

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Thursday, November 10, 2016*
Springfield Skatepark Facility
945 W. Meadowmere, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

**Note: The meeting was held on Thursday, November 10 because of the observance of Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11.*

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

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Carolyn Gerdes, Bob Horton, Dee King, Sarah McCallister, Chair, Sidney Needem, John Price, Michele Risdal-Barnes

Members Absent: Matt Bailey

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, Daniel Villalobos, Lana Woolsey

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Ms. Dee King as one of our new Park Board Members. Ms. King is the Director of Sales for the Doubletree Hilton property.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2016, Park Board Meeting, and the October 14, 2016, Closed Park Board Meeting as submitted; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD SKATEPARK INTRODUCTIONS AND FACILITY PROGRESS REPORT

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, welcomed the Board to the Springfield Skatepark. The Skatepark has received many improvements since we began managing the facility in September 2014. In May of 2014, we started to transform the facility by first removing the graffiti from the skate bowls. Every facet of the facility received attention, including the parking lot, lights, security, computers, telephone system, registration and waiver forms, logos, and items were added in the pro shop and the snack bar. Mr. Daniel Villalobos joined the Park Board as a Supervisor at the Skatepark over a year ago. He had previous experience in brand marketing and inventory control, along with expertise as an avid skateboard rider. He was recently promoted to Coordinator of the facility, and Tyler Dill transferred from another Park division to the Skatepark as the Supervisor. Mr. Villalobos said that the staff work with patrons to help them choose appropriate skateboards and accessories at the Pro Shop. Recently, Skatepark staff hosted a special session in which participants received free admission by donating at least two canned food items. The food drive items were given to Ozark Food

Harvest in conjunction with the collection at Turkey Trot. Mr. Villalobos stated that we had welcomed 57 new members since August. In September 2014, we had 194 members, and currently, we have 382 members. The Skatepark staff has hosted bike and skate camps, which include teaching riders and skaters park etiquette. Most of the frequent visitors are between the ages of 7-15, but staff has seen a number of families participate, as well. Mr. Villaboos stated that our indoor/outdoor facility is unique, and the only one in the area. Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that the fund-raising efforts of the Skatepark Association helped build the indoor area, and then, the Parks Sales Tax initiative helped to finish the outdoor area. Ms. McGrath stated she appreciated the Skatepark staff's effort to help make the facility successful by maintaining and performing daily cleaning and inspection activities, providing good customer service, and having product and sport knowledge.

IV. PEACE THROUGH PEOPLE PAVILION UPDATE AND SPRINGFIELD SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, stated that we hosted our first concert at the new Peace Through People Pavilion on October 15. The Pavilion is a project funded primarily by Mr. Tom Finnie, Friends of the Garden member, along with the Springfield Sister Cities Association. Mr. Park thanked the various contractors on the project, which was designed to complement the architectural features of the Springfield Botanical Center. Mr. John Price, a Sister Cities Association member, reviewed a proposal for the Park Board and Sister Cities to jointly commission a signature art piece by nationally known artist, Rodo Padilla, who has been a participant of the Sister Cities Association delegation visits from Tlaquepaque, Mexico. The art piece will speak to the vision and spirit in which the Pavilion will be built and operated, but it will also be an interactive display piece that children can climb or sit on, and it would be an ideal spot for a "photo opportunity" for families and visitors to the park. The sculpture would be paid for using a portion of the proceeds from the 2016 Japanese Fall Festival gate receipts that are split between Sister Cities and the Park Board. Total cost for the project, which would also include Mr. Padilla's travel expenses, would be no more than \$15,000. Mr. Price stated that the proceeds from the Japanese Fall Festival would be close to \$25,000 for both the Park Board and Sister Cities this year. Therefore, each entity would dedicate \$7,500 for the sculpture project. Mr. Price stated that they plan to formally dedicate the sculpture and the new Pavilion at the Cherry Blossom Kite Festival event this spring if the proposal is approved. Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to accept the proposal and approve the Park Board's financial support of \$7,500 from the 2016 Japanese Fall Festival proceeds towards the project as long as the Springfield Sister Cities Board approves as well; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. John Price and Ms. Carolyn Gerdes abstained from the vote.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the CODP Athlete of the Year event was well-attended by CODP players and their families. Mr. Cumley recently attended the annual CODP Conference at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. It was a great opportunity to share about what we do in our

