

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, July 14, 2017
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

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

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

Members Absent: Matt Bailey, Bob Horton, John Price

Park Board Staff Present: Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Valerie Haigh, Kevin Holle, Maria Johnston, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Pamela Montanez, Paul Nahon, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guests: John-Laffnie de Jager, Springfield Lasers Coach; Linda Passeri and Steve Miller, Moon City Summer Solstice Event Coordinators.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dee King made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2017, Park Board Meeting and the June 9, 2017, Closed Session meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PREVIEW OF THE 2017 SPRINGFIELD LASERS SEASON

Mr. Bob Belote stated that the 2017 Springfield Lasers season starts this Sunday. He introduced Paul Nahon, Lasers General Manager. Paul briefed the Board on the upcoming season. He spoke about ownership changes at the league level and Lasers marquee player Jack Sock. Paul thanked the Board for their ongoing support. Springfield Lasers Coach John-Laffnie de Jager spoke about the team and stated he appreciated how the Board, staff and Lasers fans supports the team. Mr. Belote invited the Board to attend any Lasers home matches that might fit their schedule.

IV. MOON CITY SUMMER SOLSTICE EVENT

Mr. Bob Belote introduced Maria Johnston, Community Recreation Services Administrator, who welcomed Linda Passeri and Steve Miller, Moon City Summer Solstice Event coordinators. On June 17, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board co-sponsored the 1st Annual Summer Solstice Art Fair with the Moon City Creative District in Lafayette Park. Ms. Passeri said they estimated that 1,000 people came out for this first-time event. There were 17 professional artists. Linda said they needed an event to put them on the map, and with the Park Board's support, they were successful. The event also was an opportunity to highlight Lafayette Park. Linda then presented a plaque to Dr. Sarah McCallister, Park Board Chair, to commemorate the first show,

along with an event poster. Mr. Belote asked how the utility pole painting by the Moon City Creative District is going. Steve said they are painting the utility poles that represent the boundaries of their community. There are 208 poles that are being painted. He said that Linda is painting a pole for the Parks Department. Mr. Belote thanked them for what they do for the community. He also thanked them for the t-shirts they brought for the Board.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell explained the graphs he provided of the 2001 and 2006 Sales Tax revenues. The graphs showed a comparison of the sales tax revenue projections and the actual sales tax revenue collected. Mr. Mitchell reported that July sales tax revenue was up significantly over the same time last year. As he has stated previously, because the June 2017 sales tax collection was down, we were optimistic that the July sales tax collection would be higher.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator In other Lasers news, Ms. Edwards mentioned that Sam Querry will be a featured marquee player with the Washington Kastles when they come to Springfield on July 28. Recent topics of media interest include Springfield Business Journal Men of the Year nomination of Bob Belote. Ms. Tyndall has been promoting Movies at Founders Park, with the help of our new community partner Alamo Drafthouse. With the help of our Web Designer, Ms. Pamela Montanez, we now have 171 Instagram followers. Ms. Montanez also designed a SnapChat filter for Go Skateboard Day and the Springfield Lasers. Ms. Dee King expressed her appreciation for the new Instagram account. Ms. Edwards said we are now managing 52 pages on Facebook in addition to the new Instagram account, and many times we can use the same content in both places. Mr. Belote commended Jenny, Pamela and Diana for increasing our social media presence, along with continuing to provide our traditional media coverage.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that she appreciated the combined efforts of Cooper Tennis staff and the entire department working together to prepare for the Springfield Lasers season. She mentioned that we will host Lasers Kids night for youth 5-13 years of age on July 27. Admission is free, but registration is required. Ms. McGrath stated that many don't know that we have had a swim team for youth 5-18 years of age since the 1980's. Meador Pool is their home pool where they practice two times per day and compete along with six other teams.

Ms. McGrath said that for 36 years we have partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Coca Cola for Kids Fishing Fun Day. This event is now hosted at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. MDC provides instruction on how to cast, and the participants can take home up to three fish, after MDC cleans, measures and weighs the fish for them. The kids get a picture taken with their fish, and we mail a certificate with the picture after the event. Interested individuals can practice their fishing skills as one of many the activities available throughout the year at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Ms. McGrath said we celebrated Go

