

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, November 13, 2015
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller
Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shyrack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Paula Glossip, Bob Horton, Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, John Price, Tim Shyrack, Chair.

Members Absent: Matt Bailey, Carolyn Gerdes

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, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Linda Dollar, Director, CODP Programs

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. John Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2015, Park Board Meeting and the October 9, 2015, Closed Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Dr. Sarah McCallister. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. CODP UPDATE AND ATHLETE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that we hosted our first Community Olympic Development Program Athlete of the Year reception at the Davis House on Sunday, October 18. Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs, shared additional information regarding the format of the reception including recognizing four athletes representing the CODP sports we offer in Springfield. Each of these athletes was awarded a symbolic medal given by a local Olympian. One of the four athletes was chosen as the Athlete of the Year by the CODP coaches. Mr. Cumley stated that we are proud and blessed to have experienced coaches, including a former Olympian, providing high level instruction to local athletes so they can train closer to home.

Mr. Cumley introduced Ms. Linda Dollar, the Director of CODP Programs in Springfield. Ms. Dollar provided an update about CODP programs both nationally and locally. When we started our CODP program in Springfield, there were just nine programs nationwide. By the end of the month, there will be 16 programs, who partner with one or several of the 18 National Governing Bodies, allowing youth to participate and compete in sports available in the Olympics. We have 600 athletes who participate in our CODP program in archery, ice hockey, tennis or volleyball. Nationally, CODP programs have conducted outreach opportunities for 500,000 youth. Ms.

Dollar shared a powerpoint presentation from the Athlete of the Year reception relating background information about the athlete's accomplishments, pictures of the newly decorated CODP offices, and the medal the four athletes received.

Recently, Ms. Dollar and Mr. Cumley attended the CODP Program Conference in Colorado Springs, where they had opportunities to visit with other site directors. Our Springfield CODP program is still considered a model program because of our highly-regarded coaches and facilities. Ms. Dollar stated that they also heard more about the new sports that we could possibly add to our program when sustainable funding is acquired.

Ms. Dollar thanked the many Park Board staff who assisted with the first-time event including Jeff Cumley, Diana Tyndall, and Jenny Edwards, along with Robert Uckele, whose staff provided the food for the guests. Mr. Belote also thanked Mr. Cumley and Ms. Dollar for making it an extremely special and memorable event for the athletes and a new tradition for the CODP program.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL ACCREDITATION APPLICATION – STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Belote stated that we distributed the plans and policies for the Park Board to review in preparation of the upcoming accreditation workshop. Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, stated that the majority of the documents already existed, but they just need to be reformatted and formally adopted by the Park Board. The documents can still be revised to incorporate suggestions as needed after the workshop. Mr. Fisher stated that achieving a successful accreditation ruling helps us improve as an agency by providing the required elements for the standards, but it also recognizes our agency for the excellent work we do on a daily basis. Once accredited, we will follow up with an annual review of our plans and policies. It is our goal that we can review the necessary documents and answer any questions in one workshop, and then solicit the Board's recommendation for the documents to be formally adopted at the December Park Board meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that with a warmer and drier October, his staff was able to complete many outside park projects. His crews assisted with field, court, and course preparations for the Missouri State High School Athletic Association State Championships in softball, tennis, and golf. Mr. Carney stated that the new bridge construction at hole #6 on Rivercut Golf Course has been completed. The bridge was washed away from this past summer's major flooding events. With a new bridge design, staff hopes it will not suffer similar weather-related damages. Staff removed 42,000 pounds of litter from parks and facilities last month.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that total revenues year-to-date are up compared to the same period last year. This is a reflection that sales tax revenue is up as well. Our total expenditures are also higher due to the repairs to

Meador pool earlier this year, but we have seen an improvement in collected fees and charges from last month. Mr. Mitchell stated that we were able to make a \$100,000 payment toward the Rivercut sod loan with the City through the Golf Fund. Special Facilities revenue is up over the same period as last year due to increased revenue from this year's Harvest Fest weekend events. We have experienced a \$21,000 savings in fuel expenditures due to lower gas prices. Mr. Belote mentioned that staff has already begun the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget process now, including reviewing part-time staffing costs. We plan to address the minimum wage issue where possible in order to be more competitive in the market for hiring seasonal employees.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the water fountains in Jordan Valley and Founders Parks have been turned off. Staff began hanging Christmas lights and holiday decorations in Jordan Valley Park in mid-October. The Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Saturday, November 28 at 5 pm in Jordan Valley Park. This year will have a "Hollywood" theme, so families will see many characters, along with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, during the event.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards that she and Ms. Tyndall are focusing most of their efforts on Turkey Trot including placing ads in print, on social media, and on the radio. They are also participating in community events by setting up booths and promoting Turkey Trot registrations. Additionally, they are developing ad campaigns to promote family center memberships as a gift or to fulfill personal health goals.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath reported that our School-Park Division recently hosted a Missouri School Age Community Coalition Professional Development Institute Conference. The conference featured programming ideas, a discussion of challenges in schools, and keeping kids focused and becoming productive adults. Two of our SPARC staff serves on the MOSAC² Board. Ms. McGrath stated that the hiring process has been completed for a new Recreation Specialist in the Outdoor Initiatives area, and we welcome Elizabeth Crum to the Park Board. Recently the Outdoor Initiatives took a group of campers to Ritter Springs for a weekend camp out that included dutch-oven cooking featuring lasagna. The group was also treated to a night hike, canoeing, and fishing. As a host site for the ASA National Girls 18's Softball Tournament, we received a 100 percent rating on a variety of tournament related categories and received the ASA James Farrell Award of Excellence. Mr. Mark Nelson accepted the award at the ASA National Conference, which was displayed for the Park Board today. Ms. McGrath mentioned that the Skatepark hosted a special Halloween event and had 58 participants, up from 15 guests last year. She reported that we currently have 345 Skatepark members. This is about 150 more members from a year ago. Skatepark staff is committed to attracting new members, while still retaining our long-time members. Ms. McGrath stated that interested participants have a few more days to register for Turkey Trot. We have experienced a high volume of online registrations this year. Participants can register at packet pick up on Wednesday, November 26 or on race day, Thanksgiving morning. We now have the capabilities to print t-shirts on site.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher reported on behalf of Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities, and stated that Harvest Fest welcomed 82,000+ guests at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, setting an attendance record for this event. Special Facilities staff also hosted the Parks Employee Appreciation Picnic with over 500 employees and their families

