

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, June 10, 2016
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shryack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 am.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Paula Glossip, Bob Horton, Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, John Price, Tim Shryack, Chair

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, 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, Pam Montanez, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Leslie Forrester, Executive Director, Springfield Regional Arts Council

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. John Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2016, Park Board Meeting and May 13, 2016, Closed Park Board Meeting, as distributed; seconded by Mr. Bob Horton. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed Ms. Leslie Forrester, Executive Director of the Springfield Regional Arts Council. Mr. Jeff Cumley stated that the Springfield-Greene County Park Board has been involved with various art activities for decades including the annual Artsfest event. Three years ago, Ms. Forrester was hired as director. The Springfield Regional Arts Council serves a 27-county area, the largest outreach of any agency in the state of Missouri. Ms. Forrester mentioned that the Park Board and the Arts Council partnership has expanded over the last several years by utilizing both groups' limited resources and working together to achieve sustainable joint programming. Artsfest was created 36 years ago on Walnut Street. It has now grown to a community event with over 80 live performances and welcomes over 20,000 visitors in just two days. Ms. Forrester mentioned she appreciates Parks involvement with Artsfest including providing activities such as "chalk it" and volunteering time to serve on the Planning Committee like Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath and Ms. Maria Johnston have done in the past. Since 2008, an all art activity calendar has been developed to unify and promote all varieties of art, which the Park Board has been a part of since the beginning. Since that time, over 20,000 calendars have been distributed.

Recently, the SRAC received a grant to fund art kits, which is a self-contained arts lesson. The kit comes with detailed lesson plans, list of supplies, and an instructional DVD and how-to information. SRAC has shared the art kit information with SPARC staff to use in day camps and after school programs. The Dickerson Park Zoo has teamed up with SRAC since 2006 to offer the Arts Gone Wild event. Families participate in art activities throughout the Zoo. This year's event is scheduled for June 11. For the last two years, SRAC has partnered with Jordan Valley Park staff and offered free art sessions during Snowfest. In July, SRAC will host an art show featuring children's artwork as graduates of their summer programs, along with paintings created by the Dickerson Park Zoo animals. Last year, SRAC spent five weeks at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park offering a program featuring Vincent Van Goat.

Ms. Forrester mentioned that over 20,000 patrons visit the Creamery facility annually. Over 700 pieces of artwork by 225 local artists are displayed in the Creamery. SRAC works with 8,000 students throughout the year. The Creamery is in use seven days a week with seven tenant organizations, which include the Springfield Ballet, Springfield Symphony, Care to Learn, Springfield Opera, Springfield Little Theater, the Film Alliance, and the SRAC.

Artwork from children at Westport Elementary was sent to Isesaki, Japan and placed in their City Hall as part of their partnership with Springfield Sister Cities Association. Ms. Forrester stated that she looks forward to continuing the partnership with Park Board and exploring more opportunities to collaborate such as offering more summer art camps in neighborhoods as they did with the Grant Beach and Tom Watkins neighborhoods. SRAC also plans to increase their programming opportunities with seniors by working with our Northview Center staff.

Mr. Belote stated that the Park Board directly supports the Executive Director position as part of the Parks and SRAC Master Plans. By working together, SRAC and the Park Board continue to be a unified front to offer more sustainable programs. Mr. Belote mentioned that the programming and activities mentioned today represent the projects we do together in addition to the many other various activities and programs that SRAC offers throughout the community.

IV. GREENWAY TRAIL LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CITY UTILITIES

Assistant City Attorney Lana Woolsey discussed the cooperative effort between the Park Board, City Utilities, Ozark Greenways and Missouri Department of Transportation for the construction, maintenance and operation of an extension of the Park Board's linear park trail currently known as the Fulbright Spring Greenway Trail previously known as the South Dry Sac Greenway Trail. A grant, through MDOT, is being used for assisting with the completion of this trail and a portion of the trail will be constructed across CU's property. CU and Parks, if approved, will be entering into an Addendum to Contract Number 2006-0417 (this is the original agreement between CU & Park Board for operation and management of parks on various CU properties) that will allow the Park Board to lease property from City Utilities for the construction, maintenance and operation of an extension of the mentioned Park Board linear park trail.

