

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, June 8, 2018
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

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

Members Absent: Mike Chiles, Bob Horton

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

Guests: Richard Wilkinson, Ozark Pickleball Club; Kevin Marquart, Sheila Nichols, Abilities First

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2018, Park Board Meeting; May 11, 2018, Closed Park Board Meeting; and the May 21, 2018, Special Invitation to Springfield Art Museum Meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. PICKLEBALL ENTHUSIAST GROUP INVOLVEMENT AND DONATION

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director, introduced the Ozarks Pickleball Club, who were instrumental in raising funds for pickleball court restoration for the permanent pickleball courts at Meador Park. Our Park Operations Staff renovated two tennis courts at Meador Park and turned them into six pickleball courts. We appreciate the fund-raising efforts of this group in helping us expand our outdoor pickleball activities.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATION FROM ABILITIES FIRST ORGANIZATION

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, stated that his division was also the recipient of a prospective donation. Abilities First would like to donate two adaptive bicycles, which would be available to check out at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. With the Wilson's Creek Trail nearby, it was a perfect location to offer the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to enjoy a bike ride. Sheila Nichols, Director of Abilities First, mentioned that their agency provides services to over 2,300 disabled individuals annually. She also mentioned that the agency operates an upscale resale boutique, which also provides a place for their clients to buy clothing for a nominal price. Their Art Inspired Academy provides opportunities for their clients to

experience art. Friends of Abilities First will host a bike ride event called “Ride On 2018”, to help raise money for Art Inspired Academy scholarships, assist individuals to live independently in their own home, and continue to provide opportunities for inclusion where people live, learn, work, and play. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made a motion to approve the donation from the Friends of Ability First Organization; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion was approved unanimously.

V. FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, stated that the Board members should be familiar with this manual as it was reviewed and approved prior to meeting with City Council. Our internal staff Food and Beverage group met to include our facility operations and procedures for venue rentals in which alcohol is requested to be served. A reservation request form is available online to start the process for our patrons. Mr. Fisher briefly reviewed the added components such as obtaining a permit, insurance requirements, and the hiring of security personnel for event rentals that will have alcohol. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made the motion to approve the added components to the Food and Beverage Operating Procedures Manual; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

VI. HUD-SPONSORED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Mr. Miles Park stated he appreciated the support from the Planning, Purchasing, and Finance Departments in their prompt execution of the requirements needed to complete the HUD-funded projects. Mr. Park reviewed a powerpoint presentation of the completed projects and provided an update of the projects currently underway. Mr. Park mentioned that we have progressive ribbon-cutting ceremony planned in conjunction with a Zone 1 Forum with City Council member, Phyllis Ferguson, at Tom Watkins Park, on Thursday, June 14. The ceremony will unveil the new walking trail, playground, and new restroom building in Tom Watkins Park and will begin at 7:30 pm. Mr. Park mentioned we plan to host a picnic to thank our many internal partners and staff who assisted in completing the various projects in a limited time-frame.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. **Nominating Committee Report** Mr. Belote stated that we have sent the appropriate notification to the City Manager’s Office regarding the re-appointment of Scott Bailes, Carolyn Gerdes, and Bob Horton to a second term. Additionally, applications are being reviewed for the replacement of a City representative whose second term is due to expire.

VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that the sales tax revenue is up for May and year-to-date. The Business Operations staff has conducted audits of the procedures followed at the three golf courses in conjunction with the new food and beverage options and have reported no issues. On-site periodic audits will continue to be conducted throughout the park system.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that she has been invited to be a weekly guest on the “Talking Women’s Sports” talk radio show on Jock 98.7. Ms. Edwards will share information about upcoming Park Board events and activities. Ms. Diana Tyndall, Parks Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator, has been finalizing the process for this year’s online Springfield Lasers ticket sales. Ms. Pam Montanez, Web Designer, worked with the Food and Beverage Staff Committee to create an online event request form and application for events in which alcohol will be served, which should make the process easier to understand.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Nearly 600 patrons rented watercraft at Lake Springfield in May. In conjunction with the Community Conservation Grant Program that we were awarded for Lake Springfield Park, we have planted 1,280 plants in the park. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park had a new baby lamb born on site on May 17, and her name is Bianca. The Special Facilities Maintenance Staff did a great job completing the new sidewalk at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, along with the new concrete pads poured for the water tanks at the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that Cooper Tennis Complex served as a host for the Ozark Conference Tournament, with 16 teams participating, the JV All-Conference Tournament with 12 teams participating, and the MSHSAA Boys Tennis Championship in May. Ms. McGrath mentioned that Evangel University hosted the NAIA Heart of America College Softball Conference Championship on May 2-5 at Killian Complex with 10 teams participating. The Southwest Missouri Senior Games were held May 30-June 1, with over 135 registered participants. There was a significant increase in the number of pickleball participants this year. The Outdoor Initiatives staff embarked on their first extended stay, an out-of-state trip to the Grand Canyon. The group enjoyed great hiking and camping on the North and South Rims.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the Jordan Valley Park fountains were turned on the first weekend in May. Mr. Cumley stated that thanks to a Titus Foundation grant, the Springfield Symphony will provide a free concert in Jordan Valley Park. Movies in Founders Park begin this weekend at dusk with Beauty and the Beast on Friday and Black Panther on Saturday evening.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that they are ready for the United Way’s Day of Caring on June 28. The Zoo will have over 100 volunteers from six different organizations participating in variety of Zoo projects such as painting, fence and rail repairs, and landscaping.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher reported that the new food and beverage options are generating documented revenue at the three golf courses. The Annual Father’s Day golf promotion for gift card purchases and Patron Plan enrollments or renewals begins June 9 through June 17.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that the new steel bridges on holes, 3, 4, and 6 at Rivercut Golf Course are complete except for some finish work near the sites. He

appreciated the extreme care that the contractor took to cause minimal damage to the golf course and in making the project run smoothly.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser mentioned that the US Youth Soccer National Leagues Program will feature a network of conferences that will take four regions and move them into 13 conferences, which is more geographically focused. Ms. Reser stated she thought this would have a positive impact on the league.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote thanked the Springfield Art Museum Board for including the Park Board members at their recent meeting to discuss their master plan. Mr. Belote mentioned that Wilson's Creek Greenway was designated as a National Recreation Trail, marking this the fourth trail in Ozark Greenways' inventory with this designation. Mr. Belote attended the Springfield Sports Commission's Awards Ceremony, formerly known as the One Awards, honoring local scholastic athletes. Mr. Belote mentioned that Greg Burris, City Manager, will retire at the end of the month. The Park Board appreciates the City Manager's support of our endeavors in recent years such as the endorsement of the Food and Beverage Proposal, the Rivercut Bridge Loan, HUD-funded projects, and the co-sponsored InBalance Health and Wellness program for City employees.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

An announcement was made last week that the new City Manager, Jason Gage, will begin his duties on August 1. Mr. Gage comes to us from Salina, Kansas. The Mayor and Committee provided many opportunities for input from City employees during the interview process. We look forward to working with Mr. Gage.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board Meeting is Friday, July 13, 2018, at 8:30 am, at the Cooper Tennis Complex.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.