

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, September 9, 2016
Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center at Nathanael Greene-Close Memorial Park
2400 S. Scenic, 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, Bob Horton, Sarah McCallister, Chair, Sidney Needem, John Price, Tim Shryack

Members Absent: Paula Glossip

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Karen Herron, Cindy Jobe, Ben Kellner, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. John Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2016, Park Board Workshop; August 19, 2016, Park Board Meeting; and the August 19, 2016, Closed Park Board Meeting, as a group and as submitted; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Cindy Jobe, Springfield Sister Cities Coordinator, who invited the Park Board members to attend the 21st Annual Japanese Fall Festival, which is held September 9-11. Ms. Jobe shared information about the featured performers during the Festival, including Samurai Sword Soul, a mix of comedy routines, drama, and sword fights, and Shoji Tabuchi, a popular Branson entertainer. Mr. Tabuchi will perform tunes from a variety of music genres including country, bluegrass, Broadway/movie tunes, pop, jazz and classical on Saturday evening. The Isesaki delegation visited six local Springfield schools yesterday, which included a performance from the top spinner. At tonight's opening festivities, we will feature a candlelit walk through the Mizumoto Stroll Garden. All children kindergarten through 5th grade students will be allowed free admission with an adult as part of our partnership with Springfield Public Schools. As in the past, the proceeds from the Fall Festival will be split between the Park Board and Sister Cities.

Ms. Jobe also distributed an invitational flyer to travel to Tlaquepaque, Mexico, February 3-10, 2017, with Springfield Sister Cities, which includes an opportunity to visit the Monarch Butterfly over-wintering site. This is a fund-raising trip for the Friends of the Garden and Sister Cities organizations. In three weeks, a delegation from Mexico will come to Springfield to assist in the

dedication of the "Peace Through People" pavilion, which is currently under construction in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Belote stated that the Nominating Committee recently interviewed four qualified candidates to replace two Greene County representatives who have successfully fulfilled two consecutive terms. Mr. Tim Shryack stated that on behalf of the Nominating Committee, he would like to appoint the two individuals whose application information has been shared with the Board, to fulfill the two County representative seats, pending approval by the Park Board and the Greene County Commission; and appoint Mr. Sidney Needem to fulfill the City representative seat pending approval by the Park Board and City Council; seconded by Mr. John Price. Note: Mr. Sidney Needem abstained from voting. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Belote stated that he had a very productive meeting with the Greene County Presiding Commissioner in respect to our priorities and the significant economic impact we create by bringing athletic events to the community. The Commissioner recognizes that without capital funding, we have difficulty funding ongoing repairs of older infrastructure and expanding our athletic offerings. Mr. Belote will continue to meet with the Commissioners quarterly to keep them apprised of our operations and plans for the future.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, presented a crystal plaque to Mr. Tim Shryack, honoring his two consecutive terms as a Park Board Member. Mr. Shryack also served as Chair for two years during his tenure. Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Shryack has seen a lot of success during his six years as a Park Board member, including projects completed from the 2006 Parks Sales Tax, dedications, our achievement of a sustainable budget, and successful completion of the CAPRA Accreditation process. Mr. Shryack thanked the staff for the work they do daily and stated that it was a pleasure to be a part of the Park Board.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Matt Coats, Park Ranger Administrator Mr. Coats shared with the Park Board about a challenging couple of days his division experienced recently. Mr. Coats served as the liaison with the Missouri Highway Patrol, Greene County Sheriff, and Springfield Police Department, during a recent pursuit of a suspect. A suspect, who had recently committed a series of crimes, was in the area of one of our facilities, so we issued a "lock down" of the facility. Within the same week, we also had a suspect who was in pursuit by the Springfield Police, hide out in a field at one of our facilities. The suspect was found without incident. Mr. Coats is appreciative of the professionalism and cooperativeness of the law enforcement agencies at both the City and County level that he works with on a regular basis. Ms. Reser stated that she was proud of the staff at both facilities who remained calm and worked with Mr. Coats and the patrons using those facilities during these incidents.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that August was a busy month. On August 18, as part of the United Way's "Day of Caring", we had three volunteer groups, Cox College, the Springfield Fire Department, and CoxHealth, who painted, mulched

