

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, August 14, 2015
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller
Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shyrack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Matt Bailey, Carolyn Gerdes, Bob Horton, Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, John Price, Tim Shyrack, Chair.

Members Absent: Paula Glossip

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

Guest: Jon Mooney, Springfield-Greene County Health Department

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed our three new Park Board members: Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Mr. Bob Horton, and Mr. Sidney Needem. All three of our new members have been extremely involved in the community with Bob and Sid having served previous terms on the Park Board and Carolyn being a former member of the Springfield City Council.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Sarah McCallister made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2015, Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. RAY KELLY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSAL

Jon Mooney, with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, has been working with Mercy Hospital, along with the City of Springfield Planning Department, to develop a community garden proposal for Ray Kelly Park. Mr. Mooney addressed the Board and reviewed the distributed proposal which identifies the need for a community garden near Ray Kelly Park to help address obesity, chronic disease issues, and increase the limited knowledge of how to grow and cook fresh vegetables. Mr. Mooney stated that more than 4,000 people live within ½ mile of the park, giving them high access to this community garden. A survey of the area surrounding the park indicates that there are no grocery stores within a ½ mile of the entire neighborhood. Mercy Hospital administration actually proposed the idea as part of their employee wellness program. With many senior adults already visiting Ray Kelly Center daily, the community garden would also help promote intergenerational interaction. Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, stated that we have been successful with the community garden at Grant Beach Park and the urban garden sites at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Mr. Belote stated that Park Board staff

support the Ray Kelly site proposal especially since there is power and water supply, along with restrooms, already available in the proposed area, which is an underutilized portion of the park site. Community garden activities will be programmed outside of peak activities at the Ray Kelly Center to decrease potential lack of parking spaces. Mr. Mooney also mentioned that the Health Department has \$2,500 in grant funds to assist with start-up materials and preparation of the community garden. Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to continue our involvement in developing an appropriate agreement for a proposed community garden in Ray Kelly Park; seconded by Mr. John Price. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Belote stated that he also appreciated the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's collaborative efforts with the InBalance program for City of Springfield employees.

IV. NATHANAEL-GREENE/CLOSE MEMORIAL PARK BAND SHELL PROPOSAL

Mr. Belote stated that we are working on another partnership project with former City Manager, and current Friends of the Garden member, Mr. Tom Finnie. Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, reviewed the site plan for the proposed band shell, which would be east of the Botanical Center parking lot. Made possible through fund-raising efforts by Mr. Finnie, this fully sustainable project would be utilized for concerts and weddings and can accommodate from 200-800 people depending upon the staging arrangements. The band shell will use architectural elements from the Botanical Center and will enhance the existing garden areas. The proposal also includes an endowment for on-going maintenance of the band shell. Discussion continued regarding the exact direction the band shell faces due to concern about sun light into the performers eyes. Dennis McMan, Senior Parks Planner, is working with Tim Rosenbury on the architectural drawings including appropriate landscaping and elevation plan to assist with addressing this concern. Mr. John Price made the motion to approve the concept of the proposed band shell in Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park and authorize Park Board staff to work with Tim Rosenbury and Tom Finnie to finalize the proposal; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee: On behalf of Paula Glossip, Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Belote distributed the Ballot for the 2015-2016 Officers Elections. Mr. Belote also stated that the Nominating Committee would like for the Board to review the Bylaws over the next year for consideration that the Chair and Vice Chair positions be elected to two-year terms. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Tim Shryack and Dr. Sarah McCallister for their past year of service as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. The Ballots were distributed to the Board. After reviewing and tallying the ballot sheets, it was determined that Mr. Tim Shryack and Dr. Sarah McCallister were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for 2015-2016, with Mr. Belote serving as Secretary to the Board in his role as Director.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley stated that with the recent warm weather, a lot of people have been enjoying the fountain area of Jordan Valley Park. Mediacom Ice Park is in the process of switching over to hockey season with the 417 Express hosting tryouts and the Missouri State Ice Bears beginning practice.

