MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, December 8, 2017
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 am.

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

Members Absent: Carolyn Gerdes, Bob Horton

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

Guests: Rich and Jeffrey, two members of the Bocce Ball Club at Doling Park

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dee King made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2017, Park Board Meeting and the November 29, 2017, Food and Beverage Committee Meeting as a group and as submitted; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously.

III. FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROPOSAL UPDATE

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, thanked the Park Board Food and Beverage Committee for their work in bringing forward our proposal to City Council's Community Involvement Committee over the last several months. Mr. John Price, Chair, Park Board Food and Beverage Committee, stated that the documents presented to the Community Involvement Committee on December 5 were included in the Park Board members' packets. All members of the Food and Beverage Committee, along with several other Park Board members and staff, met with the Community Involvement Committee (CIC). The CIC was receptive and attentive to the proposal. The CIC members asked good questions and seemed pleased with our responses. The CIC members stated that they appreciated the one-page graphic fact sheet and complimented our staff for the detailed information provided for their review. The Community Involvement Committee unanimously passed our proposal to be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration at their January 16, 2018, meeting. We will begin notifying our partner groups of the City Council meeting if they would like to show their support of our proposal.

Mr. Belote thanked the Food and Beverage Committee support staff members for their preparation of the documents, along with 12 of our partner organizations who provided letters of support as part of our proposal.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Belote mentioned that several Park Board members may have received letters from our bocce ball enthusiasts who were unsure who could assist them with repairs at the bocce ball courts in Doling Park. Rich and Jeffrey, members of the Bocce Ball Club, attended the meeting today to express their appreciation to the Park Board members that personally responded to them and to the Park Operations staff who worked to complete the requested repairs. Rich and Jeffrey feel confident that they have a good working partnership with the Parks Operations staff for future maintenance of the bocce ball courts.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley mentioned that the new "Bee-autiful Day" sculpture was recently installed in Jordan Valley Park. He stated that there will also be an educational component associated with the new sculpture regarding how bees pollinate plants and wildflowers. Try Hockey and Try Archery free day clinics were held in November with 20 and 25 participants, respectively. Mediacom Ice Park staff will host a hockey match between two rival teams, MSU Ice Bears vs University of Missouri Ice Tigers, December 8-10.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath mentioned that our SPARC division hosts "Schools Out", a camp-style day care, when Springfield Public Schools are not in session. During the recent SPS fall break session, we hosted 148 kids at five elementary schools. This service is offered during the winter break and snow days, as well. Parents can register children for one day or every day during the school break. Our Family Centers have a new promotion in which participants can try out the family centers for one week, free of charge. When they join the family centers, they will receive a free month of membership. Current members who renew their membership will receive a $50 Park Board gift certificate. Ms. McGrath mentioned that we had 8,000 participants and nearly 800 dogs registered for the annual Turkey Trot event. With over 10,000 pounds of food collected in conjunction with Turkey Trot, it remains the single-day largest collection for Ozarks Food Harvest. Our Parks Department has been involved with the Price Cutter Charity Championship (PCCC) for over 20 years assisting with marshaling, helping with volunteers, hosting the junior golf tournament, and providing rounds of golf as a thank-you to PCCC volunteers. This year, the PCCC raised $957,000 for 47 charities in our community. In the 28 years of the PCCC, they have raised over 14 million dollars for community charities. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. McGrath for her involvement and coordination of the event on behalf of our department.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her staff has been predominately working on Turkey Trot. Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator, will teach several sessions at our upcoming Missouri Park and Recreation Association annual conference. Ms. Pam Montanez, Web Designer, is working on 25 interactive web pages to provide a guided garden tour at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park using QR codes. This new technology will replace the Guide by Cell program. Ms. Montanez designed an application to provide expiration dates for posted web releases. Ms.

