

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, January 11, 2019
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Mike Chiles, Carolyn Gerdes, Dee King, Cynthia Lipscomb, 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, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Kevin Holle, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Mark Nelson, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Allan McKelvy, Marisa DeClue: Developmental Center of the Ozarks; Jennifer Sickinger, Thomas Cunningham, Ozarks Food Harvest

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, mentioned to keep Mr. Randy Blackwood, Board Member, and his family in our thoughts and prayers due to the recent passing of his father, Mr. Byrne Blackwood. Byrne was an icon in the community theater world, and his presence and many contributions will be missed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Michele Risdal Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2018, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. 2018 TURKEY TROT EVENT OVERVIEW AND PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, provided an in-depth overview report about the 24th Annual Turkey Trot event held on Thanksgiving morning. This year we honored one of the original organizers of Turkey Trot, Monty Montgomery, who passed away earlier this year. Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Gene Moulner spearheaded the first Turkey Trot, in which we had 117 participants, and the race course was routed through the Developmental Center of the Ozarks (DCO) campus and O'Reilly-Tefft facility. Mr. Montgomery coordinated with the Springfield Police Department to provide course marshals, and this year, his family picked up that torch by assisting with the volunteer police officers. We appreciate Mr. Montgomery for his past commitment to the Turkey Trot event, and his dedicated service to DCO and the Park Board. His leadership and involvement will be missed.

Ms. McGrath reported that we had 6,300 people pre-registered for the event. On Wednesday and Thursday morning just before the Thanksgiving Day race, we registered 1,500 more participants onsite, bringing our total to 7,598 participants. Our pet division had 786 participants. The Turkey Trot is very successful due to the 20-person committee and the event sponsors such as Integrity Home Care, Expedia, Dr. Brad Bradshaw, Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Bottling Company, Positronic, Missouri Foundation for Health, CoxHealth Plans, Mid-West Family Broadcasting and other sponsors. We also appreciate Ozarks Food Harvest's coordination of in-kind donations from Starbucks, Krispy Kreme, and Hiland Dairy. Jennifer Sickinger, Community Engagement Manager with Ozarks Food Harvest, stated that they were proud to partner with the Park Board in this event as it is the single largest one-day food drive. We encouraged Turkey Trot participants to bring five non-perishable food items, and this year we collected 9,000 pounds of food. With the food collection and a monetary donation that was received, over 13,000 meals will be provided in our community. During the summer, Splash 'n Sizzle events, which allow free admission to our pools with a canned food item, collected over 8,000 pounds of food. Since 2001, through these special partner events with the Park Board, Ozarks Food Harvest has received 210,000 pounds of food items.

Marisa DeClue, Developmental/Public Relations Director with DCO, stated that the proceeds of the Turkey Trot event are split between DCO and the Park Board's Youth Recreation Scholarship Program. Over 1500 children receive therapy services, including in-home treatments, and programs such as training challenged high school youth to transition into the work force are made possible through this annual event. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, presented a \$36,124.06 check to DCO representing their portion of the proceeds from Turkey Trot. Mr. Allan McKelvy, Executive Director, personally wanted to thank the Park Board and everyone in the community who have helped make this event successful. Mr. McKelvy stated that when DCO first started, there were only three professional therapists who annually served about 45 youth and adults. They now have 38 professional therapists and serve over 1800 youth and adults annually. Ms. McGrath mentioned that we have distributed over 6,000 scholarships through the Youth Recreation Scholarship Program thanks in part to Turkey Trot proceeds. Ms. McGrath commented that 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of Turkey Trot, so the committee will begin working on plans for a special celebration. Mr. Belote also expressed his appreciation to the staff from all park divisions who assist with the organization and coordination of the Turkey Trot event.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney reported that December weather was warmer than average, and we received a bit more rainfall than normal. Staff received positive comments and feedback from the community with the addition of the Winter Lights event in the Mizumoto Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park. Several Board members commented how beautiful the gardens were and hoped to see more walk-thru lighted events in the stroll garden. Mr. Carney responded that they are looking about adding other dates such as Valentine's Day. Mr. Carney thanked the Board for their support as the

