

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 10, 2017
Davis House and Property
5780 S. Farm Road 141, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

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

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

Members Absent: Carolyn Gerdes, Matt Bailey

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

Guest: Richard Hutchison, citizen

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2017, Budget Workshop Meeting; seconded by Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Scott Bailes made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2017, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2017, Closed Meeting; seconded by Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

II. DAVIS HOUSE DEVELOPMENT AND CODP ARCHERY PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed the Park Board to the Davis House and Property. Mr. Belote stated that the Davis House is an excellent example of the Park Board working with one of our community partners, Greene County. The Davis family intended the property to be a park when Greene County purchased the property for future highway expansion. We currently are half-way through our 10-year use agreement with Greene County, which we have utilized to enhance our CODP Archery Program and provide a CODP headquarters.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs, shared information about the recent upgrades made to the house and property, including decorations such as banners, equipment, uniforms, and Olympic medals from our own former Olympians, who serve as coaches and board members. Our Springfield CODP Program allows local athletes to receive coaching at a higher level close to home. Our CODP Director, Linda Dollar, and CODP Volleyball Coach, Lori Endicott-Vandersnick, have their offices located in the house. We have also added a Park Assistant Director's office and a Park Ranger Sub-Station within the house.

Ms. Amy Francka, CODP Archery Coach, shared information about the Archery Program including the variety of courses available on the Davis Property. We have an indoor certified range, a NSFA certified 14-target walking course, a 3-D range that simulates hunting situations, and an outdoor range. The certified indoor range has 12 shooter lanes, a viewing area, and an equipment storage area. The archery program has seen growth in the number of participants every year since its inception, with a nearly 10 percent increase from 2015 to 2016. We offer daily, monthly, and yearly pass rates. We offer opportunities to learn and compete in the sport of archery with recreational shooting up to the possibility of competing in the Olympics, Paralympics or World Championships. Ms. Francka indicated that customers have also requested more camp opportunities including a new “Explore Bow Hunting” camp session.

IV. PARK BOARD SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Mr. Belote mentioned that he had the opportunity to present to City Council in February and share an update about the Park Board and recent developments, including the Park Board Scholarship Program. Ms. Maria Johnston, Community Recreation Administrator in Special Events, stated that the current balance of the Park Board Scholarship Program is \$49,622.33. During the calendar year, several events are held with the proceeds donated to the scholarship fund, which is available to youth under 18, who reside in Greene County, and meet the program guidelines. In 2016, events such as Turkey Trot, the SPARC 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, and the Price Cutter Charity Championships, along with a few other events, helped to award 693 scholarships in the amount of \$25,827.00. Recently, we increased the amount of funding one youth can receive to \$170.00 per calendar year. Over the past nine years of the Park Board Scholarship Fund, we have awarded 6,841 scholarships in the amount of \$210,121.74.

V. MISSOURI PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. Belote stated that the annual Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference was held this past week in Branson, Missouri. We had 12 staff who presented at the conference, along with several who attended sessions, and we even provided security detail for the keynote speaker. At the annual Awards Banquet on Thursday evening, Ozark Greenways was recognized for their 25 years of community work with one of MPRA’s highest honors, the MPRA Citation Award. Mr. Terry Whaley, the Ozark Greenways Staff and several of their Board members, were in attendance to receive the award. We also recognized Ms. Lucille Murray, also known as the “Flower Lady”, for her more than 15 years of volunteer work at the Dickerson Park Zoo and Willard Park and Recreation Department. Ms. Murray spends two full days a week, year-round, researching, designing, planting, and maintaining many of the flower beds at Dickerson Park Zoo. We also had the opportunity to recognize Ms. Karen Herron with the MPRA Support Staff Award. The award recognized her assistance with the 2015 MPRA Conference, proofreading the CAPRA accreditation document, along with the many tasks she performs for Board Meetings and park employee events, and coordination of our United Way campaign on behalf of Parks. She was very surprised and honored as an award recipient.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

Food and Beverage Committee

Mr. Belote mentioned that he, the Park Board Chair, Dr. Sarah McCallister, several Park Board members and staff, will meet in the next few weeks to discuss food and beverage options as discussed during our recent Budget Workshop.

Sister Cities Art Project Update

Mr. John Price provided an update on the art project that the Park Board approved at their meeting in November. The project featured an art sculpture commissioned by nationally known artist, Rodo Padilla, from Tlaquepaque, Mexico. The art piece has been completed and is being shipped to Nathanael-Greene Park, where it will be featured near the new Peace Through People Pavilion. We plan to have a formal dedication of the pavilion, along with the sculpture, in conjunction with the Kite and Piñata Festival on April 22. The art sculpture was funded with proceeds from the 2016 Japanese Fall Festival, split between Sister Cities and the Park Board.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services**

