

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SPRINGFIELD-GREENED COUNTY PARK BOARD
FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2018
Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Filmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Kevin Holle, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Paul Nahon, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Alyssa Stelmach, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2018, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Mr. Bob Horton. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. 2018 SPRINGFIELD LASERS SEASON PREVIEW

Mr. Paul Nahon, Springfield Lasers General Manager, stated that the 2018 Springfield Lasers season will showcase some noticeable changes. Mr. Nahon stated World Team Tennis will now live stream all matches. The league will also introduce the new Hawkeye system, which includes the use of several high-tech cameras to record the play of the ball, therefore, eliminating line judges during matches. Additionally, WTT has a new Commissioner, Chris Renner, to oversee league operations moving forward. Mr. Nahon briefly reviewed our players' profiles mentioning that Miomir Kemanovic will make his WTT debut this year and was the former junior world No.1 player. Former MVP, Vania King, will rejoin the Springfield Lasers for the third time. Daniel Nestor was the first ATP player in history to reach 1000 doubles wins and has 12 Grand Slam titles. Abi Spears will be a Springfield Lasers for the third time after recently playing in the women's doubles semi-finals at Wimbledon. Jack Sock will be our featured marquee player on July 20. He won his first national championship at Cooper Tennis Stadium at age 11. Coach John-Laffnie De Jager will serve as the Lasers coach for the 12th year. Mr. Nahon thanked the Board for their support and all the Park Board staff that work together to provide a family-friendly experience during the Lasers home matches. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciates Mediacom's support in broadcasting live during six of the seven home matches.

IV. SILVER SPRINGS PARK CENTENNIAL AND UPCOMING DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that the Park Day Reunion event started sometime in the early 1950's. This year, the Springfield Reunion Club will celebrate the 100th year

anniversary of Silver Springs Park during the Park Day Reunion festivities. A schedule of events for the weekend of August 3-5, 2018, was included in the Board member's packets, along with a summary of the park's history. We are working with the City of Springfield, Missouri State, and a citizen-driven Steering Committee to develop a Heritage Trail featuring key elements celebrating black history. Silver Springs Park is one of our 10 historic parks, and three years ago, with the help of the Friends of Timmons Temple and community partners, we relocated the Timmons Temple to the Park. Volunteers are still in the process of restoring the building, and they will be available during the Park Day event to answer questions about the history of the building. Mr. Sidney Needem, a three-time Park Board Member and life-long member of the Springfield Reunion Club, mentioned that all the events are open to everyone. On Friday night, there is a Hospitality Meet and Greet. Saturday activities include tennis, bowling and swimming, a car show and parade, followed by a picnic and dance. On Sunday, there will be gospel singing in the park, along with the Miss Silver Springs Pageant. Mr. Needem thanked the Park Board staff for all their support and efforts in helping to get the park ready for the event, which included a new roof on the Silver Springs Park pavilion and resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee: Mr. Belote stated that the Nominating Committee identified candidates and conducted the interviews for the Park Board city representative position. A recommendation is moving forward to the City Manager's office. Mr. Belote thanked the members of the committee, Michele Risdal-Barnes, Chair, Bob Horton, and Sarah McCallister for their committee service.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley stated that the Jordan Valley Park staff were pleased to host the City Employee Picnic on June 21. The City Picnic Planning Committee indicated we had record attendance, and they received very positive comments about the new location and the variety of event activities. On June 23, Jordan Valley Park was the site for the 17th Annual Snowfest with over 2500 people in attendance, who enjoyed the mountain of snow, fun activities, and entertainment. Mr. Cumley reported that the USTA Player Development Office in Orlando, Florida is using the Cooper Tennis Academy as an example of a premier developmental program run by a parks and recreation organization. The Cooper Tennis Academy model shows parents that it is possible to produce national level players without attending a costly live-in program that is usually away from home.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that there has been 32 days where the temperature has been 90 degrees or higher, with 11 days designated under heat-advisory. We do extend our pool hours for at least one location on heat advisory days, along with Splash 'N Sizzle on Friday and Saturday evenings, where admission is \$1.00 or a canned food item. The canned food items are donated to Ozarks Food Harvest. Consequently, pool attendance is up 67 percent compared to June in 2017. The Accessible Recreation Division embarked on their 25th annual Float for Independence float trip with 14 participants, including three ladies who have been on all 25 float trips. The Skate Park hosted their annual Go Skateboard Day on the longest day of the year, June 21. A local radio station, Q102, provided music and contest prizes throughout the event. We had 200 participants, which

