

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, February 10, 2017
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Matt Bailey, Carolyn Gerdes, Dee King, Dr. Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, Michele Risdal-Barnes

Members Absent: Bob Horton, John Price

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, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to approve the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously.

III. BOARD APPROVAL FOR NEW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS FUND AREAS

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that in 2010, the Board and staff worked with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) to establish four funds: Friends of the Springfield-Greene County Parks Fund; Springfield-Greene County Parks Century Fund; Springfield-Greene County Parks Century Endowment Fund; and Springfield-Greene County Parks Edible Garden Outdoor Classroom Kitchen Fund. In November of 2016, the Park Board formally approved the establishment of the Zone One Initiatives Fund. Staff determined that it would further serve our prospective Park donors if we established the following two funds: Springfield-Greene County Parks Scholarship Fund and Springfield-Greene County Parks Miracle League Fund. Since we received many donations to our original CFO funds set up in 2010 that were in support of our Parks Scholarship Fund and Miracle League programs, staff believes providing these two options for our Park supporters is a more direct option. Potential Park donors can donate online through our website at www.parkboard.org. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made the motion to establish the two new funds, Springfield-Greene County Parks Scholarship Fund and Springfield-Greene County Parks Miracle League Fund through Community Foundation of the Ozarks; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTION OF FY 2017-2018 PARKS RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Mr. Belote thanked the Board for attending the annual Budget Workshop earlier this week to review and discuss in detail the Parks FY 2017-2018 recommended budget. Mr. Belote stated that he is proud of the work staff has done to address critical issues with the funds we have.

Our proposed budget for the next fiscal year is \$30,233,096, which is up about 2.8 percent over the current year. This budget cycle represents the fifth year the Parks Department has a sustainable budget with only Parks-intended revenue resources.

Mr. Belote reviewed the priority areas budgeted for the coming year, which includes identifying long-term funding sources, neighborhood park restoration, sports tourism to increase our community's economy, greenway trail development, developing a future Park headquarters to better serve our partner groups, diverse revenue options including food, beverage and hospitality enhancements, continuing with park safety and security, addressing the most critical staffing issues, and continue collaborating with like-minded partner groups. We will also participate in the City's lease-purchase option to obtain equipment for the Golf Division, Park Operations, and Special Facilities. At the Budget Workshop, we also reviewed the Fees and Charges portion of the proposed budget document. Staff made recommendations for changes and updates based on review of the actual program costs and market comparisons. Many of the proposed new fees and charges were patron-driven. Our programs overall still remain very affordable and a great value for citizens.

Mr. Belote stated that staff is reviewing and discussing the short-term and long-term revenue strategies that were recommended at the Future Funding Workshop last August. At the recommendation of the Park Board, staff will also revisit our wedding venue rental deposit and refund/cancellation policy. Staff will conduct additional research including in-depth discussions with other park departments who offer similar services. Mr. Belote thanked all of the staff, especially Mr. Jerry Mitchell and Mr. John Waldo, for their time and effort in preparing a document that is easy to understand. Mr. Belote mentioned that it our intent to move forward in the budget process and meet with the City Manager's office regarding our proposed budget. Ms. Dee King made the motion to approve the proposed Parks FY 2017-2018 budget as submitted; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Belote stated that at the Budget Workshop meeting, it was recommended by the Park Board members that a Food and Beverage Sub-Committee be established to review additional food and beverage options for the coming year.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley stated that we will host a free Try Hockey event at Mediacom Ice Park on February 25. Several of our JVP Figure Skating Club members served as "sweepers" at a recent national ice skating competition in Kansas City. The group of skaters met Gracie Gold, Olympic medalist, who started skating at Mediacom Ice Park. We recently held a US Archery national challenge at the Davis House and Property, in which we also collected non-perishable food items for Ozarks Food Harvest. Mr. Belote stated that we will host the March Park Board meeting at the Davis House and Property.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that we had 535 Springfield Public School children visit the Lake Springfield Boathouse during Eagle Days. Staff is continuing to work on improvements at Lake Springfield Boathouse, which includes new counter

