

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, June 9, 2017
Fassnight Pool Pavilion
1301 S. Campbell, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Dee King, Dr. Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, John Price

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, Carolyn Gerdes, Bob Horton, Michele Risdal-Barnes

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dee King made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2017, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously.

III. FASSNIGHT POOL FILTRATION PROJECT

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, welcomed everyone to the Fassnight Pool Pavilion. Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services, stated that Fassnight Pool is one of our Park system's crown jewels, holding 700,000 gallons of water. At one time, it was the largest pool in Missouri. Recently, the pool's filtration system required significant repair, as the metal walls were leaking and flooding the floor and the motor. Unfortunately, budget funds to replace the entire system were not available. Mr. Jody Tindle, our Pool Maintenance Supervisor, designed and built a more efficient unit with the help of Park Operations staff, which included installing a new motor that pumps 1400 gallons of water/minute that should last for many years.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, provided a brief history about Fassnight Pool and an overview of the Aquatics Division. Fassnight Pool was opened in 1927. Renovations were made to make it deeper, which it is now 12 feet and 3-feet in the shallow end, with two diving boards and a slide. In the kiddie pool area, there is also a Nemo-splash pad. In 2016, our pools welcomed over 66,000 guests, with 21,000 of the guests visiting Fassnight Pool. We have 109 lifeguards, who undergo American Red Cross Lifeguard and CPR certification. When the lifeguards are hired, they participate in a two-day overnight "boot camp". In-service training sessions are held frequently and include rescue scenarios, implementing emergency action plans for weather or other situations, safety inspection protocol for inside and around the pool deck, and team-building exercises, as well. We have a variety of programs for infants, preschoolers, and a swim team. The pools are opened 7 days a week, with one or two pools closed each day for maintenance Monday-Wednesday. All pools are opened Thursday through Sunday. During

Heat Advisory Days, we extend our pool hours. On selected evenings, we offer the Splash 'N Sizzle event allowing guests to pay \$1 after 5:30 pm or receive free admission with a canned good. During the 2016 summer Splash 'N Sizzle events, we collected over 10,000 pounds of food for Ozark Food Harvest.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that the tennis courts were recently repainted. We collected over 86,000 pounds of litter last month, which is a 37 percent increase from the previous month.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the Rotary Southeast dedicated the new shade structure in Jordan Valley Park on May 25. Rotary Southeast has been a great community partner by adding many new amenities and park features totaling more than \$100,000 in Jordan Valley Park. Snowfest is scheduled for June 17 from noon to 4 pm in Jordan Valley Park. This year, we partnered with Isabel's House, as they were celebrating their 10th anniversary, as a safe house for children whose parents are experiencing a crisis. The guests were treated to birthday cake after a group sing-along of Happy Birthday.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that our Outdoor Initiatives staff hosted 45 first graders from Rountree Elementary at Ritter Springs Park. The students learned about caves and bats as our Coordinator, Justin Smith, read a book by a local author about Doling Park and Cave. Our Family Centers hosted 10 Project Graduations and Lock-ins within a eight-day period. Our Accessible Recreation staff was treated to a \$2,000.00 shopping spree at Academy Sports benefitting the Miracle League programs. Former Kansas City Royals pitcher, Dennis Leonard, was in attendance. We recently hosted the Missouri State High School Athletic Association Boys Tennis and Girls Spring Softball Championships in back to back weekends. Ms. McGrath announced that Mr. Larry Haugness, Cooper Tennis Coordinator, retired after 11 years. We wish Larry well in retirement.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that the Recreation, Special Facilities, and Zoo Divisions have seen an increase in revenue during the month of May. With warmer weather, we are hoping for strong revenues at the pools, as well. Our sales tax revenue is up year-to-date by \$35,000, but down for the month of June. Based upon past history, when we receive lower revenues in June, the sales tax collection for July should be significantly higher. July and August sales tax revenues will be recognized in the 2016-17 budget year helping us to achieve a positive cash balance for the year ending June 30, 2017. With significant wet weather in April and May, the golf fund is down, but we are hopeful that future golf promotions will increase the number of golf rounds.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated staff recently installed several hummingbird feeders near the Lake Springfield Boathouse. The birds are enjoying the

new feeders and our guests are being kept entertained. We had 487 canoe/kayak rentals and 24 graduation parties during the month of May. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park staff booked over 100 educational programs for groups and schools between March and May, with over 4,000 participants. Pumpkins and mums have been planted in preparation for Harvest Fest at the RW Farm. The veterinarian completed the annual teeth floating exam for 18 horses at Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. The Equestrian Center provided lead rides and tours to the Boys and Girls Club and Infinity Autism School last month.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that her office generated several news releases and re-designed the aquatics brochure for the opening of the outdoor pool season. Ms. Edwards stated that there are many pictures of recent events uploaded on the park board website, www.parkboard.org. Ms. Edwards stated that this year no tickets are required and admission is free to attend the Movies at Founders Park.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser mentioned that the first Summer Solstice Fine Arts Show took place in Lafayette Park on June 17. Participants enjoyed this free event that included various artists throughout the state displaying their art, along with music and food.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the Dickerson Park Zoo had a great month of attendance in May, with over 40,000 visitors. The new cheetah clubs are doing well and should make their public debut in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned a few events happening at the Botanical Center. On June 22, we will host a stone dedication for the Lions Club History Walk. The 9th annual Butterfly Festival will be held on June 24, along with the Americana in the Garden Concert beginning at 7:30 pm. Mr. Park stated that the eight neighborhood groups that submitted proposals to the Neighborhood Advisory Council for the Neighborhood Works program were recently approved by the City Managers office to begin work on the projects. The Neighborhood Works Grant Program is funded by the City's ¼ cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, supported by voters in April 2016. The program will set aside \$500,000 annually for three years to fund approved projects. The neighborhood group's interest in preserving and enhancing their community parks demonstrates the importance of parks in our local neighborhoods.

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 regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, July 14, 2017. We will meet at the Park Board Administration Office at 8:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. John Price made the motion to adjourn the meeting, conduct a short recess, and then begin the closed session; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.