in attendance. The Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park staff is preparing decorations for Candy Cane Lane, a drive-thru lane with lighted wire frames and Christmas lights.

Mr. Fisher also reported that the Site Accreditation Chair and Team have been identified. The Chair has indicated the team will visit us the week of June 27-July 1, 2016, for three consecutive days. Our Golf Section experienced a slight increase in golf rounds on Halloween weekend due to a catchy patron appreciation event promoted by Diana Tyndall. The annual PGA Golf Sale is December 3-5, and 10 local golf courses will participate and offer merchandise and apparel at the event. The sale will be held at 228 W. Sunshine, next to Whole Hog Café.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that the Grant Beach Soccer Program has grown to 150 participants ages 3-12. The program is staffed by Grant Beach neighborhood volunteers. In the Woodland Heights neighborhood, volunteers offered four-week Tennis in the Parks sessions in the months of September and October. The MSU Women's Tennis Team attended one of the sessions and interacted with the participants. Ms. Reser reported that we have awarded \$29,000 in Park Board Scholarships to local youth to participate in our programs, leagues, and camps so far this fiscal year.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker reported that staff is planning for the Friends of the Zoo member appreciation event, Zoo-la-la, which is on Sunday, December 20. Planning for the annual Ball of the Wild event, held in July each year, is already underway, as well. Mr. Crocker shared information about recent animal collection updates.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that the many activities and events, including the execution of three MSHSAA events within a week, could not be successfully accomplished without the coordination and team work of all divisions. In October, there were significant milestones as the Botanical Center celebrated its fifth anniversary, Friends of the Garden organization celebrated 15 years, and the Mizumoto Stroll Garden celebrated 30 years. A two-day garden symposium was held in honor of the anniversaries. The Springfield Botanical Gardens and Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park hosted nine weddings in the month of October. Peter Longley will host several Travelogue presentations that are open to the public and free of charge. Mr. Park provided an update on Timmons Temple. The next step is installing sanitary sewer and water connections, and then, reconstructing the front porch. Mr. Park reported that we received notification that the Dan Kinney Family Center is now recognized as Leed Certification Silver Level facility. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Park for working through the long process in achieving this status.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that we recently held a Parks employee department meeting. We provided an update on the great successes and challenges from the past year, and reviewed the budget year ahead, along with the priorities we have planned. We also recognized several employees who achieved anniversary milestones and introduced new employees. Mr. Belote thanked the Special Facilities staff for hosting our Parks Employee Appreciation Picnic. With over 500 people in attendance, it was a great evening at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park.

Mr. Belote stated that the Turkey Trot event that we host is a great way to give back to our community partners, Developmental Center of the Ozarks and Ozarks Food Harvest. Additionally, we receive 50 percent of the Turkey Trot proceeds which is placed in the Park

Board Scholarship Fund. Mr. Belote stated that our employees participated in giving back significantly this year through the annual United Way Campaign. We received pledge donations from 102 park employees, and our total collection was \$12,457, which is up 17 percent from last year. We have doubled our collection totals from just four years ago. Mr. Belote acknowledged Ms. Karen Herron's efforts for personally distributing materials and sharing information at 23 divisional staff meetings.

Mr. Belote stated we recently reclassified our Park Ranger Supervisor position as the position responsibilities and scope of work have increased significantly in the past five years. With the Park Ranger Supervisor reclassification to Park Ranger Administrator, we will now add an Assistant Shift Supervisor to share the responsibilities for the second shift. It is also our plan to hire a new Park Ranger after the first of the year. The proposed changes will now go forward for City Council approval. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, for her assistance in working with our HR Specialist, Ms. Alice Wood, in completing the reclassification for this position.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated that he was impressed with the number of people who visited Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park during Harvest Fest.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The Park Board Accreditation Workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 5:30 pm, at the Park Board Administrative Offices. The next Park Board meeting is Friday, December 11, 2015, 8:30 am, at the Park Board Administrative Offices. Park Board members are welcome to join our Parks Holiday Luncheon at the Northview Center on December 11, 2015, which begins at 11 am.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to RSMo. Section 610.021 (1); seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.