

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, July 8, 2016
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Scott Bailes, Carolyn Gerdes, Paula Glossip, Sarah McCallister, Chair, Sidney Needem, John Price, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: Bob Horton

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

Guests: Ben Hunt, Jon Mooney, Springfield-Greene County Health Department

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. John Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2016, Park Board Meeting, as distributed; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, thanked Mr. Tim Shryack for his two years of service as the Park Board Chair and presented him with a commemorative plaque. Mr. Shryack stated that he enjoyed his time as Chair and believes we have a great staff and park system.

III. INBALANCE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that we have partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department on the InBalance Employee Wellness Program for the past three years. Mr. Belote thanked the Park Board for its continued support of the InBalance program and its activities. We asked the InBalance Program coordinators, Ben Hunt and Jon Mooney, to report back to us on the data collected and the benefits our employees are receiving as a result of the program.

Mr. Jon Mooney mentioned the background of the program's history and how it started. He stated that the program's success was due to having city-wide employee representation, including Bill Ingemi and Lana Woolsey from Parks, and program offerings suggested by employees. Working with the Park Board to provide more opportunities that interest employees has been a key element. Encouraging employees to adopt a healthy life-style and partnering with them is helping our employees achieve a healthier workplace.

Mr. Ben Hunt stated that this past year marks a full year of data to review. We had 383 employees take advantage of the discounted memberships to our family centers or Cooper Tennis Complex, and over 600 transactions were documented from employees using their discount for specific park programs. With 50 percent of the employees participating in a health risk assessment offered through InBalance program or a physical exam through their personal doctor, this year marks the most employees participating in health screenings. The HRA data generally showed that employees' weight, not eating enough fruits and vegetables, and not getting enough activity remains high and a concern among employees. Mr. Belote stated that the InBalance Committee did a good job making the HRA locations more accessible by moving the program offerings and utilizing more City and Park facilities. Mr. Belote stated that we also offer a family center discount to Greene County employees, as well. Ms. Jill Simmons stated that the numbers from last year to this year, have remained consistent with 144 families signing up for a family membership, and 24 individual memberships at the family centers. Our family center staff reports an increase in personal training appointments, swimming and tennis lessons, and archery instruction. Mr. Belote thanked the family center staff, along with Bill Ingemi, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jill Simmons, and Kim Reser for helping to make the process easy for families to enjoy quality time together participating in healthy activities.

Sixty percent of employees participated in an InBalance program last year. Mr. Mooney stated that with 50 percent of employees not getting enough exercise and 7-9 percent of the employees getting no exercise, he feels that the InBalance program provides a lot of opportunities to start living a healthy lifestyle. He also mentioned that our health insurance rates have remained flat, which he believes is directly impacted by employees who participate in the InBalance programs and obtain family center memberships. Mr. Belote stated that we have received many requests from retired employees and individuals who serve on Boards and Commissions about extending the InBalance program offerings and discounts to them. He indicated that we would discuss the possibilities of offering the discount beyond current employees in future discussions with the Park Board.

IV. PARK RANGER UPDATE AND INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW STAFF

Mr. Belote stated that we had the opportunity to reclassify Mr. Matt Coats' position to Park Ranger Administrator last spring, and then, Mr. David Moore, was promoted to Second Shift Supervisor. Recently, we completed the hiring process to replace two Park Ranger positions. Mr. Coats introduced Ms. Jennifer Holt and Mr. Tim Carpenter to the Park Board members. Both of them have served previously as Police Officers and possess additional tactical, criminal investigation and narcotics experience in the field. Mr. Coats explained the nearly six month hiring process, which includes interviews, background checks, and psychological and physical exams before an applicant is extended a job offer. Both new Park Rangers have also passed their fire range qualifications, updated their taser certifications, and received their commission from the Greene County Sheriff's Office. The Ranger Division operates under Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director. Mr. Belote stated that we will discuss more in depth about the daily operations, challenges, and future plans in the Ranger Division in a future workshop setting with the Board.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Belote reported that he will follow up on the Greene County selection process to the Park Board with the Greene County Commission.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that there were a variety of June events in which his staff helped prepare for including Dirt Day, Tennis Under the Stars, National Trails Day, Bark in the Park, and Butterfly Festival. The June litter collection totaled 16,000 pounds. The Parks Garage handled 1,082 work orders in June.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that the re-launched Golf Patron Program has generated over \$58,000 in revenue. The internal audit firm, Rubin Brown, has finished their field work and will begin preparing their preliminary recommendations. Mr. Mitchell reported that the sales tax revenues were up 10 out of 12 months. The additional revenues have been helpful due to the major unexpected expenses and repairs incurred this past year.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that with the recent heat advisories, we have several facilities that serve as cooling centers, and we extend pool hours at select locations that are opened on an announced heat advisory day. Our outdoor pool attendance is up 63 percent from last year. Go Skateboard Day was June 21, and our Skatepark hosted a fun, free skate day, with contests and prizes from Zoomies, a local retail store, and a live radio broadcast. There were over 200 people who came to the event. Our Accessible Recreation division took 14 participants on the annual Float for Independence six-mile float trip. At the recent Gift of Time luncheon, we had two Park Board volunteers recognized: Shae Johnson from the Botanical Center, and a father/daughter team, Brad and Rachel Hewitt, who coach and serve as buddies at the Miracle Field. Ms. McGrath reported that Cooper Tennis Complex was selected as one of 12 facilities honored for excellence by the United States Tennis Association.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that 3,000 people attended the 15th Annual Snowfest event in Jordan Valley Park on June 25. Zack Garrett, a former Springfield CODP athlete, made the USA Archery Olympic Team and will compete in Rio. Movies at Founders Park begin this weekend with movies on Friday and Saturday evening beginning at dusk. Tickets are free in advance at Mediacom Ice Park or \$5 at the gate. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Cumley for coordinating the office space for Park Rangers at the Jordan Valley Maintenance Facility.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards announced that the first issue of the new Parks Employee Newsletter has been published and sent out to Parks employees electronically. One of the features is to highlight our Park Board members. In the first issue, we introduced Ms. Paula Glossip and Mr. Tim Shryack, who have both served two consecutive three-year terms. Ms. Edwards mentioned that the Springfield Lasers' Coach, J. L. De Jager, celebrates his 10th year with us this season. He will offer several clinics and interact with many of the Academy and adult tennis classes prior to the start of the Lasers season.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director

