

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, May 12, 2017
Park Board Administrative Offices*
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

**Due to inclement weather, the meeting location was moved from the Railroad History Museum to the Park Board Administrative Offices.*

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

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

Members Absent: Bob Horton, Dr. Sarah McCallister, John Price

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

Guests: Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager; Railroad History Museum: John Wallard, President, Joe Felin, Vice President; Carol Wooten, Wooten Foundation

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Scott Bailes made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2017, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion passed unanimously.

III. RAILROAD HISTORY MUSEUM INTRODUCTS/OVERVIEW AND NEW DEPOT PROJECT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, thanked everyone for their flexibility in moving the meeting due to inclement weather. We plan to schedule a future meeting at the Railroad History Museum to tour the new depot and the museum. A slide show highlighting the recent dedication of the Max Jahn Depot was reviewed by the Board members during the meeting.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, introduced members of the Railroad History Museum volunteer board: Mr. John Wallard, President and Mr. Joe Felin, Vice President. Mr. Felin provided a brief history of the Railroad History Museum stating that the Park Board and the volunteers of the museum have worked together for nearly 65 years. Officially, the Railroad Historical Museum became incorporated in 1986. The museum operation relies upon its dedicated volunteers and the generosity of donors, along with the Park Board. The new depot was named after the late Max Jahn, a long-time railroad employee who became involved with the museum as a volunteer for more than 30 years, serving many years as its secretary/treasurer. During his tenure, he helped to add the Baggage/Express Car, the Chicago Commuter Car, and the BN Caboose to the museum, along with addition of the newly built canopy roof over the locomotive. The museum is filled with rolling stock and memorabilia from its

founding members and many volunteers. Mr. Felin thanked the Park Board for their continued support in helping to fulfil Mr. Jahn's dream of a replica depot. Ms. Carol Wooten, from the Musgrave Foundation, stated her appreciation to all the sponsors, community partners, and volunteers who helped complete the replica depot. The Musgrave Foundation supports projects that enhance the arts and community betterment, along with children and senior services, healthcare and education, poverty, hunger, and homelessness. Ms. Wooten stated that the museum is an essential amenity in our community preserving the history of the railroad. The museum is staffed by volunteers May through October on Saturdays from 2-4pm. Special tours can also be arranged by appointment.

Mr. Belote also shared pictures from the recent dedication of the Peach Through People Pavilion and sculpture at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park. The project originated as idea based on a master plan for the park. After further discussion, Sister Cities became involved to help create a signature space within the park. The pavilion is designed to host concerts and other performances. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes mentioned that the sculptor, Rodo Padilla, stated the three spheres signify his love of God, the environment, and neighborhood. Mr. Belote stated that we are fortunate to have like-minded partner groups, who help us achieve amenities such as new pavilions, sculptures, and a railroad depot, when we do not have additional funding. Mr. Belote mentioned his appreciation for the Park Operations staff who also assisted with the site preparation and install of the pavilion and sculpture.

IV. PARKS FLOODING UPDATE

Mr. Belote mentioned that we have experienced two 100-year flooding events in two years. We have already begun estimating the recovery cost of the most recent flood. Mr. Park stated that when it was safe, our Golf Maintenance division was making repairs to flood damaged areas and hosing off the mud and silt from Rivercut Golf Course. Maintenance staff also assessed the bridge on hole #6, and found it to be structurally sound, but made some minor repairs. The Connie Morris Learning Center experienced flooding again, as well. A water removal contractor quickly began removing flood damaged items, including dry wall, installation, and cleaned the carpets. We will replace the drywall with a different type of material that should better survive the water and not have to be replaced should we experience flooding again. We appreciate the assistance from the Purchasing Department in expediting emergency contracts with vendors as needed. Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, stated that all 18 holes at Rivercut are now open for play. We also have a special golf promotion for Mother's Day in which mom's play free on Saturday and Sunday this weekend, and everyone else receives \$10.00 off their round. Lunch specials will also be available.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we plan to explore an option of converting the three wooden bridges to steel bridges on the Rivercut Golf Course. When the wooden bridges are involved in a flooding incident, it takes time and money to repair damages, and there is a loss of revenue because those holes are taken out of play. Lake Springfield Park received some flooding, but the water was not at the same level as the flood from 2015. Our Park Rangers were kept busy trying to keep people safe around the high waters in various parks.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Belote stated that we will have a Food and Beverage Committee meeting soon.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs

Mr.

Cumley mentioned that Rotary Club Southeast will dedicate the new shade structure in Jordan Valley Park at noon on May 25. To date, this community partner group has donated over \$100,000, including K-Park and the historic Springfield wagon in Jordan Valley Park. The fountains at Jordan Valley Park have been turned on for the season. We had 36 participants at our recent archery tournament, which included many out of state participants. Archery in Missouri has always been a popular sport, but with our upgraded facility and enhanced programming, we are seeing an increase in participants for lessons and tournaments.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Coats mentioned that three

new pigs, Sonny, Cher, and Gina, were born at the Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Kids Fishing Day is scheduled in partnership with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Recreation Division on Saturday, June 3. It is a free event designed for youth ages 3-15 and includes fishing poles and bait, and MDC will also clean one fish for the fishing participant to take home.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated that we

have 207 Miracle League participants. We also received a great response from the community to serve as buddy