programs and gain knowledge about additional opportunities and program information from other CODP programs around the country. The Southeast Rotary Club donated the funds for a shade structure in Jordan Valley Park, which the Parks Operations crews recently installed. The Southeast Rotary Club has been a great partner, donating more than \$100,000 to date for amenities in Jordan Valley Park. The annual Festival of Lights Kick Off, in conjunction with the lighting of the Mayor's Tree, will be held on November 19.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenue is up for the month of November, along with the year-to-date totals, as well. Several divisions' revenue has increased this past month due to activities held during favorable weather including Special Facilities and the Dickerson Park Zoo. We are scheduled to meet with City Council regarding our recent internal audit in the next 1-2 months.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated that the Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park's Harvest Fest event was very successful due to great weather, a fun facility to host the event, and organized and prepared staff. The Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center staff provided 4,600 pony rides during the Harvest Fest held over five weekends.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that we had great weather during the recent Missouri State High School Association Tennis and Softball Championship events. Cooper Tennis Complex welcomed over 1,100 spectators for the tennis championships, and every set of bleachers were full with fans watching 16 teams compete in softball. Ms. McGrath mentioned that Turkey Trot early registration is open for 10 more days. Proceeds from the event benefit the Developmental Center of the Ozarks and the Park Board Scholarship Fund. It is also the largest single day food collection event for Ozarks Food Harvest.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards has been busy promoting Turkey Trot and updating the next Park Bench publication. Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, partnered with Chipotle and collected \$630, which represented 50 percent of the proceeds, from a new special one-day promotion. Ms. Tyndall was recently a guest panelist on Good Morning Springfield. The panelists discussed fun and different ways citizens can explore Springfield. Ms. Edwards stated that our Web Designer, Pam Montanez, has been working on the website tracking how users search for certain parks and activities to better streamline the process. Mr. Bob Horton, Park Board Member, stated he thought that the website was now more user-friendly.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that with the warmer weather this past month, his staff was able to do a lot of outside projects. Park Operations crews installed the new shade structure at Jordan Valley Park, which proved to be difficult due to tight space and specific requirements for the structure. The litter collection was 44,000 pounds in October.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that the Lake Country Soccer Association will hold their annual meeting on November 17. They are voting in one new member and expanding the number of board seats. Ms. Reser stated that as part of the Zone 1 initiative, it was suggested that a separate account be set up through Community Foundation of the Ozarks. This would allow for interested parties to make a tax deductible donation

earmarked for various projects within Zone 1. Staff anticipates seeking formal Board approval for this new CFO account soon.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that the parking lots at Nichols Park and Watkins Park will receive a fresh coat of asphalt overlay as part of the Zone 1 initiative projects. The work is being completed by Public Works. Mr. Park stated that the City is offering a special grant program for neighborhoods. This is the first of three years for the grant program, which will award up to \$500,000 each year to accepted proposals. Six neighborhood associations have submitted proposals involving specific work to be completed within their neighborhood park. Mr. Park mentioned that this is a direct reflection of the value of parks in our community. Once the proposals are submitted, they will be reviewed and assessed by the impacted department, and cost estimates will be prepared. Mr. Park mentioned several activities held at the Springfield Botanical Center, including Romance in the Garden within the Mizumoto Stroll Garden and the Ozark Garden Railway train exhibit in the atrium.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the Boardwalk Project at the Dickerson Park Zoo is slated to be completed by December. Attendance, education, and outreach participants totaled over 10,000 people for the month of October. Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoo's website is being updated to make it easier to navigate. Mr. Rodney Schnellbacher, Zoo Veterinarian, recently passed his board certification in exotic animals.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that as the new Superintendent of Special Facilities, Mr. Matt Coats has been meeting with staff and inspecting facilities for necessary maintenance and repairs. With Mr. Coat's new promotion, Mr. Dave Moore is serving as the Interim Park Ranger Administrator. Mr. Fisher is working with the golf pros to review point-of-sale systems. The annual PGA Golf Sale will be December 1-3 in the same location as last year.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that he was pleased that the recent State Parks soil and water tax renewal was passed as it benefits state parks and trails. Mr. Belote mentioned we were awarded the Missouri State High School Association Tennis Championships for boys and girls through 2020. We were also awarded a National BMX Championship in August 2017. We held our first national BMX event last year, which was quite successful. Last month, we hosted our annual Employee Appreciation Picnic during Harvest Fest at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. We welcomed over 500 park employees and their families to the event. Our Annual Employee Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14. Park Board members are welcome to attend. Recently, our department participated in the City-wide United Way campaign. We set a new department collection record, with over 118 employees participating and over \$14,000 donated. Our CAPRA party celebrating our recent accreditation achievement will be held Monday, December 5, from 6-9 pm. We are requesting a \$10 admission fee, with all proceeds donated towards our Park Board Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Scott Bailes, Park Board Member inquired why golf revenue was down recently. Mr. Belote responded that we have found that there are less golf rounds being played industry wide. We are working on an updated master plan for the golf area and how we might freshen up the courses and offer additional food and beverage options. We are also working on new marketing strategies to help generate additional revenue to reinvest in the courses.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

Ms. Dee King, Park Board member, commented that she recently participated in a camping event at Ritter Springs. She was impressed with how Ritter Springs had been expanded and the quality of presentations shared during the camp out.

X. CALENDAR

The next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016, at 8:30 am. It will be held at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

XI. ADJOURMENT

Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to adjourn the meeting and enter into Closed Session; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.