

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 9, 2018
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

Members Present: Matt Bailey, Carolyn Gerdes, Bob Horton, Dee King, Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, Michele Risdal-Barnes

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, John Price

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Joe Seastrum, Brad Stulce, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Mike Chiles

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2018, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION & PARK BOARD VIDEO SEGMENT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, thanked everyone who attended the formal Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, including former Park Directors Jodie Adams and Dan Kinney. Mr. Belote also thanked Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, for participating in all of the induction activities throughout the day. Dr. McCallister mentioned that it was a wonderful experience, and she was proud to represent the Park Board. Several people that Dr. McCallister met during the festivities mentioned that they learned many of their leadership skills by participating in Park Board programs and how much they appreciated our park system in the community.

Since not everyone was able to attend the Induction Ceremony, Mr. Belote showed the Park Board's video segment from the event. Also, Mr. Belote distributed a small Missouri Sports Hall of Fame plaque as a token of appreciation to all the Park Board Members.

IV. MISSOURI PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION 2018 CONFERENCE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Belote stated that several staff attended the 2018 Missouri Park and Recreation Association Annual Conference in Tan-Tar-A February 26-March 2. Several staff, including Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator, who taught four educational sessions, made presentations throughout the conference. Joe Seastrom, a Recreation Specialist in our SPARC

program, is a representative for the MPRA Southwest Region and the President of the MSU Alumni Association. Mr. Seastrom also presented on mentorship during the conference. Next year, the MPRA Conference will be in Branson. Mr. Belote encouraged our Board Members to perhaps help lead a session designed for other park board members next year.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we were honored with a special recognition from MPRA for our participation in the Show Me Healthy Communities Initiative, through our partnership with Playcore and installation of playground equipment at Nichols, Tom Watkins, Meador, and Cooper Parks. Additionally, Terry Whaley was recognized with a MPRA Retirement Service Award. Mr. Robert Uckele, our Recreation Administrator for Concessions, was honored with the MPRA Associate Fellow Award. Mr. Uckele stated that he appreciated the support from the Board, along with his staff who work with him as a team on a daily basis.

V. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION GRANT APPROVAL FOR SPECIAL FACILITIES

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Park Board is being offered another opportunity to partner with Missouri's Department of Conservation (MDC) for the removal of non-native and/or invasive plant species, as well as planting native shrubs, grass and wildflowers throughout Lake Springfield Park. The project is possible through MDC's grant funds and the Park Board's match of cash or in-kind assistance, that may include staff, equipment, volunteer time, supplies, equipment and maintenance. Ms. Lana Woolsey, Assistant City Attorney for Parks, also reviewed the proposed Cooperative Agreement. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to accept the Missouri Department of Conservation Grant Proposal that authorizes the execution of the finalized Cooperative Agreement, and proceeding with this project; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee Report Mr. Belote stated that Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee, and she will ask a few Board Members to serve with her in the selection of two county candidates and one city candidate where we need Board replacements. Additionally, we have three city Park Board members who have agreed to continue serving and will be re-appointed to a second term, and include Mr. Scott Bailes, Mr. Bob Horton, and Ms. Carolyn Gerdes.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that his report does not yet include the March sales tax revenues due to delayed reporting from the State of Missouri; however, the sales tax revenues remain strong and up compared to last year at this time. With the colder temperatures in January and February, golf and zoo revenues are down year-to-date. We will continue to make adjustments within the current budget to help offset these decreases.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that his staff is working on reconfiguring the concession stand at Fasnacht pool to enhance the customer experience, including more food selections and increase storage capacity. Mr. Carney stated that an irrigation system was installed to help improve the grass on the north lawn near the