After discussion John Price made a motion to authorize parks to enter into this Addendum, authorizing the City Law Department and the Director of Parks to approve the final language of this Addendum, which approval will be evidenced by their signatures thereto, and authorizing the Director of Parks and the Chair of the Park Board, or their designated representatives, to sign the finally approved Addendum and to take any and all further actions necessary to

accomplish the purpose and intent of this Motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Horton. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee—2016-2017 Officers Election Slate Ms. Paula Glossip, Nominating Committee Chair, distributed the Ballot for the 2016-2017 Officers Elections. She explained the ballot also provided space to write in a nominee. Board members were encouraged to complete the ballot, sign it, and forward it to her. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Tim Shryack and Dr. Sarah McCallister for their past year of service as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. After reviewing and tallying the ballot sheets, it was determined that Dr. Sarah McCallister and Mr. Matt Bailey were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for 2016-2017, with Mr. Belote serving as Secretary to the Board, which is customary in his role as Director.

Mr. Belote stated that we are accepting applications to review, score, and rank for interviews. We hope to convene the interview process in late July. Ms. Glossip stated that she recently received a letter from the Greene County Commission that there would be changes in the procedures for filling Board positions at the County level. The procedures outlined in the letter were different than the system the Park Board has in place. She stated that there was no explanation as to why the change was necessary. Mr. Belote stated that he was not made aware of the changes in the County Board selection procedures and indicated that he will follow-up with the Commission. Mr. Belote mentioned that we have a very thorough selection process, and we encourage both City and County residents to apply. Ms. Lana Woolsey Parks Assistant City Attorney was asked to look into the situation and review our agreement with the County regarding the appointment process, as well.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley stated that recently our CODP Volleyball Coach, Lori Endicott-Vandersnick, a two-time Olympian, was recently featured in an article that was distributed internationally. While on the USA Team, she was considered the best setter at the Olympic Games. The article indicated that our CODP Volleyball program has grown from 20 players in 2005, to more than 300 in 2015. One of our CODP archers, a high school freshman, recently finished 3rd place in state competition. We also had three CODP Tennis athletes recently sign to play collegiate tennis. Snowfest in Jordan Valley Park is scheduled for Saturday, June 25 from noon to 4 pm.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that June sales tax is up 13 percent from last year at this time. Although we are up in revenues year-to-date, the increase will offset the unanticipated expenses incurred throughout the year. We are also trending to have a strong June in the golf enterprise fund. In July, we will seek City Council approval of a budget adjustment to redistribute these funds to the appropriate accounts. As part of the City's internal audit rotation process, we are scheduled to have Rubin Brown Audit Firm from St. Louis visit Parks the week of June 20. The audit team's scope of work includes a review of cash controls, risk management, insurance protocols, safety procedures, and fund management. Mr. Mitchell stated a draft report will be ready in mid-July, with a wrap-up meeting in August. We will continue to update the Board throughout the process.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that recently the Outdoor Initiatives staff conducted a camping trip with citizens from the Grant Beach and Tom Watkins neighborhoods. Campers enjoyed the unique experience. In May, several of our family centers hosted project graduations lock-ins. We hosted the Missouri State High School Association Girls Softball and Tennis Championships in May. Outdoor pools opened May 28, on a bit chilly, but beautiful weekend. Ms. McGrath reported that despite the chillier temperatures, we had 2,877 visitors compared to 1,063 visitors on last year's opening weekend. Recreation staff completed the hiring processing of over 300 temporary and seasonal employees. Congratulations to the Concessions staff for receiving a 100 percent rating on their inspection reports at all the parks concession locations. Mr. Belote acknowledged the Parks Maintenance staff for their efforts in getting all the pools ready to go for the season as it is a huge endeavor.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards announced that the new Web Designer, Pam Montanez, was hired and started on Monday, June 6. We are excited that Pam is on board and ready to learn the new website. Recently, staff has reviewed the new website for content and hope to be transitioning to it by the end of July. Ms. Edwards hopes to launch the new Parks Employee Newsletter by the end of June. Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, conducted several Park Board flyer workshops reviewing tips and guidelines to creating flyers. Ms. Tyndall has been working on rebranding the Golf Patron Plan, formerly known as the Fairways and Greens program. Mr. Belote thanked Diana for her work on the golf promotions.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney stated the Park Operations crews spent most of May getting fields and complexes ready for all the summer activities. Mr. Carney mentioned that his staff painted the Fasnacht pool basin, which used 255 gallons of specialized paint. It took two days to paint. Recently, staff worked on engineering and installing a lot of fencing near the FR156 entrance to Wilson Creek Trail. They worked with the City and County Public Works departments to make necessary trail provisions.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director