Missouri State Ice Bears will move up to Division I play this season. As part of the Route 66 Festival, the lot next to the Expo will serve as a drive-in movie theater, showing the movie, "Cars," on Friday, August 14. Guests can enjoy the movie sitting in chairs in front of the Expo wall or listening in their car. Movies at Founders Park continue with Friday night billed as family-friendly movie night and Saturday night as date night at the movies.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that the Cooper Tennis Complex hosted the USTA Missouri District Adult League Championships and the Missouri District Junior Team Tennis Championships during the same weekend. Cooper Tennis staff pros hosted a play day for children before each of the seven home Lasers matches this season. On July 22, we held a Laser Play Day with 109 kids participating. Springfield Lasers Coach JL deJager and Lasers players came out to play and eat pizza with the children. We had 64 teams with about 500 players from throughout the Midwest participate in the WTT Recreational League National Qualifier, July 24-26. John Isner debuted as a Springfield Lasers player, as well, on July 24 and 25. Ms. McGrath stated that the Price Cutter Charity Championship is being hosted this week. The staff at Betty Allison @ Oscar Blom Golf Course hosted the junior pro-am in which local golf professionals participated with the 36 junior golfers. The School-Park staff hosted an art show with children and the Dickerson Park Zoo animals. With the help of the Springfield Regional Art Council, the children learned about a variety of artists, and then participated in an art activity representing what they learned. The Kid'athalon this year was moved to Chesterfield Park due to repairs at Meador Pool. The course had different challenges for the 64 participants. Comments from the parents were positive about the change of the venue because they could watch their children participate as they went through each challenge.

Ms. McGrath reported that this month we had three events that raised money for the Park Board Scholarship Fund. Mylan World TeamTennis awards the team with the most aces each night of competition. We received top honors after two of the matches and were awarded \$1,000 for each night. Our annual silent auction held the evening of the last home Lasers match raised over \$800. On July 30, we hosted a UNO Card Run with the proceeds of \$491 also benefitting the Park Board Scholarship Fund.

Ms. McGrath stated that Meador Pool is open and ready for swimming this weekend. Meador Pool will be open weekends from 1:00 pm-6:30 pm until Labor Day for just \$1 or free with a canned food item. All canned food items will benefit Ozarks Food Harvest. Ms. McGrath thanked everyone involved for their assistance during the repair of Meador Pool.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards mentioned that a postcard was sent out to 1600 homes near Meador Pool detailing it being open to the public on weekends until Labor Day from 1:00 pm-6:30 pm. Ms. Edwards stated that her office is preparing news releases and information for social media for the upcoming festival season. On Monday, September 14, we will have a ribbon cutting for the new scoreboard at the Miracle Field. More details on the event will follow soon.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney stated that the weather during the spring and summer seasons has been a challenge. July was recorded as one of the wettest months with over nine inches of rain. Mr. Carney stated that the staff at Cooper Tennis Complex did a good job maintaining the grounds during the Springfield Lasers season. Recently, staff had a few challenges with scheduling the delivery of bleachers to the softball

tournament at Killian Complex, the Park Day Reunion at Silver Springs Park, and the Kid A'tholon at Chesterfield Park all on the same weekend. The organized plan allowed all events to have the necessary bleachers as needed. Staff has been working on improving the horseshoe pits at Doling Park near the Northview Center. Mr. Carney stated that staff continues to make repairs to the Rivercut golf course and buildings after the recent floods. Mr. Carney reported that there was 74,000 pounds of litter removed from the parks last month.

Mr. Belote mentioned that he appreciated the assistance of the Park Rangers at the Springfield Lasers matches and their support at major community events such as Park Days in Silver Springs Park. Recently, one of our Rangers, Justin Wilson, was the first responder to a serious river rescue incident at the James River near Rivercut Golf Course.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenue was up \$97,000 and \$60,000 as compared to July and August last year, respectively. Mr. Mitchell stated that our staff does a great job monitoring the budget and making adjustments as needed throughout the year. Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated that he appreciated the monthly financial report Jerry has been providing the Board.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that he was impressed with the team work displayed when the staff transitioned from outside to inside during one of the Lasers matches due to inclement weather. Mr. Fisher stated that we are making progress with the accreditation process, and we will be focusing on completing more of the standards in the next few weeks. In the near future, a workshop with the Board will be scheduled to review and approve any updated policies as required by the accreditation process.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that recently the Park Board was approached by a local group to do a mural near the Charlie Norr Building in Lafayette Park as part of the Greene County Tax Force on Gangs and Youth Violence, along with the Community Partnerships of the Ozarks (CPO). The mural idea began as an art contest at the Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits program through the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center. The theme for the mural will be "What Community Means to Me" and will consist of three 4x8 panels to be placed next to the east side of the building. The Springfield Police Department will review the artwork for any inappropriate symbols. The artwork project is being overseen by Ms. Linda Passer, a volunteer with painting expertise, from the Woodland Heights Neighborhood. The Community Partnership of the Ozarks will help maintain the structure and artwork.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that the clean up and restoration work from the recent floods at the Connie Morris Learning Center at Rivercut Golf Course are nearly complete. Mr. Park mentioned that the Route 66 Festival takes place this weekend, August 14-16, with a great line-up of activities. There will be a car and motorcycle show, a parade, and music from Pure Prairie League and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. The United Way Day of Caring is August 20, and we will have several volunteer groups assisting with projects in three parks. In Young-Lilly Park, volunteers will be painting park benches, replacing safety chips near playgrounds, and filling holes in the park. Similar work will take place in Grant Beach Park, as well, with students and faculty volunteering from Pipkin Middle School. At Stewart Golf Course, the volunteers will be painting the exterior of the Pro Shop. Thank you to the volunteers at People Centric, Health Medics, Ramada Inn Hotel, Expedia, and the 7th grade students from Pipkin Middle School for their hard work. Mr. Park stated that the Botanical Center hosted