Mr. Carney stated that the warmer weather has allowed his staff to complete many outside projects including replacing and painting wood panels at Nichols Park and Ritter Springs Park. We staffed a booth at the annual Lawn and Garden Show and enjoyed the opportunity to speak with citizens about many of the services we offer throughout Parks. Mr. Carney stated that our Fleet Maintenance division began preparations for mowing season with a 15-point inspection of our equipment, which takes approximately two to three hours per mower. The litter collection for last month was 36,000 pounds.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that our Outdoor Initiatives division has been actively promoting cave tours recently, which has lead to the creation of the Ultimate Cave Tour experience. The Ultimate Cave Tour featured a special session that included tours through all three caves, which was filled with 48 participants each time it was offered. The Daddy Daughter Dance at Northview was a very special evening with 325 people in attendance. Our guests were treated to themed decorations, music, including line dancing, a catered meal, a decorative photo frame that the girls made, and a bracelet to take home. We will host a Job Fair for over 400 temporary and seasonal positions available throughout our department from 2-6 pm, on March 22, at Mediacom Ice Park. Interested individuals will have the opportunity to speak with hiring supervisors to find out more about the positions available. Computers will be available for interested applicants to apply online or paper applications are also accepted. Ms. McGrath mentioned that the new SPARC summer program guide was completed and distributed to the Board. We will soon begin our fifth year of Miracle League baseball at Dan Kinney Park. Monday evenings are designated for the youth league, with Wednesday and Thursday evenings designated for the adult league. Mr. Belote mentioned that City Council has expressed interest in participating as Miracle League "Buddies" for an upcoming game. The National Christian Home School Basketball Championships will take place shortly in Springfield for the ninth year. Over 350 teams, utilizing 21 gyms and 16 facilities, including Chesterfield Family Center and the O'Reilly-Tefft Center, will be used to host the 10,000 people who attend this event.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations

Mr. Mitchell reported that the parks property mil tax revenue is up over the previous year. Due to the recent good weather, golf revenue was up for the month of February, but down compared to last year at the same time. The Dickerson Park Zoo also had significantly high revenues for the month of February compared to the previous year. We continue to monitor budgets each month to ensure the budget is balanced at the end of our fiscal year.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the Try Hockey event on February 25 had 113 participants, due in part to recent promotions by staff and a special Valentine Card promotion offered by USA Hockey. Mr. Cumley mentioned that we partnered with Ozark Greenways to successfully receive a grant for 4-5 permanent sculptures for the Sculpture Walk in Jordan Valley Park. The grant includes counters to track the usage and viewership along the Sculpture Walk. The sculptures should be placed in the park later in the year. Mr. Belote stated that the Sculpture Walk is a great amenity for Jordan Valley Park and the community in general.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that the News-Leader will feature our Ritter Springs Summer Camp program in the March 10th issue. Ms. Edwards and Mr. Jeff Cumley recently attended Emergency Management's "Disaster Camp", along with about 60 other emergency personnel, to gain training on how to work through weather, health, or terrorist disaster scenarios. Ms. Edwards and Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing Coordinator, presented a session on Marketing and Mass Media at the MPRA Conference.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park staff welcomed twin goats, named Elsa and Anna. Staff began preparing the fields to plant corn for the corn maze at Harvest Fest. Rutledge-Wilson staff will host an Easter egg hunt on April 1. Lake Springfield staff has been working on small projects each month, including customizing some new bird feeders and adding two Martin houses. The canoe/kayak season begins on April 1, with the addition of paddleboards available for patrons to rent. The Special Facilities maintenance staff spent time replacing all the hardware on the playground at Rutledge-Wilson in preparation for another busy season.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that we would host a Master's Kickoff and Golf Customer Appreciation event on Wednesday, April 5 at Stewart Golf Course. We will have golf equipment demonstration, Master's themed-food, and a give-away from one of our golf partners. Mr. Fisher stated that the transition to the new golf point-of-sale software has been challenging, but staff is working on a solution.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Dickerson Park Zoo staff submitted their accreditation application on time and expect information about an upcoming inspection soon. We will dedicate the new Zoo Boardwalk immediately following the April 14 Park Board Meeting.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that National Walking Day is April 15. We have partnered with the American Heart Association and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department to offer free walking groups at any of our three family centers, Jordan Valley Park or Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. Ms. Reser recognized a guest at the Park Board Meeting, Mr. Richard Hutchison, who suggested more pickle ball courts on some of the tennis courts.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that the roof on the Tom Watkins building recently suffered some storm damage. He appreciated the prompt response from our Purchasing Department to expedite the process to get the roof repaired quickly. The Botanical Center will host a special show and sale sponsored by the Springfield Orchid Society on March 17-19. We will open bids for the construction of South Dry Sac (Fulbright Springs) Greenway Trail, which is a ½-mile section of trail leading east from the David C. Murray Trailhead, and part

of a grant funded project. The initial phase of the Sensory Garden at the Botanical Center is underway and is being funded through a capital campaign coordinated through the Friends of Garden.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that his presentation to City Council on February 28 included an update on recent projects and initiatives, along with the funding challenges we face with older infrastructure and little or no capital funding to move forward with our Park Master Planning. The City Council members enjoyed the pictures shared with them and were amazed at the many things we still have underway due to our community partnerships. Mr. Belote mentioned that he would be attending the World TeamTennis ownership meetings, along with the player draft to complete our Springfield Lasers roster. We will have Jack Sock, top American male tennis player, join our team on Friday, July 21. On March 30, former Parks Director, Jodie Adams, will be awarded the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame President's Award. She will be the 10th recipient and the first woman to be honored with this award. Several other local nominees will be recognized with a 2017 Wynn Award at the luncheon, including: Melissa Hoffmeister, an outstanding high school and college tennis player, who currently works in the USTA District Office; and Tara Bailes, a soccer player and scoring record achiever in high school and scholar athlete in college.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, stated that she attended the City Council luncheon and presentation, and appreciated Mr. Belote's ability to articulate the strengths and challenges on behalf of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The next regular scheduled Park Board meeting will be held on Friday, April 14, 2017, beginning at 8:30 am, at the Dickerson Park Zoo. The Zoo Boardwalk Dedication will be held following the Park Board meeting at 10:00 am.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.