beds, and completed a variety of other maintenance projects. The volunteers, coordinated by Mr. Tim Griesse, worked in Zagonyi, Grant Beach, and Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Parks. Mr. Carney stated that Mr. Ben Kellner worked with the volunteers at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, creating a great environment and fun event for the volunteers. The litter collection for the month of August was 60,000 pounds.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that Josh Raynor placed first in the Cub Male Recurve division at the MAA/JOAD State Tournament. He also won the Show-Me Cup in the Cub Male Recurve division. Amy Francka, CODP Archery Coach, placed first in the Senior Female Compound division at the MAA/JOAD State Tournament. Additionally, she won the Show-Me Cup and Female Shooter of the Year in the Senior Female division. The Springfield CODP will host a golf tournament fundraiser at Rivercut on October 1. The CODP Athlete of the Year Reception event will take place on October 2. Olympian Jenny Fullner will speak at the banquet, which begins at 2 pm, at the Davis Property.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations The total year-to-date revenue is down over the same period as last year, which is due to a decrease in sales tax received. We recently received our September sales tax revenue, which was up by \$40,000. As expected, total expenditures are up as we have two capital projects currently in progress. Golf revenues and expenditures are down. Last August, we incurred unexpected expenditures due to the repairs from the Rivercut flood. Mr. Mitchell stated that we are beginning the budget process with staff reviewing current fees and charges, along with market studies and programming costs. Mr. Belote stated that we are also working through the logistics for pursuing the suggestions from the recent Future Funding Workshop.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards thanked the staff and patrons for their cooperation during the entry way closure at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. The entry was greatly improved as a result of the good work done by Missouri North Arkansas Railroad, coordinated with Tina Stobb from Public Works. Ms. Edwards mentioned that the latest publication of the Park Bench is now available, featuring programs and events offered during September through December. Ms. Edwards stated she was humbled to meet the community members, especially Ms. Pat Walker, who invested 12 years to see the Founders Park project to fruition at a recent Citizens Involvement Committee meeting with City Council. The creation of Founders Park was a great community effort and provides a historical reflection of the development of Springfield.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that the National Neighborhood Night Out was held at Meador Park last month. This year over 2,500 people attended the event. There are 13 scheduled neighborhood night out events, with 12 of them in one of our parks, and seven of them were held in August. Our Special Events and Outdoor Initiatives staff helped by offering a variety of activities at several of the events. With the warmer temperatures this year, our pools welcomed over 67,000 attendees. There were 13 heat advisories issued in Greene County this summer, so we also extended certain pool hours on those days. Over Labor Day weekend, we hosted a Splash 'N Sizzle event in which patrons could bring a can food or \$1 for admission into the pools. We collected 9,400 pounds of food for Ozarks Food Harvest during that collection. Dog Swim was held the day after Labor Day and 136 dogs participated in the final swim for the season at Fassnight Park. The Skatepark just

celebrated their second anniversary of the Park Board managing the facility. Mr. Belote commented that we currently have a record 379 memberships at the Skatemark, which has become a great place for families to interact.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser offered her congratulations to Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, supervisors, and part-time staff who oversaw programs and events this summer, on the overall quality of our offerings and meeting the citizens' demands. She appreciated all the hard work the Park Operations crews put in to keep the facilities running and prepared for our many athletic events.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that he received notice from the CAPRA agency indicating that we will defend our application on October 4 in St. Louis as part of the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference. On October 6, the Best of the Best ceremony will be held to announce park agencies that are being accredited for the first time or reaccredited. We have received an invitation to attend, so it is looking promising that we will be awarded accreditation. Mr. Fisher commented that it has been a difficult month for golf due to weather, but the courses are in excellent shape.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that there are several projects underway due to the support of several groups and donors. The initial development of the Miracle Field was due to donations and support of several organizations and individuals. A donor made the recent improvements possible, which included new field surfacing and installation of chair back bleachers. Mr. Park mentioned that the 1860's Lifestyle Expo at Gray Campbell Farmstead is scheduled for September 17 and 18. Mr. Park mentioned that the Botanical Center currently the #1 recommended site attraction to visit in Springfield by TripAdvisor.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Mike Crocker is attending the Association of Zoo and Aquariums annual conference. When he returns, he should have several animal announcements to share.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that he met with the City Council's Community Involvement Committee and provided the members with additional background information about Founders Park. We have researched what issues need to be addressed and feel any money allocated for the project should be spent on addressing those issues instead of on a consultant. The Committee stated that they would share information with the rest of City Council and the City Manager as a part of the coming year's budget process.

A copy of the recent internal audit was included for the Park Board's review. It will be presented to City Council's Finance and Administration Committee by RubinBrown. Park staff will also attend when it is presented. Park Administration was disappointed that the audit did not offer recommendations regarding funding comparisons and strategies of similar agencies.

Mr. Belote stated that we recently received a request from a trail enthusiast and former Ozark Greenways member to issue a letter in support of the Rock Island Trail State Park project. The project would be similar to the Katy Trail, extending 217 miles from east to west, as part of the Rails to Trails conversion process. It will be the second longest rail to trail project. Missouri Governor Nixon has been actively supporting state parks, so the Rock Island Trail committee is

seeking endorsements from Park Boards to increase more funding for trail building in the state. The project has the support of Park Board staff, Ozark Greenways, and the Missouri Park and Recreation Association. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made the motion that the Park Board endorse the Rock Island Trail Project, including the process to become a park; seconded by Mr. Tim Shryack. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, October 14, 2016, at 8:30 am. It will be held at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.