

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD  
Friday, October 14, 2016  
Park Board Administrative Offices  
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

**Members Present:** Carolyn Gerdes, Sarah McCallister, Chair, Sidney Needem, John Price, Michele Risdal-Barnes

**Members Absent:** Matt Bailey, Scott Bailes, Bob Horton, Dee King

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

**Guests:** Mr. Bob Cirtin, Presiding Greene County Commissioner; Paula Glossip, Tim Shryack—Former Park Board Members; Jim Briesan, Citizen

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes as one of our new Park Board Members. Ms. Risdal-Barnes is a Manager and Partner of JK Investments, Inc. and Risdal Enterprises LP. Ms. Dee King is our second new Board member, but she had a previous out-of-town work commitment and could not attend the meeting today.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2016, Park Board Meeting as submitted; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion was approved unanimously.

**III. RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING PARK BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Belote welcomed and introduced Mr. Bob Cirtin, Presiding Greene County Commissioner, who presented a proclamation recognizing our two outgoing Park Board members representing Greene County, Ms. Paula Glossip and Mr. Tim Shryack. Presiding Commissioner Cirtin stated that he is a major park supporter and enjoys attending park events. He believes that the Park Board enhances the quality of life in Greene County and Springfield in areas such as economic development, recreation and fitness. Presiding Commissioner Cirtin read a proclamation for both Ms. Glossip and Mr. Shryack, which included some of the many accomplishments the Park Board has achieved during their tenure. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the leadership that Ms. Glossip and Mr. Shryack have provided the last six years. Ms. Glossip is completing her second tenure of two consecutive terms as a Park Board Member, and Mr. Shryack served as the Park Board Chair for two years. Both of them complimented the Park Board staff for the work

they do on a daily basis, and congratulated the Park Board on achieving CAPRA accreditation. Mr. Belote also thanked Mr. Cirtin for featuring the Miracle League in a recent video and acknowledging our recent accreditation achievement at the State of the County address.

#### **IV. CAPRA ACCREDITATION FOR SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD**

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, stated that he, Bob Belote and Dr. Peggy Riggs, our accreditation consultant, met with the CAPRA Review Board on Tuesday, October 4 during the National Recreation and Park Association conference. Our site visit Chair also attended the hearing and was very complimentary of our Park Board staff, facility, programs, and agency. The site visit Chair mentioned several of our unique program offerings and facilities such as the CODP Program, our tennis complex with indoor and outdoor courts and a professional tennis team, an ice skating complex with two sheets of ice, and our many affiliations with partner organizations. After hearing the site visit Chair's comments, the CAPRA officials briefly conferred and voted, and then announced that we had successfully met all the accreditation requirements. Our accreditation accomplishment recognizes us as one of the less than two percent of park and recreation agencies who are accredited in the United States.

We are required to annually submit certain documents, and we will undergo the re-accreditation process in five years. Mr. Belote stated that we will announce and share this achievement with the community, along with our local officials and partners in late November or early December. Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, stated that she enjoyed participating in the NRPA Conference from the academic side and as the Park Board Chair. She recognizes the significant commitment and the team work that is needed to complete this goal. Dr. McCallister was proud to be a part of this special opportunity and process.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Belote stated that although there were no Committee Reports to discuss, he indicated that we would need a volunteer for the Chair of the Nominating Committee soon.

#### **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation**

Ms. McGrath

announced that at the USTA Annual Meeting in September held in New York City, Mr. Larry Haugness, Cooper Tennis Coordinator, accepted the USTA Outstanding Facility Award for the Cooper Tennis Complex. We were recognized in the Public Courts--Large Tennis Center division, where the criteria of excellence is measured by the physical design and appearance, usage, and programming. We noted the ongoing support of Harry and John Cooper, along with the Cooper staff, who is currently hosting the Missouri State High School Association Tennis Championships at Cooper Tennis Complex. Ms. McGrath stated that we also recently hosted the district and conference championships for local high school and college tennis teams. The Miracle League fall season is underway with 55 youth participants on Monday evenings and 83 adult participants on Thursday evenings. The Skatepark recently held a camp with 8 participants, including some new skaters who are enjoying learning the sport. A group of 15 Parkview High School students helped to paint the outdoor area of the Skatepark as part of United Way Day of Caring.

Ms. McGrath mentioned that Turkey Trot registration is open and invited everyone to participate in this Springfield tradition. Turkey Trot is the largest, timed 5K event in Missouri on Thanksgiving. It is also the largest single day collection for Ozark Food Harvest. There will be a slight change in the route due to construction near the Missouri State University campus. We offer a "Training for the Trot" program to help participants train to run or walk in the event.

