

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, July 10, 2015
Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Matt Bailey, Paula Glossip, Kevin Hogan, Sarah McCallister, Mike Mellinger

Members Absent: John Price, Tim Shryack

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Larry Haugness, Karen Herron, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Paul Nahon, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager, Phyllis Ferguson, City Council Member

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2015, Park Board Meeting, and the June 12, 2015, Closed Session Meeting; seconded by Mr. Mike Mellinger. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD LASERS 2015 SEASON PREVIEW

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Mr. Paul Nahon, Springfield Lasers General Manager. Mr. Nahon stated he was a Springfield Lasers spectator and fan for 17 years and has been a staff member for over two years. He said that it is quite an accomplishment what the staff does during Lasers season, along with their regular staff responsibilities. Mr. Nahon shared player information about the 2015 Springfield Lasers Roster and several new amenities to enhance the fan experience. It is the 40th Anniversary of Mylan World TeamTennis, and a special brochure, along with the 2015 Media Guide, was provided for the Board members. It is also the 20th anniversary for our Springfield Lasers franchise.

Mr. Larry Haugness is our Community Tennis Coordinator. He stated that participation in community tennis is up by 10,000 people who are involved with tennis lessons, in the Academy Programs, or play in leagues, tournaments, or special events at Cooper Tennis

Complex, and other Park Board tennis facilities, such as Gillenwaters and Perry Tennis Courts. Over 136,000 people walk through doors at the Cooper Tennis Complex annually. Staff has been involved with several outreach programs with neighborhood groups, churches, and the Boys and Girls Clubs. Mr. Haugness stated that we will host the World TeamTennis National Qualifier for Recreational Leagues, with over 50 teams participating, on July 23-25, 2015.

IV. INVITATION TO PARK DAY REUNION 2015

Ms. Nora Englund, acting President of the Springfield Reunion Club, came to the Board meeting today to invite everyone to the annual Springfield Park Day Reunion on July 31-August 2, 2015. The weekend event kicks off with a social at University Plaza Hotel on Friday evening. On Saturday, there is a parade in the morning followed by a picnic in Silver Springs Park. Activities include a tennis, golf, and bowling tournament, along with a dinner and dance on Saturday evening. Sunday there is a gospel concert in the park. All activities are open to everyone. Mr. Belote stated that he is proud for us to partner with this dedicated group who provides a great event for the community. He extended his condolences to the family and friends of Mr. James Pike, former President of the Springfield Reunion Club, who passed away recently. Ms. Englund stated that she appreciated all of the Park Board staff's assistance, along with the Springfield Police department, and other groups that assist with the event.

Mr. Belote welcomed Ms. Phyllis Ferguson, current City Council member and former Park Board member. Ms. Ferguson stated that the 3rd Annual Dirt Day was held in Lafayette Park on June 6, 2015. This year, over 450 people came to the event to participate in various parks activities, including touch tennis. Several families signed up to play organized tennis at Lafayette Park. Ms. Ferguson said it hard to express to people the many accomplishments of the Parks staff unless you have been a part of an event with them. Ms. Ferguson presented a special poster and picture collage of the Dirt Day Event to Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Operations. Mr. Carney and his crews were instrumental in providing the "dirt" that served as a digging expedition to find hidden treasures.

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Vice Chair, presented Ms. Ferguson with a plaque recognizing her service on the Park Board. Ms. Ferguson was thankful for the plaque and for the opportunity to reconnect with Park Board members and staff.

V. MEADOR PARK

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, provided background information about how the leak at Meador Pool was discovered and the steps that we have taken to remedy the situation. The leak was discovered during Memorial Day weekend. With the help of Public Works Clean Water Services Division, many hours were spent using a special camera to determine the location of the leak. Once the source of the leak was located,

Mr. Todd Cox in Purchasing helped with the process to hire Continental Pools to repair the leak. We are replacing many pipes that were from the original construction of the pool in 1964. We appreciate the assistance of Drury and Missouri State who have been hosting our swim team practices while the pool is undergoing repair. The contractor is making good progress and is striving to complete the repairs in early August. The anticipated cost of the repairs at Meador Pool is \$153,000.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Belote stated that three nominee names are moving forward for City Council approval. The Nominating Committee will be accepting names for the 2015-2016 Slate of Officers and voting will take place at the August meeting.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath welcomed the Park Board to Cooper Tennis Complex. She mentioned that staff has been busy preparing for the start of Lasers season including hanging sponsor banners, assembling and learning the new scoreboard features, and painting the courts with new colors. Ms. McGrath mentioned that the Outdoor Initiatives Division participated in the River Rescue with over 125 volunteers helping to clean up debris and discarded tires from an approximate 5 mile area on June 6. The Special Events Division hosted the 34th Annual Kids Fishing Fun Day with Missouri Department of Conservation and Ozarks Coca Cola at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Over 160 kids, ages 3-13 years old, participated in a learn-to-catch activity. We had 12 participants and 18 volunteers from our Accessible Recreation program enjoy the 22nd Annual Float for Independence field trip. The Heart of the Ozarks Softball Tournament for 7-14 year old girls was held recently with 45 teams participating. The Park Operations turf crew did a remarkable job after an enormous rainfall to have the fields ready to go. On June 21, we hosted "Go Skateboarding Day" at the Skatepark with over 300 people participating in a variety of activities. Sponsors such as Monster Energy Drinks, Q-102 radio station, and Zume's, an apparel and accessory skateboard retail store, provided giveaways and prizes at the event. New and veteran skateboarder members attended the event. Two distinct art pieces were made on site by well-known local artists and will be displayed at the facility.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of Park Operations Mr. Carney mentioned that June was a difficult weather month with the record-breaking floods experienced at Rivercut. Water levels reached inside the Connie Morris building and the maintenance facility. Staff rotated schedules for 10 days cleaning up and completing the repairs to make the course open for play. Rivercut did reopen for play, then, was flooded again due to heavy rainfall. Cleaning crews have been again working to restore the course. Mr. Belote stated that we will continue our efforts to restore the course, including making decisions for a long-term solution to replace the bridge on the 6th hole that was washed away during the first flooding episode.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards has been busy preparing for Springfield Lasers season with articles and various media inquiries. The 20th season design was done by Kristen Milam, City Graphic Designer, who has recently been promoted. Her replacement will start July 27.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell provided a monthly financial report and stated that as of June 30, we are projecting that sales tax revenue will be up 4-5 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. In July, we are expecting the sales tax revenue to be up by 1 percent. We will not know the final financial numbers for the year-end June 30, 2015 until later this fall.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Belote stated that with the assistance of Ms. Lana Woolsey and the Human Resources Department, we have completed the reclassification process for Mr. Cumley's position. His new title is Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs.

