that it would be a good location for a future Park Board meeting. Mr. Belote mentioned that a News-Leader article recently indicated that some residents had concerns regarding the location of a Menard's retail store near Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Mr. Belote stated we are supportive of the commercial development, and that we do not anticipate any adverse impacts as a result of that development.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser has attended many of the "Community Listens" sessions; and we have had Parks staff at each session. We have been welcomed by the neighborhood groups, and it has been beneficial having established relationships with them during these forums. The neighborhood groups are interested in more socially-interactive programs to bring neighborhoods back together, and they feel that Parks are a good way to achieve that goal.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park stated that the new scorebarod and Celebration of Life signage have been completed at the Miracle Field in Dan Kinney Park, and he acknowledged the generosity of Mr. Bobby Allison for funding the project. Mr. Belote mentioned that we hoped to have a dedication of the new amenities. Mr. Park mentioned that recently www.tripadvisor.com awarded Nathanael-Greene Park with a Certificate of Excellence as the number one destination to visit in Springfield, with Mizumoto Stroll Garden at #10, the Springfield Botanical Gardens at #11, and the Springfield Botanical Center at #19. On June 27, the Springfield Botanical Center will welcome Paul James, former host of HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard". He will provide a 2-hour presentation, with a question and answer session. The note cards of Springfield landmarks at the Park Board members place today are compliments of the 2nd graders at Eugene Field Elementary. The children sold the note cards to raise money for the Save Timmons Temple group and raised over \$1,000. Mr. Park stated that Timmons Temple is now on its permanent foundation. Fund-raising efforts continue towards the project. Tim Rosenbury presented a progress briefing to the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee of the design work for the Route 66 Roadside Park. An overview of the next phase of the development was discussed; however, the project is still unfunded at this time.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker reported that the Dickerson Park Zoo hosted "Dream Night" on June 5, which is an internationally recognized event for chronically ill children. Zoo staff worked with local agencies, and they assisted with the distribution of invitations. There were approximately 1200 people in attendance. On Saturday, June 13, the Zoo will host the "Art Gone Wild" event. The Zoo welcomed a new male giraffe to their animal inventory. Mr. Crocker reported about the boardwalk that collapsed in the Zoo near the lake that intersects two areas of the Zoo. Although there were visitors on the bridge when it collapsed, there were no reported injuries. Staff is already working on a new design to replace the bridge, but it will be a challenging reconstruction process.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the Gift of Time event, which recognizes the outstanding volunteers within the community, will hold their luncheon on June 16. We have two volunteers who were nominated: Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, a long-time community supporter, who currently serves on the Springfield Sister Cities Board, and Mr. Don Snyder, who splits his time between the Springfield Botanical Center and the Northview Center. We appreciate the time and dedication of these volunteers. The City and County will be meeting to continue the discussion of funding needs. They will look at the most critical projects and review possible funding sources. Parks Administration has begun developing our own list of projects. Further discussion will take place with the Board at an upcoming workshop to review the most critical projects.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Mr. James Pike recently passed away and will be missed. Mr. Pike was a long-time Parks supporter and member of the Springfield Reunion Club. His sister, Jane Pike, is also a member of the Springfield Reunion Club and a City employee. Mr. Belote reminded the Board about the Park Board Social at the Springfield Cardinals' Game on June 22. Springfield Lasers 20th season begins July 12 with our first home match. Our next Park Board meeting will be held at Cooper Tennis Complex on July 10, 2015.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Shryack mentioned that he appreciated all of the staff's efforts who helped in the transition process at the Skatepark. Mr. Shryack also welcomed Mr. Jim Fisher on behalf of the Board members.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

- a. Park Board Social, Springfield Cardinals' Game, Monday, June 22, 2015, at 7:10 pm.
- b. Park Board Meeting, Cooper Tennis Complex, Friday, July 10, 2015, at 8:30 am.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Sarah McCallister made the motion to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 9:55 am.