

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, October 12, 2018
Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Carol Gerdes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

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

Members Absent: Randy Blackwood

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jake Dill, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Tom Highfill, Kevin Holle, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Jennifer Penning, Jenny Perkins, Kim Reser, Sabrina Ross, Diana Tyndall, Lynn Vandenberg,

Guests: Jan Millington, Public Works Assistant City Attorney for Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2018, Park Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Mike Chiles. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2018, Closed Session meeting; seconded by Mr. Mike Chiles. Motion passed unanimously.

III. HARVEST FEST REPORT AND INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL FACILITIES STAFF

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, introduced the six full-time employees who plan, organize, and coordinate the many aspects of Harvest Fest for five weekends. Mr. Coats described each of their job responsibilities and stated that they work very well together to make Harvest Fest a great experience for all patrons. Mr. Belote thanked Matt for hosting the Park Board meeting, along with the Parks Employee Picnic on Saturday, October 13.

IV. CITY UTILITIES SUBSTATION MODIFICATIONS AT DICKERSON PARK ZOO

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Ms. Jan Millington, Assistant City Attorney for the Public Works and Environmental Services Department. Ms. Millington was instrumental in serving as our liaison with Jefferson City and the EPA on the Fulbright Springs Trail project. Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, stated that City Utilities contacted Parks regarding the transfer of a small area of real estate from the Park Board for expansion of its electric substation located near Hwy 13 and I-44. In 1960, the Park Board transferred the property to CU where its current substation currently exists. These parcels are Zoo property, but there are no plans for future Zoo

development in these areas. Assistant City Attorney Lana Woolsey recommended that we transfer the title of property, which will avoid potential future liability for the Park Board. Ms. Dee King made the motion that the Park Board approve the transfer of the property identified by City Utilities in the attached diagram and legal description from the Park Board to the City of Springfield, Missouri, for use by its Public Utility (City Utilities), for expansion and improvement of City Utilities' electric substation at this identified location, which will allow City Utilities to meet the future electrical demands and needs of the Zoo and areas north of I-44, and that the Board approve the joint presentation with City Utilities of this proposed transfer to City Council for City Council's review and potential approval, and authorizing the City Law Department and the Director of Parks to approve the final language of the legal documents necessary to accomplish this transfer of title, which approval will be evidenced by their signatures thereto, and that we authorize the Director of Parks and the Chair of the Park Board to sign the finally approved legal documents for transfer of this property and to take any and all further actions necessary to accomplish the purpose and intent of this Motion; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciates the partnership we have with City Utilities on three public park properties, and he is hopeful about expanding our partnership to include other recreational opportunities for the future.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Belote stated that the Park Board Nominating Committee's recommended candidate for the replacement of Mr. Bob Horton, who resigned due to work commitments, was approved at City Manager level and the recommendation has been forwarded to City Council for approval.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Jenny Filmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her team has been working on the development and promotion of Park Board festivals and Turkey Trot. Ms. Pam Montanez has been capturing beautiful pictures of the fall foliage in our parks for future publications. Ms. Edwards noted that pickleball is one of the top 5 searches on our media platforms.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney mentioned that we are replacing nearly 40 percent of the pathways with new stamped, stained concrete in the Japanese Mizumoto Stroll Garden. The Department Safety Committee's current initiative is a lightning detection system and developing a departmental wide lightning policy. Mr. Carney stated that new Department Safety Coordinator and Committee are also working on creating a database of information regarding work-related accidents and injuries for future analysis and continued education. Ms. Dee King, Board member, mentioned that she and her family recently visited Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, and she thought the grounds were pristine. Mr. Carney stated that the proceeds from the Japanese Fall Festival are split between the Park Board and Sister Cities, which helps fund maintenance projects such as the replacement of the pathways in the garden.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated that Harvest Fest at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park is off to a good start with the number of mums sold and overall patron attendance. The Equestrian staff introduced a new activity at Harvest Fest called Hippiity

Hop Racing, which has been well-received by our Farm visitors. Master Naturalists planted 300 milkweed plants in Lake Springfield Park. The Sister Cities Taste of Tlaquepaque event will be held at Lake Springfield Boathouse on Friday evening, October 12.