Mr. Cumley stated that citizens are utilizing the Davis Property and participating in archery programs every day. We hosted the annual Snowfest event in Jordan Valley Park, and over 2,000 people came by to enjoy the activities and the huge mountain of snow. The Springfield Regional Art Council provided some free art in the park activities, too. Bass Pro hosted a Polar Bear run and participants ran through the snow, with their route ending in Hammons Field. Free ice-skating was available on July 4 at Mediacom Ice Park, too. Mr. Cumley stated that staff is making minor repairs, cleaning, and repainting various areas inside Mediacom Ice Park as part of their normal maintenance schedule.

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore reported that the rain actually helped with the hay harvest, and promoted growth for the mums, corn, and sunflowers at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. New hay bale safety surface steps were replaced steps were placed in the playground area. Mr. Moore stated that Special Facilities staff has become more involved with NRPA activities including participating in a monarch butterfly program. Mr. Moore stated that the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center camps have been very successful. At Lost Hill Park, we have a new caretaker on staff. Ms. Betty White, the goat, just had twins at the farm.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser attended the Community Listen sessions that were held in nine neighborhoods over the past few weeks. A list of concerns and challenges was developed and discussed with City and Park Leadership. The concerns included nuisance property, homeless issue, crime prevention, amenities needed and programming in parks. This group is now determining how to implement and accomplish the top five challenges over the next 18 months. Ms. Maria Johnston, Special Events Administrator, has been working with neighborhood groups and providing guidance and support for several neighborhood events, including National

Night Out and several related events in our neighborhood parks, as well. Mr. Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager, stated he appreciated Park staff involvement as we also have been collecting data regarding what neighborhoods would like to see in their parks.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that the 7th Annual Butterfly Festival was recently held at the Nathanael-Greene Close Memorial Park, which included a caterpillar petting zoo, art activities, and face painting. On July 17, The Gray-Campbell Farm will host a Fantastic Friday event featuring the Springfield-Greene County Library Bookmobile. Volunteers will read stories with kindergarten to 5th grade children. Currently, crews are performing grading work on the Timmons Temple site. Mr. Park stated that we have a significant population of resident Canadian Geese at Nathanael-Greene Close Memorial Park. We have recently met with the Missouri Department of Conservation to obtain recommendations in dealing with the geese.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that he recently met with our accreditation consultant to review the process and discuss what areas still needed attention. Mr. Fisher commented that staff has done a good job with the documentation submitted so far. A Park Board workshop may be conducted soon to review several documents that will require Board review and formal approval as part of the accreditation process.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the Patrons Party, in conjunction with the Ball of the Wild, was hosted by Mike and Lisa Wilhoit at their home. Tonight, the Friends of the Zoo signature event, Ball of the Wild, will be held at the White River Conference Center to raise money for the Dickerson Park Zoo. Staff is reviewing designs to replace the Zoo's boardwalk and plan for this to be a fall/winter project.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote thanked everyone who attended the Park Board Social at the Springfield Cardinals' game on June 22. Mr. Belote stated that we will help host the BMX Gold Cup National Event at Spokes BMX at Ewing Park on September 25-27. We anticipate 600-700 BMX riders to participate in the event.

Mr. Belote informed the Board that one of the City's stormwater project engineers, Mr. Todd Wagner, has accepted another position at City Utilities. Todd worked with us on several parks/stormwater projects such as Fassnight Park, Sequitota Park, Doling Park, and Drummond Lake. We appreciated Todd's dedication to design stormwater projects that were functional, while making these sites visually appealing with water features and natural landscaping.

Mr. Belote stated that this year Mylan World TeamTennis celebrates its' 40th year, and the Springfield Lasers celebrate their 20th season. We will have Mediacom coverage at five of the seven home matches this year.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Greene County officials recently discussed the possibility that we might be eligible to receive additional Parks Sales Tax funds from a domestic utility tax. We were reviewing that possibility, but Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant Attorney, reviewed the statutes in full, and parks and stormwater initiatives do not qualify as recipients of the tax.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Vice Chair, recognized two more Board members, Kevin Hogan and Mike Mellinger, for their service on the Board. Their professional knowledge and background provided great insight to the Board. Mr. Hogan stated that through his service on the Board, he has gained a better understanding of the role that Parks plays in the community. Mr. Mellinger stated that after living in the community where his children participated in a variety of park programs, it was an honor to serve on the Park Board.

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 will be Friday, August 14, 2015, at 8:30 am, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session as the item was discussed in the Director's Report.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mike Mellinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.