Brittney Bywater, Graphics Assistant, completed her last Neighborhood News publication for the City's Public Information Office and the Park Bench publication for late winter/early spring.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that the Lake Springfield Boathouse has been a popular location for holiday luncheons this season. Mr. Coats stated that Special Facilities was awarded a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation to plant native trees and grasses to improve natural habitats at Lake Springfield Park. A new jersey calf, Willow, was born at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. The lighted drive-thru event, Candy Cane Lane in RWF Park, is open weekend evenings from 5-8 pm through December 17. With the recent warm temperatures, the indoor and outdoor arenas at Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center have been utilized for weekly lessons.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Belote thanked the Park Operations landscaping staff for their recent improvements to the Park Administration campus. Mr. Carney stated that staff has been able to complete many outside projects because of the recent warmer weather. Mr. Carney mentioned that Park Operations staff was pleased with the results of the newly-designed runners starting area for Turkey Trot. The Golf Maintenance crews moved a set of tee boxes forward to help golfers who have difficulty with long distances. At Rivercut Golf Course, improvements were made to course drains and brush was cleared along the river bank area.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that total revenues are down for the fiscal year due in part to a decrease in collected sales tax. We are hopeful that the sales tax revenue will catch up in the next 1-2 months to make up some of the deficit. We continue to monitor the budget carefully and adjust expenditures accordingly. The City has moved up the budget cycle process by two weeks this year, so staff is currently reviewing fees and charges and proposed priorities. We will schedule a budget workshop with the Park Board in mid-to-late January. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated the Board members' input and suggestions during the budget process, as our food and beverage proposal began during the budget discussion two years ago.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser mentioned that Lake Country Soccer staff expressed their appreciation to our Park Operations crews for being responsive to the demands of field preparation for league and tournament play this past season.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that 42 playground inspections were conducted this past month as part of the monitoring of playground equipment safety process. Mr. Park stated that the local disc golf community was helpful with the development of the new 18-hole disc golf course at Tom Watkins Park, which is one of the Neighborhood Works projects. The project is nearly complete except for the installation of tee marker signs. Our Purchasing Buyer is finalizing information to issue purchase orders for the new playground projects at Cooper, Meador, Nichols, and Tom Watkins Park sites as part of the HUD-funded projects. Dennis McMan, our Senior Park Planner, is working on plans for the new walking trail loops at Meador, Nichols, and Watkins Park sites. The concrete abutments and retaining walls for the west end of the pedestrian bridge are completed, and the contractor is conducting similar work for the east end for the Ozark Greenway's Fulbright Trail. It is anticipated that the new pedestrian bridge will be installed soon.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that Zoo staff has been busy with the recent changes and acquisitions in their animal collection. Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoo will have several new species available for zoo visitors this season.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that the recent Golf Sale was successful and final reports will be available soon. Mr. Fisher mentioned that golf certificates or deposits into established Golf Patron Plan accounts make good gifts during the holiday season.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that Ozark Greenways Executive Director, Terry Whaley, recently retired after more than 20 years of service. In honor of Mr. Whaley's contributions to our community, a kiosk is being modified at the Frisco-Highline trailhead area. Additionally, several community organizations commissioned a special bicycle sculpture from a local artist to present to him at his retirement celebration. Mr. Belote mentioned that about 18 months ago we provided a letter of support for the preservation of the Rock Island Corridor and building a hiking and biking trail. With many communities along the entire corridor interested in a recreational trail, Missouri Central Railroad agreed to work with Missouri State Parks to rail bank the Rock Island corridor. Missouri State Parks is currently doing a final study and seeking additional public comment before the next proceedings take place. The deadline to sign an agreement to "rail-bank" the former railroad corridor for potential future use is February 21, 2018. Mr. Belote stated we will again offer a letter in support of the project.

Mr. Belote reported that he recently received notification that the Springfield-Greene County Park Board has been selected for the upcoming 2018 Class of Inductees to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. We are a very unique inductee as we are the only park system that owns and operates a World TeamTennis franchise, offers a Community Olympic Development Program, with a legacy of hosting sports competitions since the 1940's. Rick Grayson, who is a top 100 golf professional and our contract Teaching Professional at Rivercut, will also be part of the 2018 induction class. We will invite our current and past Park Board members to attend this special event. The induction ceremony is Sunday, January 28.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The Parks Department Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for 11 am to 1 pm, Northview Center, on December 13. Park Board members are welcome to attend.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. John Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. John Price made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session after a short break; seconded by Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 9:32 a.m.