

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, August 10, 2018
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Dr. Sarah McCallister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.

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

Members Absent: Bob Horton

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Kevin Holle, Bill Ingemi, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Paul Nahon, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Coach John-Laffnie DeJager, Springfield Lasers

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2018, Park Board Meeting and the July 13, 2018, Closed Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD LASERS' FIRST WTT CHAMPIONSHIP AND FAN APPRECIATION EVENT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Bill Ingemi, Parks Health and Wellness Coordinator, who has served as the Springfield Lasers' athletic trainer for all 23 of their seasons. Additionally, Mr. Belote introduced John-Laffnie de Jager, our Springfield Lasers Coach for the last 12 years and three-time recipient of the World TeamTennis Coach of the Year award. Coach JL stated that it was an amazing season, and he was honored to be the Lasers Coach. He stated that our Springfield staff represent the franchise, the Lasers team and the community in an admirable way. Coach JL recapped the final championship match and stated that he dedicated the win to Mr. Harry Cooper. Paul Nahon stated that the World TeamTennis staff was pleased with our season's operations, and he appreciated the teamwork effort of all Park Board staff. Paul presented the WTT 2018 Championship Plate to Dr. McCallister. Mr. Belote mentioned that we will have a Fan Appreciation event on Friday, August 10, at Cooper Tennis Complex, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to take pictures with Coach JL and the King Cup Trophy, purchase WTT Championship gear, and enjoy refreshments and door prizes.

IV. **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Nominating Committee: 2018-2019 Officers Election Slate Mr. Belote stated that the newest Park Board member recommendation is on the City Council's Agenda next week for approval. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes, Nominating Committee Chair, distributed the Ballot for the 2018-2019 Officers Elections, along with the Nominating Committee's recommendations. She explained the ballot also provided space to write in a nominee. Board members were encouraged to complete the ballot, sign it, and forward it to her. After reviewing and tallying the ballot sheets, it was determined that Ms. Carolyn Gerdes and Mr. Sidney Needem were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for 2018-2019, with Mr. Belote serving as Secretary to the Board, which is customary in his role as Director. (Note: Dr. Sarah McCallister did not submit a ballot.)

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Belote mentioned that annual Park Day Reunion was held in Silver Springs Park August 3-5. The event also included the celebration of Silver Springs Park 100th Anniversary that Saturday. A detailed history booklet of the event was distributed to the Board members. Mr. Sidney Needem, who has served on the Park Day Reunion Committee for decades, stated that Silver Springs Park never looked better. He appreciated the new special signage at the park entry locations, the recent pavilion renovations, and upgrades to the basketball courts. The next Park Day Reunion event is August 2-4, 2019. Mr. Belote mentioned that a dedication was held for the first signage marker on the African-American Heritage Trail. With the help of several community partners, it is anticipated that a total of 30 signs depicting significant historical moments will help comprise the trail itself.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CDDP Programs Mr. Cumley indicated that the ice will be re-installed in the east rink beginning next week. The Route 66 Festival is August 10-11, and we are hosting a pre-parade party with Robert Uckele, our Concessions and Catering Coordinator, catering the event. There are a variety of activities scheduled including a 6.6 mile Festival Run, car show, and a parade. Organizers are estimating well over 30,000 people from all over the country will attend the event.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her staff has been heavily involved with various aspects of the Springfield Lasers season, and she appreciated their dedication while still performing their regular duties.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated that volunteers at Lake Springfield Park donated over 100 hours of service last month. Maintenance staff installed two culverts to divert water that would spill over the trail during heavy rain. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park recently installed new barn doors, and staff has been baling hay, which helps to feed the animals at the farm. Mr. Belote thanked Matt for hosting the HUD Project appreciation picnic for all the City staff that were involved with the HUD process. Mr. Belote also thanked the Park Rangers for assisting with the National Night Out event at Nichols Park.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney mentioned his appreciation for the Parks Caretaker at Silver Springs and Smith Park, Craig Wilson. Although several staff helped get Silver Springs Park ready for the Park Day Reunion event, Craig is instrumental in the

