

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, December 14, 2018
Parks Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Mike Chiles, Carolyn Gerdes, Dee King, Cynthia Lipscomb, Sidney Needem, Michele Risdal-Barnes, Tammy Mast

Members Absent: Scott Bailes

Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Valerie Haigh, Kevin Holle, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2018, Park Board meeting; seconded by Ms. Cynthia Lipscomb. Motion passed unanimously.

III. JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL OVERVIEW AND CHECK PRESENTATION

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed and introduced Lisa Bakerink, Executive Director for Friends of the Garden. Ms. Bakerink introduced Lexi Saner, Associate Director of Friends of the Garden and Springfield Sister Cities Association (SSCA), as well as Becky Morgan, newly elected President of Friends of the Garden, Denny Pilant, new President of SSCA, and Rob Baird with Conco Quarries. Mr. Pilant spoke about the success of the Japanese Fall Festival and stated that even with the inclement weather, we collected \$13,000 for the two-day festival. Ms. Bakerink announced a new event in the Mizumoto Stroll Garden called Lights in the Japanese Stroll Garden. During December evenings, the garden is lit with Christmas lights. About 375 patrons visited the garden during the first two opening nights with Christmas lights. Ms. Morgan shared a copy of a Springfield News-Leader article and pictures regarding the new event. Ms. Bakerink thanked Conco Quarries for the donation and assistance with the walkway improvements and the concrete for the Peace Through People Pavilion in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. Conco Quarries is also assisting with the relocation of the Azumaya, a small pavilion with a water wheel, that currently resides near the Busch Building and is being moved adjacent to the Mizumoto Stroll Garden. The Azumaya was a gift from our Sister Cities partners in Isesaki, Japan to the City of Springfield on our 10-year Sister Cities anniversary.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of CODP Program and Jordan Valley Park Mr. Cumley reminded the Board that this past year, we accepted a grant for five permanent sculptures

to be placed in Jordan Valley Park in which Conco Quarries donated the concrete for the sculpture bases. The Festival of Lights display in Jordan Valley Park is available for visitors seven days week from 5-11 p.m. Mr. Cumley mentioned that Mediacom completed their 10-year agreement that included naming rights for the ice park and tennis stadium. Signage at the ice park will revert back to Jordan Valley Ice Park (its original name). The United States Olympic Committee recently decided to dissolve its Community Olympic Development Program (COPD). After meeting with the Park Board and our current CODP Board, we have decided to continue the sports opportunities we offer and rename our program Community Sports Development Program.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that the Candy Cane Lane lights drive-thru display will be open this weekend at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. We welcomed over 50,000 visitors at the Harvest Fest event, along with 10,000 elementary students who participated in educational programs. During Harvest Fest, the Equestrian Center staff provided 3,800 lead line rides. The Equestrian Center staff recently received a donation of a miniature horse named Shorty, whom made his debut at Harvest Fest. Lake Springfield Boathouse staff hosted the Springfield Sister Cities Association's Taste of Tlaquepaque event on October 12. Lake Springfield Park staff did a great job setting up for the very well attended event. We received a \$12,000 Community Conservation Grant to help with our native-habitat restoration project at Lake Springfield Park. With the help of Master Naturalists, there have been over 500 milkweed plants planted for the monarch butterfly project.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that we hosted the Missouri State High School Activities Association softball and tennis championship tournaments on back-to-back weekends in October. The Cooper Tennis staff seamlessly moved the tournament inside when we experienced inclement weather. On November 17, the Cruse Dog Park celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a special event that included refreshments for pets and guests. A complimentary shuttle ride from an auxiliary parking lot to the park was available for both people and their pets. New agility equipment was unveiled for the dogs to enjoy. Ten years ago, we began with approximately 100 Dog Park memberships, and we now have nearly 1000 memberships. The Family Centers will have a new membership promotion running January 2nd through the 20th. Interested patrons can try a week for free and receive a free month once they join and current members will also receive a free month once they renew their membership. Mr. Belote mentioned that MSHSAA has renewed our contract to host State Tennis Championships through 2023 and State Softball Championships through 2025.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenues are up approximately \$154,000 year-to-date. The Golf Patron Plan is up considerably from 2017. Expenditures are up due to some planned budgetary items such as the road improvement project at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park and other capital items. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that we will schedule the annual Park Budget Workshop with the Board in mid-to-late January.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that the Communications Team was focused on promoting Turkey Trot and festivals last month. Ms. Edwards commented on Ms. Diana Tyndall's marketing efforts to

increase more participation in the Golf Patron Plan. Ms. Edwards announced that our Web Designer, Pamela Montanez, has chosen a different employment path. We wish Pam much success in her new position.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher announced that three of our Park Board Golf staff received Midwest PGA awards: Steve King from Rivercut Golf Course received the Jon E. Jacobson Award for his service and leadership within the section; Shawn Freeman from Bill & Payne Stewart Golf Course received the Merchandiser of the Year for Public Courses Award which recognizes excellence in golf promotion and merchandising; and Rick Grayson received the Patriot Award for programming designed for veterans. The annual Chili Classic is on New Year's Day at Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course. Mr. Fisher also mentioned the current holiday golf promotion in which patrons can buy a \$50 golf gift card and receive \$60. Mr. Fisher mentioned that Kevin Holle, Park Ranger Administrator, has been nominated for the National Park Ranger of the Year Award. Online voting is open and interested supporters can vote once a day through January 4.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director The last Zoo event of the year, Zoo-La-La, a special thank you event for donors, will be held on December 16. The Zoo recently received a Red River Hog and six Mexican Wolves. Mr. Crocker provided a brief history about the wolves.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that Park Operations staff did a great job with set up and tear down of the Turkey Trot. Mr. Carney also mentioned the informal race competition that he and his staff enjoy immediately following our Turkey Trot that participants going through the staging gate.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that plans are under review for a new fountain in the Sensory Garden at the Botanical Center. Mr. Park mentioned that the Botanical Center has about 800,000 visitors per year. Mr. Park reported a new stone monument marker will be placed in Zagonyi Park. Since the mid-1980's, the marker has been located about 3-4 blocks away. It commemorates the Zagonyi Charge. Zagonyi Park will also receive new accessible playground equipment later this spring or summer. Mr. Park provided status updates on other park improvements at Washington Park and Sanford Park. Randy Blackwood asked if the new fountain at the Botanical Center would be operational year-round. Mr. Park said it would be winterized.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director The Neogov Committee is working on the development of an online hiring process for part-time and temporary employees. The current timeline is to implement the new process around the first of February. Training sessions will be held in January for the 105 hiring Park supervisors. Mr. Belote congratulated Ms. Kim Reser for her recent induction into the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame for her tennis accomplishments and service throughout the years. Mr. Belote thanked the Board members for their service and support through the 2018 year and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year holiday.

Mike Chiles asked if there is a way to track zip codes from visitors. Mr. Belote commented that we are planning to conduct an economic impact report in 2019.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

VIII. CALENDAR

- a. Park Board Meeting: Friday, January 11, 2019, 8:30 a.m., Park Board Administration Offices

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.