Skateboard Day on June 21. Over 250 people attended the event, which included contests and prize giveaways.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that we sustained storm damage to tennis court fences at Cooper Tennis Complex on June 23. Mr. Carney said golf course maintenance crews are diligently working to keep the courses well-maintained, including hand watering the greens in the afternoon. We had several volunteer groups participate in the United Way Day of Caring, completing projects at Nichols and Ewing Parks. A student life group from Wichita, Kansas volunteered for three days in three different parks. Mr. Belote was appreciative of staff getting the Cooper Tennis Complex fences repaired prior to the Lasers season. Mr. Belote complimented staff for the large tennis ball painted on the south side of the Cooper Tennis facility.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats reported that 214 SPARC Summer Camp kids visited the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. Mr. Coats said the Master Naturalists volunteered hours at the Boathouse. He reported 977 people rented a canoe, kayak, or paddleboard last month. Mr. Coats said that the MDC stocked the pond at Rutledge-Wilson with fish the day before Kids Fishing Fun Day, which included tagging seven of the fish. If a tagged fish was caught during the Kids Fishing Fun Day, the participant won a rod and reel donated by MDC. All seven of the tagged fish were caught. Special Facilities staff is cutting, raking, and bailing our own hay for the first time this year, as we have contracted this service in the past. Mr. Coats stated that 2500 square bails and 175 round bails were cut. We have enough hay now to feed our animals for the rest of the year. Mr. Coats reported that preparation for Harvest Fest is underway. Harvest Fest is the last weekend of September and the first four weekends of October.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that we hosted the 16th Annual Summer SnowFest at Jordan Valley Park on June 17. We partnered with Bass Pro Shops and the Springfield Cardinals by providing snow for the Polar Bear Run participants to run through as part of the course. We also partnered with Isabel's House during SnowFest. Isabel's House had an outreach booth to provide information about their services, and they reconnected with families who they had helped in the past. In celebration of Isabel's House 10th birthday, 1000 pieces of birthday cake was served and guests sang Happy Birthday. Mr. Cumley reported that our new community partner, Alamo Drafthouse, has been instrumental in enhancing the citizen's experience at Movies at Founders Park. Mr. Cumley reported 170 guests the first night and 180 guests the second night at the Movies at Founders Park. Mr. Belote encouraged the Board to review Mr. Cumley's report on the Community Olympic Development Program as we have seen a lot of successes over the last year.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that we started discussing purchasing hay equipment about a year ago, and now we have completed our first cut, and we are fully stocked. Mr. Fisher stated that with Ms. Tyndall's help, the Father's Day promotion brought in just under \$100,000 to the Golf fund. He said that our golfers are enjoying the benefits of the Golf Patron Plan. Mr. Fisher reported that the summer Junior Golf program participants has doubled since last year.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that tonight is the Friends of the Zoo annual fund raiser event, Ball of the Wild. Mr. Crocker mentioned that next week is National Zoo Keeper Week, and his staff has planned employee appreciation special events for the Keepers and zoo employees. Mr. Crocker said the cheetah cubs, which are doing really well, are now on public display. Mr. Belote commented on the cheetahs' gender reveal party and how Mike, Joey and staff have done some creative things with marketing special events. Mr. Belote mentioned his continued appreciation of Friends of the Zoo support.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park thanked the Day of Caring and Kids Across America volunteers for the projects they completed, and Tim Giese and Ben Kellner for coordinating these events. Mr. Park reported that we lost a specimen Red Oak Tree in Oak Grove Park during the storms that also damaged Cooper Tennis Complex. The trunk of the tree was approximately 48 inches and estimated to be about 127 years old. Mr. Park reported that the Friends of the Gray Campbell Farmstead have been working on a capital campaign for a pavilion within the campus of the Gray Campbell Farmstead. Due to the efforts of our partner group and Norma Talbert, President of the Friends of Gray Campbell Farmstead, the project will soon become a reality. It will have wood shakes on the roof and will be an open structure made of wood to blend in nicely with the surrounding area. Mr. Park stated we have been working with the City Planning Department to identify projects that could be pursued utilizing Community Development Block Grant federal funds. Of the five projects listed, three of the them are playground improvement projects at Nichols, Meador, and Cooper Parks. Mr. Park expressed appreciation to Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, and our consultant, Dr. Peggy Riggs, on a successful grant application that will help augment the funds available to us through the HUD programs. Mr. Park announced the retirement of Mr. Peter Longley at the Botanical Center. Peter has been instrumental in the development of the Botanical Center since it opened in 2010. There is a retirement reception planned for Mr. Longley on Wednesday, July 26, from 4-7 pm, with remarks at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes stated that he has been an exceptional asset to the Botanical Center and suggested Mr. Belote draft a letter on behalf of the Board to present at his reception.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser said that National Night Out at Nichols Park is scheduled to begin at 6 pm on August 1, and she welcomed the Board to attend the event. This is a collaborative event with several City departments, including a softball game with the Springfield Fire and Police Departments. Mr. Scott Bailes indicated that he could provide Springfield Cardinals tickets for the event. Mr. Belote said this is the first time this event has been moved from Meador Park to Nichols Park. He said there has been a lot of renewed interest in Nichols Park with the Zone One initiatives.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned the One Awards Program, presented by the Springfield Sports Commission, was scheduled for Tuesday, July 25. The Park Board is a sponsor of the event, and Board members are welcome to attend. Mr. Belote mentioned the annual Park Days event is scheduled for August 4-6. Mr. Sidney Needem gave the Board a brief description of planned activities for the event. Mr. Belote updated the Board on the Rivercut bridge loan discussion with the City of Springfield. He will be discussing the issue at Council Lunch next Tuesday. The first reading of the ordinance will be Monday, July 24.

Mr. Belote directed everyone to the Meador Park pictures in their packets. Pickleball has become a popular sport nationally, and we have been approached to develop some additional

pickleball outdoor courts. The new pickleball courts have been well-received and utilized at Nichols Park. We would like to propose the two east courts at Meador Park to remain tennis courts, but redesign the other two courts to allow for six permanent pickleball courts. Ms. Reser said that she and Mr. Park had the opportunity to meet with the Ozarks Pickleball Association who is willing to help fund this conversion. Mr. Park responded to Ms. Michele Risdal Barnes' question by stating that it would be an easy conversion back to tennis courts should this be a short-term fad. Discussion continued, and hearing no objections, Mr. Belote stated that they would proceed with the conversion.

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, August 11, 2017. We will meet at the Park Board Administration Office at 8:30 a.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made the motion to adjourn the meeting, conduct a short recess, and then begin the closed session; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.