tops in the kitchen area and additional items in the updated Pro Shop. At Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center, we recently received a horse donation. Currently, we conduct 140 lessons per month and have a waiting list, as well. Mr. Coats stated that we will soon begin harvesting hay at Rutledge-Wilson Farm. Urban gardening plots at the Farm are still available to rent.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that the 3rd Annual Archery Tournament was held at Parkview High School with over 200 youth participating. The Family Centers recently conducted a new promotion in the month of January called "Bring a Bestie or a Buddy", which rewarded both the current member and the new member with incentive prizes. The new promotion was well-received by family center patrons. Registration is open for all sports activities and summer camps. We will be hosting a Job Fair for temporary and seasonal employees on March 22 at Mediacom Ice Park. We will have over 300 jobs available in 17 different park areas. We welcome youth as young as 15 and retired individuals, as well, to apply for the available part-time positions. Work Force Development will have their mobile unit available for interested individuals to complete an application online while at the event.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards mentioned that Pam Montanez, our web designer, is updating and renovating our interior web pages to provide an improved customer experience. Ms. Edwards also reviewed several interesting statistics regarding our website, along with the top searches within our site, from Google, and top visited pages. We have seen a trend recently of visitors visiting more pages per visit and staying on them longer. Mr. Edwards mentioned that she and Jeff Cumley, along with 60 City and Greene County partner agencies, will be attending "Disaster Camp", which is a week-long academy for public health officials and emergency personnel to review protocols and proper action in the event of a natural disaster or community emergency. The camp is held at the National Firefighters Academy in Maryland.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of Park Operations

With warmer than normal weather in January, a variety of maintenance activities were completed on Parks facilities. Park Operations crews are working on renovating and rebuilding the filter pit at Fasnigh Pool. Staff installed irrigation systems on the eastern portion of the Mizumoto Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. Additionally, several electrical issues are being resolved. Golf Maintenance Staff has been busy building new divot repair boxes at Rivercut Golf Course and ball washers are being cleaned and recoated at Payne Stewart Golf Course. The litter collection for January was 44,000 pounds.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations

Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenue year-to-date, along with our February 2017 sales tax revenue, is up compared to the same period last year. This helps us to cover the unplanned emergency expenditures that we have incurred during this budget cycle. The recent family center promotion also helped to increase revenue in the Recreation division. We should receive our January/February property mil tax revenue in March.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser reported that we will begin implementing the new Office 365 software for all users in the next 60 days. The City Public Information Office, along with input from neighborhood associations, has begun publishing a quarterly newsletter. A copy was provided to the Park Board members. Mr. Belote stated that the City's goal of the

newsletter was to promote items of common neighborhood interest. Parks staff provided information about various programs, activities, and the Park Board Scholarship Fund for the newsletter. The City is providing direct mailing services to subscribers. We are also distributing copies in various park facilities and family centers.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the new boardwalk at the Dickerson Park Zoo is nearly complete and should be open this spring. Staff has been working on rebuilding the fish feeding areas and rebuilding the foot bridge. At the request of the Board, Mr. Belote stated that we would have a future Park Board meeting at the Dickerson Park Zoo.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that staff will conduct controlled prescribed prairie burns in designated areas within our parks system, which is done as a typical maintenance practice to suppress weeds. The Frisco Train Depot project is nearly complete. We appreciate the partnership of Hood-Rich Architects on this project. Mr. Park mentioned that the readers of the Springfield News-Leader identified Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park as the Best Park. In the 417 magazine reader's poll, Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park was number one, followed by Sequiota Park and Phelps Grove Park. The top destination for kids was Silver Dollar City first and Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park second. The Best Trail was identified as the Galloway Creek Trail first, then Dogwood Canyon, and the Frisco Highline. Mr. Belote mentioned that we will have an upcoming ribbon cutting for the Railroad Depot soon. At the Kite Festival, we will officially dedicate the Peace Through People Pavilion located in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park on April 22.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that he is working on the contract details for the new golf course point-of-sale software. We recently completed the Park Ranger hiring process and welcome Mr. Kevin Holley on to the Rangers staff. The recruitment process for the Park Ranger Administrator is underway.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that as part of our Missouri Sports Hall of Fame sponsorship, we attended the recent induction ceremony of local athletes, coaches, and sport officials. There will be an Open House about the proposed ¼ cent sales tax for Public Works, which may also have some trail and bike implications, on Monday, February 13 at the Fire Station #8 on Scenic. The Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau will host their annual Salute to Travel and Tourism event on February 16. The Missouri Park and Recreation Association Annual Conference will be held March 7-10 in Branson, Missouri. Ozark Greenways will be a recipient of the MPRA Citation Award for their partnership with the Park Board, and the important trail and greenway contributions they have made in the community for the past 25 years. On February 28, Mr. Belote will be presenting a Parks Project Update to City Council, which will include the impact donor groups have on our park system, the challenges we have, and where we could use City Council support. We plan to have a social outing with City Council this spring that will include them participating in a Miracle League game. Mr. Belote stated that the Springfield Lasers Marquee Draft will be on February 16, with the team draft on March 14.

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 regular scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, March 10, 2017, at 8:30 am, Davis House and Property.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.