Mr. Fisher stated that we had a good site visit with the CAPRA Accreditation Team, and we were encouraged from the Chair's comments about our facilities and operations. The Chair was most impressed with our staff, and he stated that he has participated in over 50 accreditation site visits. Mr. Fisher stated his appreciation from all the staff that participated during the site visit process. We anticipate hearing back from CAPRA officials shortly.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker reported that Henry the Hippo was successfully moved to his new home at the Cincinnati Zoo. Henry seems to have adjusted well to his new surroundings, including a new roommate. The annual Friends of the Zoo, "Ball of the Wild" event, July 22, will be held at the White River Conference Center. Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoo's Administrative Assistant, Blanche Jones, is retiring after 43 years in the same position. Mr. Crocker believes Ms. Jones is the only secretary the Zoo has ever employed. We were fortunate to hire Ms. Jones' replacement before her last day, and we welcome Faith Koppes to the Zoo. Dickerson Park Zoo also hired Melinda Arnold's replacement, Joey Powell, as the new Marketing Director for Friends of the Zoo.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park mentioned that the Butterfly House in Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park has welcomed over 1,300 visitors so far this year. Mr. Park stated that the Contractor for the new elevated boardwalk at the Zoo is getting ready to begin construction. The second story of the Lake Country Soccer Press Box is being framed. The footings and foundation are in place and ready to be framed for the Railroad Museum's new depot project.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser stated that the new Park Board website should go live in about 30 days. The new website will greatly enhance the patron's experience. Ms. Reser thanked several Parks staff for their help during the website transition process. The Teddy Bear Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 10, at the Great Lawn at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park beginning at 12 noon. There will be games, activities, and free snow cones. We have 100 people already pre-registered for the event.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks

Mr. Belote stated that the Springfield Lasers season begins July 31 and welcomed the Park Board members to come see a match. John Isner, American's number one player since 2012, and currently ranked number 16, will play for the Lasers on Thursday, August 11. Mr. Belote mentioned that we will host a future finance workshop to follow up on our 2016-17 budget discussion and include several revenue enhancement scenarios for the Board's review.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we will have four home Springfield Lasers matches in a row the week of August 8, and requested that the August Park Board meeting be rescheduled to Friday, August 19. We will meet at Dan Kinney Park and Pavilion and have a special focus on Miracle Leagues activities. Board members acknowledged and seemed agreeable to this request.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, stated that she was proud to serve on the Park Board. She felt that the CAPRA site visit was a good opportunity to demonstrate our versatile and well-rounded park system. She is thankful to be a part of the process.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sidney Needem, Park Board Member and Springfield Reunion Club Member, invited everyone to attend the Park Day festivities, August 5-7. Many of the activities such as the kids swim and picnic occur in Silver Springs Park, but there is also a dance at University Plaza. Mr. Needem has been a part of the committee since 1976 and appreciates the Park Board's assistance in making it a great community event.

X. CALENDAR

The next scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, August 19, at Dan Kinney Park and Pavilion beginning at 8:30 am. A Future Funding Workshop will be scheduled in early August pending Board Member availability.

XI. ADJOURMENT

Mr. John Price made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to go into Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion passed unanimously.