Mr. Belote thanked the Park Rangers for their participation with President Trump's recent visit to Springfield. Park Rangers also have been assisting the Greene County Sheriff's Office due to the recent loss of one of their deputies, Mr. Aaron Roberts.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that we had 149 dogs participate in the annual Dog Swim event, which was held at the end of the outdoor pool season at Fassnight Park. At Dog Fest, we had 31 vendors participate in this festival at Chesterfield Park. Over 1,800 visitors enjoyed a K9 police dog demonstration, along with agility and trick performances, and a canine fashion show. Leigh Moody, a local news anchor, served as the co-emcee. In November, Cruse Dog Park will celebrate its 10th anniversary. We plan to host an event to celebrate being the first dog park in Springfield, along with the improvements that have been made over the last 10 years, on November 17. Currently, we have over 800 registered dogs. Ms. McGrath mentioned that we recently hired a Food and Beverage Assistant, Jonathan Horton, to help with the increased number of catered events and provide additional supervision with the alcohol sales and special events at golf courses and selected park sites. Catering and Concessions Staff worked with Sister City volunteers to provide authentic Japanese food for sale during the Japanese Fall Festival. Their staff also operated a tent at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park during Harvest Fest with a variety of food offerings. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes mentioned that her son volunteered as a Miracle League Buddy and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley stated that the Ice Park staff hosted a National Women's Hockey Showcase that involved four teams from across the county, who met in Springfield, to play hockey. All the teams enjoyed the unique experience and have expressed interest in repeating the event next year. The United States Archery Hall of Fame, located in Springfield at Bass Pro Shops, hosted a benefit archery shoot with the Missouri State University Archery Team at the Davis House. With 40 participants, over \$600 was raised and split between the hosting organizations. The CODP Athlete of the year was held October 7. Mr. Cumley mentioned that the annual Athlete of the Year reception was well-attended and a well-received event for the local athletes and their families.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that sales tax revenues have increased over the previous year, including during the month of September. Golf revenue is up over the previous year due to continued good weather and new food and beverage offerings at the courses. The City's Finance Department is currently working on closing the books for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. We will closely monitor all entries and adjustments that affect our Parks funds. Business Operations staff is currently preparing revenue and expenditure budget forms in preparation of the 2019-2020 budget cycle.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that Business Systems staff set up several Point-of-Sale units at Park Board events to allow staff to take credit card payments including Dog Swim, Japanese Fall Festival, Harvest Fest, Botanical Center, and the Ice Park. Ms. Reser stated that Business Systems staff is working on reconfiguring the Active POS system for a

patron to reserve some park sites and rooms completely online from start to finish. The new process is being tested at Chesterfield Family Center. Patrons are still welcome to visit facilities in person to complete the room rental process.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that 20 years ago we received a special Azumaya water wheel structure as a gift from Isesaki, Japan, one of our Sister Cities, which was placed near the Busch Building in Government Plaza. After receiving approval from the Isesaki delegation to move the structure to just outside the Japanese Mizumoto Stroll Garden, we approached Carson Mitchell General Contractors about the possibility of moving the structure. They volunteered to assist with the project, and a local carpenters union has volunteered to refurbish the water wheel and axle mechanism. This will be a great home for the structure and will be visible for more people to enjoy.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that Zoo staff are preparing for winter and moving some of the animals inside. The next special event at the Zoo is Zoo-la-la, which is a thank you event for Zoo donors and supporters. Mr. Crocker stated that this is a busy time of year for animal transactions and several animals are being sent to our Zoo and some of our animals are being transported to other zoo locations.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the golf courses have a special Halloween promotion on October 31, in which patrons will receive half-off of their golf rounds and merchandise. The Park Rangers assisted in hosting a benefit softball game for Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Roberts' family and raised \$3,000.00. Mr. Belote stated that we appreciate the working relationship we have with the Springfield Police Department and Greene County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Board met with the Springfield Art Museum Board in May regarding their new Master Plan and its impact on Phelps Grove Park. The final document was presented to City Council and included integrating the museum more in the park, improvements to the greenway trails and Xeriscape garden, better parking, more gathering space, and increased rental opportunities within the Art Museum. Mr. Belote will meet with the Springfield Sports Commission on November 7 to discuss sports trends and our parks and sports facilities' needs. The national trend continues to illustrate that parks and sports tourism are major community economic drivers. Mr. Belote stated that we are working to prepare a Request For Proposal document for our economic impact study. Mr. Belote mentioned that the Parks Department is participating in the City's United Way Campaign, with Karen Mellinger once again serving as the Coordinator. Although final totals have not been calculated, we have collected over \$10,000 in cash and payroll deductions for the fifth year in a row.

Mr. Belote suggested that for the November Park Board meeting that we take a tour of park facilities. We will depart from the Park Board Administrative Offices at 8:00 am and return by 11:00 am. Although we will not have time to visit all facilities and park sites, Mr. Belote is open to any park site suggestions on behalf of the Board.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The Parks Employee Appreciation Picnic will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. The next Park Board Meeting will be Friday, November 9, 2018, which will include a Tour of Park Facilities, and we will leave from the Park Board Administrative Offices at 8:00 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tammy Mast made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.