Landscape/Forestry division received a much-needed grapple truck, through the City's lease-purchase program, which allows them to trim high tree branches.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that the December sales tax was down, but he believed that this is due to a delay in reporting to the County, and the January numbers will offset the December decrease. Golf revenues are up from last year at this time, which may be due to the new food and beverage enhancements. Mr. Mitchell stated that the City received its annual external audit report on December 18. It was noted that the Park Board formally created a reserve policy, with a current designated fund balance of \$400,000, as of June 30, 2018, and an additional \$100,000 budgeted for this current year. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the Board's guidance and striving to reach a budget reserve that will eventually represent 8-10 percent of our annual budget.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that in cooperation with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), we will host Eagle Days at Lake Springfield Park next weekend. MDC will provide telescopes, education, and literature during the event. We received a Community Conservation Grant from MDC, which will be used to remove the invasive honeysuckle bush. Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center staff hosted two pony play day events in December. During December, the VWMEC staff conducted 57 lessons per week. Candy Cane Lane at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park received some storm damage on opening night, but staff worked diligently to make repairs and were able to welcome visitors the same night. We had over 2,400 vehicles drive through the lighted display. Mr. Coats announced that the theme for Harvest Fest this year will be Hillbilly Zombies.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP Program Mr. Cumley mentioned that the signage at the ice park has been changed to Jordan Valley Ice Park. Mr. Cumley reported that over 21,000 pairs of skates were issued and over 300,000 visitors came to the ice park in 2018. The Springfield Police and Fire Departments will host a charity hockey game on February 2. The proceeds from the game will be given to the Greene County 100 Club, which is a not-for-profit organization that provides financial support to the surviving families of those police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty in Greene County, Missouri.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her team has been working on making web edits both internally and externally regarding the ice park name change. Ms. Edwards stated that the candidate interview process is underway for the Web Designer position. Ms. Brittney Bywater and Ms. Diana Tyndall worked on the design and marketing of the family center "Get Fit 2019" promotion, which has been very successful.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that our SPARC Division hosted a Holiday Camp while school was out over the holidays, and we had 469 youth participants. SPARC will also host a Schools Out one-day camp on January 21 with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Family Center staff reported that they have seen the average number of patrons visiting the facilities increase to 1,200 during December. We will report on the success of the Family Center promotion, which was held January 2-20, next month. The promotion allowed patrons to receive a one-week free trial, and then when they join or renew their membership, the patron receives one month free. Chesterfield Family Center staff will host a new event, an indoor triathlon, on February 9. Participants will be required to swim, spin

bike, and treadmill. The annual Daddy Daughter Dance at Northview is scheduled for February 23. Tickets go on sale on January 16 for this event, which typically sells out.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that with the implementation of the new online hiring process for temporary and seasonal employees beginning February 4, there are seven Neogov training sessions available for Parks hiring supervisors. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Reser for helping to coordinate this process with Human Resources, Information Systems, Finance, and internal Parks staff.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park provided an update on the Neighborhood Works projects, which include a new playground and safety surfacing at Zagonyi Park, and a new picnic shelter, parking lot, concrete walk, and sign at Sanford Park. Mr. Park commented that Katie Keith, Botanical Center Coordinator, and Lisa Bakerink, Executive Director of Friends of the Garden, did an excellent presentation at the FOG Board Meeting, which included a summary of 2018 events and future activities for 2019. He also thanked Jenny Edwards and Diana Tyndall for their assistance in updating the signage throughout Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, which includes wayfinding signs, donor recognition signs, and educational plant signage. Mr. Belote mentioned that Mr. Park will be serve on the City's upcoming Comprehensive Plan committee.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker reported that with several warm days in December, attendance was up for this time of year. Mr. Crocker stated that his educational staff works with MDC conducting Eagle Days sessions all over the state. Mr. Crocker mentioned that he is finalizing the schedule for the nearly 70 interns who will work at the zoo during the spring and summer months. There are several winter maintenance projects being conducted currently. Mr. Crocker thanked the Parks Operation staff for their help in renovating the pool filtration system in the otter exhibit.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that the Annual Chili Classic Two-Person Best Ball Tournament at Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course was held on January 5, 2019 and was sold out. The new ventilation kitchen hood is nearly completed at Rivercut Golf Course. Mr. Fisher reported that new GPS units have been installed in our golf cart fleet and feature a much larger screen, as well as the ability to display advertisements.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the latest Park Bench has been distributed to the Board members. Mr. Belote mentioned that recently a new state law was passed increasing minimum wage. As a governmental entity, we are exempt from participating in the new law; however, the City and Park Board have elected to do so. We believe that this will help us remain competitive when hiring temporary and seasonal employees. Effective January 1, 2019, the minimum wage was increased to \$8.60/hour, and then, will continue to increase at .85/hour for the next four years until it reaches \$12.00/hour. The new increase affects about 372 Park employees, totaling nearly \$73,000, for just the period of January 1 to June 30, 2019. The future increases will affect our budget by \$272,000 next year and by more than \$500,000 in the second year. The new minimum wage impacts will be a topic during our upcoming budget workshop. After confirming with the Board, our annual Budget Workshop will be held on January 31, 2019, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Budget document materials will be distributed in advance.

Mr. Belote reported that we are working through the staffing process for Timmons Hall and look to have staff in place by spring. The Friends of Timmons Temple group applied for and received a Community Foundation of the Ozarks grant for cultural programming. Mr. Belote stated that the annual Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is Sunday, January 27. The Springfield Lasers will be recognized for winning the World TeamTennis Championship last summer, and Paul Nahon, Lasers General Manager, will accept the award. The annual Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference will be held February 26-March 1 in Branson. The MPRA publication highlighting the conference details was distributed to Board members.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The Park Board Budget Workshop will be held January 31, 2019, at 5:30 pm, at the Park Board Administrative Offices. The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, February 8, 2019, at 8:30 am, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Cynthia Lipscomb. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.