Botanical Center. Ms. Linda Shipman, our new Safety Coordinator, has been working with the Park Rangers on our active shooter program. She also is working on a detailed severe weather policy for our facilities and will include more explanatory information to our current policy.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that Ozark Greenways and the Park Board, along with the American Heart Association, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Healthy Living Alliance, and Missouri State University, are partnering together for the Fulbright Spring Greenway Dedication on April 4 at 10 am. Participants will meet at the David C. Murray Trailhead for the dedication, and as part of the Move Your Shoes walking challenge, take a walk on the trail. Ms. Pam Montanez is working on launching the new golf website to make the site more user-friendly. Ms. Edwards reviewed the top internet searches, pages visited, and increased searched patterns after recent events such as the job fair.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats thanked the many volunteers at Lake Springfield Park, specifically Mr. Robert Hammond, a retired engineer, who visits the park regularly to lend a helping hand by picking up trash along the shoreline among other tasks. Mr. Coats mentioned that recently pelicans have been migrating through the park, so many photographers have been taking pictures of the event. At Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, our staff replaced the stall doors in the barn. Easter at the Farm is scheduled for March 24 from 10 am to 2pm and will be hosted by the Special Facilities and Recreation staff. Special Facilities maintenance staff have been assisting with the renovations of the Rivercut Club House.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley stated that Rotary International, along with each local Rotary Club, will plant one tree in conjunction with Arbor Day for a total of six trees, in K-Park within Jordan Valley Park. The dedication ceremony will take place on April 4 at 4 pm.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that the Software Task Force is learning about additional modules that will assist staff in creating customized reports, along with engaging in more in-depth training within the Active software.

Mr. Bob Belote on behalf of Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Mr. Belote mentioned that Ms. McGrath was instrumental in the coordination of the successful job fair. He appreciates the many supervisors who staffed their specific division's table to answer questions from individuals interested in seasonal positions in Parks.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that the Botanical Center Staff, along with Park Operations staff and Friends of the Garden members, helped to staff a booth at the annual Lawn and Garden Show. Mr. Park provided a brief update on the HUD-funded projects at Tom Watkins Park and Nichols Park. He thanked the Public Works staff for installing a crosswalk and additional signage at Pythian and Patterson near Lake Country Soccer Complex. Additionally, Public Works created a safe walking route and crossing just east of Bennett to Ewing Park. Mr. Park also thanked Todd Cox and Buffee Smith, from Purchasing and Finance respectively, for their quick processing of HUD-funded projects purchasing requisitions and contracts due to the aggressive project completion timeline.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that March kicks off the spring season and increased attendance at the Zoo due to school's spring break in the four-state region. The new Zoo admission fee structure and Friends of the Zoo membership rates that were approved by the Board during last year's budget discussion became effective March 1. The renovated spider monkey exhibit will reopen this spring, which will be a welcomed addition near the boardwalk. The new seating deck on the west side of the concession stand will also open this spring. Mr. Crocker mentioned that new pieces of colorful sculptures have been added to the Zoo grounds. A new photo-spot featuring a blue butterfly now includes a smaller version more suitable for younger children. The sculptures and photo-spot features are all items mentioned in recent focus group studies. Staff look forward to reviewing the responses on how the public is enjoying the new features.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director The Masters Kick-Off and Golfer Appreciation Event will be held at Rivercut Golf Course this year on Wednesday, April 4. There will be golf contests for participants, and our Concessions Administrator, Robert Uckele, will provide Masters themed-food for the event. Mr. Fisher mentioned that the new golf point-of-sale system has been implemented and staff is working through a few challenges. Mr. Fisher reported that the Player's Grill area at Rivercut has received fresh paint, new carpet, and updated carpentry. New furniture and kitchen equipment will also be arriving in a couple of weeks to complete the renovation of this area. Mr. Fisher stated that we have filled the Jordan Valley Ice Park Operations Manager position, and we welcome Mr. Jeff Mitton to the position from Michigan. Mr. Fisher mentioned that the liquor license application process is underway and staff is meeting with local beverage distributors.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the Missouri State High School Activities Association Basketball Championships are in Springfield for the next two weekends and will have a great impact on our local economy. Mr. Belote stated that former Parks employee, Maria Johnston, received the "Woman in the Moon" award from the Moon City organization for her involvement with Lafayette Park activities. Mr. Pat Gartland, Boys and Girls Club Director, was recently presented the Non-Profit Executive of the Year Award at the Southwest Missouri Non-Profit Excellence Awards event. As part of our Missouri Sports Hall of Fame sponsorship, Board members are welcome to attend the annual Women's Luncheon on March 28. Mr. Belote will travel to Indian Wells for World TeamTennis ownership meetings and the WTT Annual Player Draft. We are hopeful to retain a few players that have played for our Springfield Lasers team in the past.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 13 at 8:30 am. We will meet at the Northview Center in Doling Park.

XII ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 am.