MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Wednesday, August 30, 2017
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm

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

Members Absent: none

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Karen Herron, Kevin Holle, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. REVIEW OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, mentioned that we were requested from law enforcement officials to close Parkwood Park in preparation for President Donald Trump's visit to Springfield. President Trump was visiting and speaking at a business that was across the street from the park. Kevin Holle, Park Ranger Administrator, stated that the park was closed from 5 am to 5 pm today, and there were no reported incidents or disturbances at that location.

Mr. Belote introduced the packet materials that were distributed to the Board for the meeting, which included the additional suggestions and recommendations from the August 9, 2017, Food and Beverage Committee meeting. Mr. Belote reviewed the reasons behind the need to address additional food and beverage options. The primary reason is to respond to requests received from parks patrons, partner groups and community event planners who repeatedly have asked to host their events in parks facilities and allow adult beverages to be available. Proceeds received from the anticipated additional revenue would be used as a resource for critical maintenance and repair projects, along with restoring our neighborhood parks, many of which have facilities that are more than 30 years old. Additional revenue received through the Golf Division associated with enhanced beverage opportunities, private rentals, and golf tournaments would be exclusively reinvested in our golf courses due to the structure of the Golf Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Belote and the Board discussed how adult beverages are now allowed at specific community events on City property. This approved provision has been allowed at several events hosted at Park Central Square and designated areas at the Ozark Empire Fair and Artsfest. There have not been any reported incidents after adult beverages were allowed at these community events. Ms. Woolsey provided the historical background from the 2002 issue, when the Park Board approved a similar food and beverage concept proposal, along with the details of the process to amend the current City ordinance to allow for adult beverages at specific venues within the park system.

The Board reviewed the Food and Beverage Committee's recommendations of park locations and facilities for consideration to allow adult beverages. The nine specific locations, includes our three golf courses, represents less than 10 percent of our 104 park facilities. The Committee reviewed the locations that receive the highest demand of requests and are appropriate for this type of activity, along with facilities that are not predominantly youth-oriented. Park Ranger Administrator, Kevin Holle, stated that he did not believe there would be a significant increase in alcohol related incidents compared to similar situations our Rangers deal with now.

It was discussed that if the proposal were to be approved at the Park Board level at a future Board meeting, it would then be forwarded to City Council for consideration. We would also share the proposal with the Greene County Commission. Our administrative staff will prepare a question and answer sheet, develop an implementation plan and permitting process, and other related materials for City Council and the Greene County Commission. As a reminder, Mr. Belote stated that the projects from the 2001 and 2006 parks sales tax initiatives receive dedicated ongoing financial support for maintenance and operations. However, it is difficult to address any new reinvestment in sports infrastructure, equipment, and neighborhood parks when additional capital funds are not available.

Mr. John Price, Chair, Food and Beverage Committee, stated that we recognize that approval of amending the ordinance will increase our responsibility to protect our patrons and facilities, along with providing additional training of appropriate staff. We want to clearly state to the community that our recommendation to amend the ordinance is to meet patron demands, provide additional revenue resources to reinvest in our neighborhood parks, and help to defer rising program costs without consistently raising fees and charges. Hearing no further discussion or concerns regarding the proposal or the process, Mr. Price stated that the proposal to amend the City ordinance will be presented by the Food and Beverage Committee to the Park Board for approval at the September 8th Park Board meeting.

III. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Mr. John Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.