included many children and parents riding together. Ms. McGrath stated that staff is preparing Cooper Tennis Complex for the start of the Lasers' season with transforming the atrium to a VIP room, confirming entertainment and music, coordinating food and new beverage options, a selfie photo station, along with special activities just for kids.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated that staff baled 3,000 square and 220 round bales of hay at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Staff welcomed Oreo, the new baby lamb, and Sunny and Cher each had a litter of baby pigs. All summer camps are filled to capacity, with 148 children. Lake Springfield Park benefited from the 49 hours of volunteer work in June. There were nearly 1000 water craft rentals at Lake Springfield during June.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that we recently published information regarding serving alcohol at events on our website, which also includes a FAQ informational page, inquiry and permit application, and links to obtain event insurance. A list of available sites for private rentals and catering options is also provided. We helped to coordinate three ribbon cuttings at Tom Watkins Park, celebrating the completion of these recent HUD-funded projects, which included a ceremonial frisbee toss. Our graphic designer, Brittney Bywater, has been working on creating new signage and banners for Lasers season. Pam Montanez, our web designer, created the new online forms for special events that include alcohol. Mr. Belote thanked the staff who have been working to make the updated beverage options process easy for patrons to navigate.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that for the annual United Way Day of Caring on June 28, they had one of their largest groups of volunteers. With over 100 volunteers from five different organizations, staff coordinated 15 different projects such as painting, sealing tables and boardwalks, removing brush, and landscaping tasks. The first "Brew at the Zoo" event is scheduled for September 8. It will be an after-hours event that will take place at the Zoo. We hosted the first Parks Appreciation Day at the Zoo for Park employees on July 8. Over 100 park employees brought their families to enjoy a day at the Zoo.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher thanked the Special Facilities maintenance staff for their help with installing various equipment and furniture at Stewart and Rivercut Golf Courses in time for the Governor's Cup and the Price Cutter Charity Championship qualifier tournament. The Father's Day Golf promotion for gift cards and Patron Plans was very successful. The golf course staff has received positive comments and additional revenues have been generated with the implementation of enhanced beverage options, along with several new tournament bookings. Mr. Fisher thanked the Park Ranger staff for implementing new procedures to increase Ranger visibility at outdoor pool locations.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park thanked Tim Gries, who managed all of the Day of Caring volunteer groups in several park sites, along with Robert Uckele, who provided lunch for all the participants. The Botanical Center hosted five weddings, three family reunions, a wedding and a baby shower, and a couple of wedding receptions and birthday parties, along with 23 partnering organization meeting in June. Staff hosted the National Teddy Bear Picnic, which included showing the movie, "Paddington" at the Peace Through People Pavilion. Repairs and improvements of the north road to accommodate two-way traffic begin this month at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. It was necessary to remove a few of the trees to

accommodate the project, but we will replant 17 new trees once the project is complete. Mr. Park explained that the Department of Conservation has found an Emerald Ash Borer beetle in one of their traps within Greene County. These are known predators, but only four percent of our tree inventory are ash trees, with the most ash trees located in Jordan Valley Park. The ash trees will be treated with a special pesticide that will prolong the life of the tree. We plan to remove and replace a few trees a year over the next three to eight years.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser mentioned that we will host a pickleball clinic on August 14 and 15, with a national clinician leading the clinic sessions. On August 14, the clinic will be designed for coaches and teachers and learning how to actively promote the sport. On August 15, the clinic is for ambassadors of the sport to gain a general knowledge of the sport. Several recreation staff will attend one of the clinic sessions.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that on behalf of Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations, sales tax revenues remained strong for the closing of year-end. Over the next couple of months, the City's Finance Department will make year-end entries to close out the fiscal year, but our cash on hand and formal reserve fund should remain consistent.

Mr. Belote stated that the National Night Out event will be Tuesday, August 7 beginning at 5 pm in Nichols Park. At 4:30 pm, we will dedicate the new playground, with accessible features, which is another HUD-funded project. Mr. Belote recently wrote a letter of support for the Grant Avenue Corridor Plan, which will feature a park-way affect through Fassnight, Phelps Grove, and Hawthorn Parks. We are involved in discussions with Trailspring to link mountain bike trails through the Sac River, Ritter Springs, David C. Murray, and Lost Hill Parks, along with City Utilities to include Fellows Lake and McDaniel Lake. There will likely be a possible Park Board workshop discussion item in the future to explore the funding options and infrastructure needs. Miles Park and Dennis McMan, Senior Park Planner, have already spent time reviewing the possibilities and look forward to future planning sessions. Mr. Belote mentioned that we have appreciated our partnership with the Springfield Cardinals, which included Cardinal tickets to our youth sport participants. Additionally, with our partnership, we have been offered a Springfield Cardinals suite for a Park Board member social on Wednesday, August 29.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, did not have a report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Tammy Mast, United Way staff member and Board Member, thanked the Park Board staff for their participation in the Day of Caring. She appreciated our efforts to accommodate the extra volunteers.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Go Lasers!

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, August 10, 2018, at 8:30 am, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.