“Envirothon” on July 29, 2015. 52 teams, from 44 states and five Canadian provinces, participated in the contest that tests high school students about their knowledge in soils, land use, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and forestry. A plaque was presented to the Board for their participation as a host site.

Mr. Park stated that Friends of the Garden recently conducted a search to hire an Executive Director to help coordinate the efforts of FOG. The Search Committee received five applications and selected Ms. Lisa Bakerink for the position. Ms. Bakerink, who currently serves as the FOG President, has been a FOG volunteer for sometime at the Butterfly House and was instrumental in developing the Butterfly Festival. Mr. Belote stated that he has appreciated working with Ms. Bakerink in the continued development of the Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park Master Plan and the updated branding and marketing of the park. Ms. Bakerink will begin her new duties on October 1.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that due to the boardwalk collapse, Spooktacular will not take place at the Dickerson Park Zoo this year. However, many of the Spooktacular decorations will be used at the Haunted Trail and Halloween Fun Field at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park’s Harvest Fest event. Friends of the Zoo members usually receive a special preview visit and free admission to Spooktacular. We will honor their membership cards to visit these features free of charge at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park this year. Mr. Crocker stated that Henry the Hippo will be moving to the Cincinnati Zoo. Henry came to the Dickerson Park Zoo in March of 1982. The Cincinnati Zoo is building a new hippo facility and is due to open in the summer of 2016. Although it will be a good home for Henry, the Zoo staff will definitely miss him. McDonald’s \$1 Day at the Zoo is August 15 and the Bob 105.1 Kids Fair is August 29th.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the Price Cutter Charity Championship Tournament is this weekend. Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath and our Golf Staff help coordinate our volunteers who serve as the 15th hole marshals, assist with the Golf Welcome Center tent, host the Junior Amateur tournament at the Betty Allison at Oscar Blom, and develop the qualifier tournament at Rivercut Golf Course. We appreciate everyone’s participation and involvement as our support allows us to be one of the recipients of those charitable funds raised during the tournament, which are placed in the Park Board Scholarship Fund. The Community Partnership of the Ozarks will have a Golf Ball Free Fall Drop on August 27 at Stewart Golf Course. Prizes include cash prizes and a chance to win a Jeep Wrangler.

Mr. Belote stated that the City of Springfield is conducting a transportation survey to seek feedback from citizens on the proposed list of new projects and programs to be included in the upcoming ¼ cent capital improvement and 1/8 cent transportation sales tax renewal. Included in the survey are a list of projects that include alternative transportation routes such as bicycle routes and Greenway Trails, neighborhood improvements, and enhancements and improvements at the Route 66 Park, the Commons, and West Meadow areas of Jordan Valley Park. He encouraged the Board to review the list and participate in the evaluation process.

Mr. Belote stated that there are 12 Neighborhood Night Out events scheduled over the next few weeks, with 11 of them taking place within a park. Thanks to Maria Johnston and other Park Board staff for working with our neighborhood groups to help them have a successful event. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Park Days event was well attended throughout the weekend of activities. Mr. Sidney Needem, Board Member, shared information on how Park Days was

started in the 1950's and how he became involved with the event in 1976. Next year, the event is scheduled for August 5-7, 2016.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack welcomed our new Park Board members and stated he appreciated their willingness to serve. Mr. Shryack stated he felt it was a privilege to be a part of such a great park system, and he encouraged everyone to take time to enjoy the park system.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Board Member, asked about the Springfield Lasers attendance at each home match. Mr. Belote responded that we had a steady attendance at the seven home matches and averaged about 1,400 attendees each night. We had approximately 1,700 people on both evenings when John Isner played for the Lasers.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board Meeting will be Friday, September 11, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. We will meet at the Mizumoto Stroll Garden Pavilion within Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park in conjunction with the Japanese Fall Festival.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. John Price made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.