Mr. Belote introduced Jim Briesan, a citizen who moved to Springfield 16 years ago from North Carolina. Mr. Briesan, a retired music educator, sang a few bars of a song to explain how much he enjoyed the park system. His favorite park is Lake Springfield Park because he and his wife visit their daily. Mr. Belote thanked Mr. Briesan for attending the meeting today and reminding us of the importance of what we do in Parks on a daily basis.

**Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs** Mr. Cumley stated that Head Archery Coach, Amy Francka, hosted an archery tournament over Labor Day weekend. Proceeds from the event benefitted the MSU Archery Team and the National Archery Hall of Fame, which is located in Springfield at Bass Pro Shops. The Archery Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held on September 3. Archery Hall of Fame inductee and Olympic Gold Medalist, John Williams, was a guest speaker and shared his story of the determination he needed to compete and achieve a gold medal after the tragedy that occurred at the Munich, Germany Olympic Games. We hosted the CODP golf tournament on October 1, with the CODP Athlete of the Year event on October 2. The CODP events were well attended by family and supporters of the CODP program.

**Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services** Mr. Carney stated that our Golf Division staff has done a good job maintaining the greens on the golf courses. We received a donation of chimney swift towers from Mr. Jim Foster. The chimney swift is a medium-sized, sooty gray bird with very long, slender wings and very short legs. There has been a significant decline in these birds due to loss of habitat. The towers will be placed on the northern prairie near the Gray Campbell Farmstead in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park.

**Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations** Mr. Mitchell stated that sales tax revenue has been strong this year so far. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that we made another significant payment towards the original Rivercut loan, leaving just a \$100,000 balance, which we hope to pay off in the current fiscal year if the budget allows.

**Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator** Ms. Edwards continues to work on providing citizens information on upcoming events, tournaments, award ceremonies, and Turkey Trot. Ms. Edwards and Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, attended their first National Recreation and Park Association conference in St. Louis, and thanked the Park Board for their support.

**Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director** Mr. Fisher announced that Mr. Matt Coats was recently selected for the Superintendent of Special Facilities position, which was vacated in May when Mr. Tom Moore retired. Mr. Coats has a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Missouri State University. He has been with the Parks Department since 2001, when he was hired as an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Rivercut Golf Course. Mr. Coats was most recently promoted to Park Ranger Administrator, after serving as the Park Ranger Supervisor for several years. The Park Ranger division is a well-respected unit in the law enforcement

community due to the highly qualified staff and Matt's leadership for the past 12 years. The Special Facilities Staff is excited to have Matt on board beginning October 16.

**Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director**

Mr. Crocker stated that Mr. Don Tillman, Zoo Development Director, is currently in Cuba, on a Friends of the Zoo sponsored trip, along with 50 other participants. Every couple of years, trips are arranged for interested participants as a fund-raiser benefitting Friends of the Zoo.

**Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director**

Mr. Park mentioned the recent events that have taken place at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, including the Japanese Fall Festival and the 1860's Lifestyle Expo at the Gray-Campbell Farmstead. The Botanical Center has seen a 17 percent increase in wedding bookings at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park due in part to advertising in bridal magazines and participating in bridal fairs, organized by Ms. Diana Tyndall. Mr. Park reported that the Lake Country Press Box project was finalized in time for Greenwood's Homecoming on September 30. This project was an important piece for the Cooper Park Soccer Master Plan, and the Lake County Soccer Board is pleased with the structure. Mr. Park stated that the exterior work for the front porch and steps, along with concrete work for the sidewalk, is currently underway at Timmons Temple. The Peace Through People Pavilion project was completed in time for its event, which is Saturday, October 15. We appreciated the technical sound and performance advice from Mr. John Price, Board member, as the pavilion will be used for concerts and various cultural events. The architecture of the building will reflect the design characteristics of the Botanical Center.

**Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director**

Ms. Reser stated that Lake County Soccer will host a tournament, sponsored by Sport Shake, with 150 teams expected to participate this weekend. The Cooper Tennis Complex staff are hosting the Missouri State High School Association tennis championships beginning this weekend, too. Lake County Soccer will host their annual meeting on October 17.

**Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks**

Mr. Belote stated that the Parks Employee Picnic will be held on October 15, from 4-8 pm, at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, and Board members are welcome to attend. He mentioned that the Parks Department is wrapping up our portion of the City's United Way campaign. Preliminary numbers show that we have exceeded the \$10,000 mark for the fourth year in a row. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Karen Herron for her fine work serving as departmental United Way Coordinator. Mr. Belote also invited everyone to attend the free concert at the new Peace Through People Pavilion featuring three musicians from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, and two national recording artists, on Saturday, October 15 at 4 pm.

**VII. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair did not have a report.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**X. CALENDAR**

The next Park Board meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 8:30 am at the Springfield Skatepark facility, 945 W. Meadowmere. The change in date is due to the Veteran's Holiday being formally observed on Friday, November 11.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and move into Closed Session, pursuant to RSMo. Section 610.021 (2); seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am. Motion approved unanimously.