Mr. Fisher informed the Board that one of the accreditation site team visitors had to cancel, so we have a substitute to the team. The schedule has also been updated, and the site visitors will be here Monday, June 27-Thursdays, June 30. We will be finalizing the itinerary for their visit in the next few days. Matt Coats, Park Ranger Administrator, recently hired two new Park Rangers. They both will start in the next two weeks. Mr. Belote stated that we will have a brief Park Ranger Update from Matt at the July meeting. In the Special Facilities Division, Ms. Jenny Adams was promoted to Farm Park Coordinator and will begin her new duties on June 12. A search will be conducted to replace her position after July 1.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser stated that the implementation of the new website is on target, and she hopes to finalize content and updates within the next 4-6 weeks. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated Ms. Reser overseeing the construction of the new website and participating in the recent hiring process of the Web Designer position. Ms. Reser reported that we are testing the recent upgrade of the chips to credit card readers in some of our facilities before installing them in all locations. We are hosting "Tennis Under the Lights" event in Lafayette Park on June 25 from 8-10 pm, along with the neighborhood association and USTA. Mr. Belote also mentioned that the Lafayette neighborhood had a great turn out for their

“Dirt Day” event on June 4, and Mr. Jon Carney was the recent recipient of the “We Dig You” award for his assistance in preparation for the event.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that the Botanical Center and gardens have been quite busy with weddings. Mr. Park mentioned several upcoming events that will be held in Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park, which include Bark in the Park and the Ozark Daylilies sale on June 18. The Butterfly Festival and the Young Sprouts in the Garden have combined events and will be held on June 25. The Springfield-Greene County Library will offer story time, and there will also be a caterpillar petting zoo and a butterfly costume contest for kids 10 and under. The Dickerson Park Zoo’s contract for the boardwalk project is currently being processed. The contractor for the Lake Country Press Box is making good progress. Mr. Belote stated that projects such as the boardwalk project and Meador Pool broken pipe last year are why we need to have capital funds set aside to offset these large unanticipated expenses. We plan to conduct a workshop with the Board to discuss long-term funding and future financial strategies in the near future.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Dickerson Park Zoo has always had an art theme throughout the park. Recently, three new sculptures were added near the front entrance and 13 pieces were added inside the park, with four more coming soon. Art has also been incorporated in the tile art at the Reptile Building. Mr. Crocker stated that some of the pieces have been purchased at Artsfest from local artists. He has found that the art adds to the overall environmental experience at the Zoo. This summer, the Zoo is hosting Springfield Public School second grade classes and conducting educational programs with the students. Thunder on the Mountain, a new fund-raiser for the Zoo, will be held near Big Cedar Lodge on June 25. Ms. Diana Tyndall has been helpful with the marketing and public relations aspects for the event. Ball of the Wild will be held Friday, July 22.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that Lake County Soccer held a press conference to kick-off their capital campaign to raise funds to do additional improvements. In the Master Plan, it describes making improvements to Championship Fields 1, 2 and 3, updating the Concessions area, with the Press Box being the first project improvement to get underway. Lake Country was awarded a special funding through the hotel/motel tax fund. We have been partners with Lake Country since 1983, so we support their efforts to make the improvements. The annual Gift of Time luncheon is June 30, and we have submitted two nominees on behalf of the department. One nominee is a volunteer at the Botanical Center, and the other nominee is a father/daughter team at the Miracle Field.

Mr. Belote updated the Board on the status of the Founders Park Proposal that was submitted to City Council. The City Council elected to pull the proposal from the surplus funding projects to further review from their Community Involvement Committee. The Committee plans to meet in late July or early August to review it further. We plan to meet with some of the original development committee to make sure they have a voice in the process. Mr. Belote will keep the Board apprised of any future discussions or development.

VII. CHAIR’S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, stated that it has been his pleasure to serve as the Chair the last two years. He thanked the Board members for their service, as well. Mr. Shryack also congratulated

Dr. Sarah McCallister and Mr. Matt Bailey for being elected to officers for next year. He commended Mr. Belote and the staff for the great job that they do every day. He stated that we have a great Park System, and he was proud to be associated with our organization.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, July 8, 2016, at the Park Board Administrative Offices, at 8:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.