overall appearance of these two parks. Mr. Carney also mentioned his appreciation for Parks Caretaker, Cassie Schmeackle. Cassie takes care of Cooper Park throughout the year, and the park looked exceptional during Lasers season.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that Business Operations staff worked diligently to continue daily operations despite the City's recent computer crisis. He appreciated the assistance of Tim McCrea who helped staff complete daily accounting tasks. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that golf revenue is up compared to this time last year. Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenue has been up for the last six months. Sales tax revenues from July and August will be reflected in June, and we will prepare any routine budget adjustments as needed.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported on behalf of Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, that the Aquatics Division realized 11,700 visitors in July. A list of scheduled Neighborhood Night Outs was distributed in the Board members' packets. Ms. Reser explained more about the computer network issues throughout the City. She appreciated the assistance we received from the City Information Services (IS) Department to help us continue providing our services to the community. Staff did have to prepare many daily reports by hand due to the computer difficulties at our facilities' point-of-sale systems. IS staff had to perform tasks at each computer to get them back online and function properly. Mr. Belote mentioned that the IS department does not believe this was a malicious act, but they are checking with Microsoft about the overall problems encountered.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that the annual National Neighborhood Night out event was held in Nichols Park for the second year. Parks staff helped to organize a ribbon cutting for the new HUD-funded playground and walking trail at the park. Mr. Park stated that the north road improvements at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park will be finished soon. This has been a high priority project for several years, due to the heavy impact on the road during large events such as the Japanese Fall Festival.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher reported that we have seen an increase in revenue at the golf courses, which is due to better weather for play and the increase in beverage options, which has been consistent since inception. Our Concessions Division experienced a 40 percent increase in revenues at the Springfield Lasers matches with the added food and beverage options. Mr. Belote stated that the increased golf revenue will assist in making the first loan payment back to the City for the new steel bridges at Rivercut Golf Course.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the Zoo events have been affected by the weather significantly this season. The Zoo Kids Fair event is scheduled for August 25. The first "Brew at the Zoo" event is scheduled on September 8. Tickets for this after-hours event are available online.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the Moon City Creative District held their 2nd annual Summer Solstice Art Fair in Lafayette Park on June 16. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Lafayette Neighborhood Association for this event, and Dirt Day, which is also held at the park. Mr. Belote stated that United States Department of Interior recognized the achievements of the Park Board and Ozark Greenways by designating

the Wilson's Creek Greenway as a National Recreation Trail. The Wilson's Creek Trail marks the fourth trail in our inventory to receive this national designation.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Mr. Harry Cooper was recognized at the Springfield Business Journal's Economic Impact Awards event with the Lifetime Achievement in Business Award on July 26. It was the first time the award had been given posthumously. In addition, Mr. Cooper was featured in the accompanying publication of the Springfield Business Journal, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cooper was a very deserving recipient of the award for his many business-related accomplishments, including his gracious partnership with our parks system. Our community will always be grateful for his involvement in providing for and actively funding park development.

Mr. Belote stated that the new City Manager, Jason Gage, began his duties on August 4. Several sessions are scheduled for city employees and the community to meet Mr. Gage. Two of the sessions are scheduled at park facilities, including Tuesday, August 21 at Doling Family Center and Wednesday, August 22 at Mediacom Ice Park. A special tree was planted and dedicated in memory of Tammy Haynes, who was a dedicated member of the Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association, in conjunction with the National Night Out event in Nichols Park on August 7. Ozark Greenways will dedicate the Kearney Street Trailhead, in honor of Terry Whaley, at 4 pm on Thursday, August 23.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Belote presented a plaque to Dr. Sarah McCallister and thanked her for serving two three-year terms as a Park Board member. Dr. McCallister stated that it was an honor and pleasure getting to know and work with other Board members and the Administrative staff. Mr. Belote also presented Dr. McCallister with a second plaque recognizing her service as Chair for the past two years. Mr. Belote stated that during Sarah's impactful tenure, the Park Board achieved CAPRA National Accreditation and was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Additionally, the Board witnessed the Springfield Lasers win the World TeamTennis Championship and successfully brought forward and implemented the enhanced food and beverage proposal. Dr. McCallister stated that she felt the parks system was the heart and soul of the community and wished the Park Board well in all future endeavors.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes stated that the Sister Cities Japanese Fall Festival is scheduled for September 7-9, 2018, at the Mizumoto Stroll Garden.

IX. CALENDAR

The Park Board Social at the Springfield Cardinals Game will be Wednesday, August 29, at

6:30 pm. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated our partnership with the Springfield Cardinals, and the efforts of General Manager Dan Reiter to promote our Park Board activities on the jumbo screen during games. The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2018, at 8:30 am. It will be at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.