

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, February 8, 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, Randy Blackwood, Mike Chiles, Carolyn Gerdes, Dee King, Cynthia Lipscomb, Tammy Mast, Sidney Needem, Michele Risdal-Barnes

Members Absent: None

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jim Fisher, Kevin Holle, Anders Kropp, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to approve the January 11, 2019, Park Board Minutes; seconded Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to approve the January 11, 2019, Closed Park Board Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Sidney Needem made the motion to approve the January 31, 2019, Budget Workshop Minutes; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED FY 2019-20 PARKS BUDGET

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that staff worked to update the proposed FY 2019-20 Budget document, which included the following Board recommendations from the Budget Workshop: revised Organizational Chart to include the names of administrative staff; revised the Administrative Cancellation Policy for facility rentals; revised Funded and Unfunded Priorities documents in which the projects are categorized as mandatory/required, deferred maintenance, City/County property needs, critical needs, personnel needs, capital equipment needs, and golf enterprise fund projects.

Mr. Belote stated that our priorities for the proposed FY 2019-20 budget have not changed significantly from the current year, but they match our proposed budget and include the following areas of special emphasis: identification of a Long-Term Capital Funding Source to successfully address the community's long-term needs and expectations for its parks and trail system in accordance with Vision 2020 and Field Guide 2030 initiatives; additional planning and development of Greenway Trails; continued emphasis on Sports Tourism; conduct a full Economic Impact Study of our parks and trails system; continued commitment to neighborhood

park restoration, including a new Silver Springs Park master plan; continued park safety initiatives including additional security cameras and safety measures at designated park sites; address critical staff issues which include a Timmons Hall Coordinator, conversion of a Zoo position to full-time status, unfreeze a Springfield Lasers marketing/sponsorship position, and reclassify two vital positions; review the successful patron and partner group requested enhanced food and beverage options to assess other requested sites and venues; move forward with improvements in the Golf Division including initial work on a new Golf Facilities Master Plan; and continued collaboration with community partners wherever possible.

Mr. Belote thanked the staff who worked to prepare the budget documents for the Board to review and discuss. He stated that our goal is always to remain responsible stewards of the public's dollars and provide the best park system for our community and visitors to enjoy. Mr. Belote mentioned that he has discussed the proposed budget and our priorities with the new Greene County Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon and new Greene County Commissioner John Rush. Mr. Scott Bailes, Board Member, stated that he is proud of our budgetary process. He stated that the Board agreed several years ago that our parks system needed to increase revenue simply to maintain our current daily operations, along with a long-term funding source. Through the Future Funding Workshop discussion in August 2016, the Board and Administrative staff identified several short-term funding ideas such as the enhanced food and beverage options. The successful food and beverage options are now in progress, but Mr. Bailes stated that a long-term capital funding source is still needed to address the Park Board's priorities. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes agreed and proposed a Board future funding workshop to address our priorities be scheduled in the next 30-60 days. Park Board members agreed that a workshop is needed. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the proposed Parks FY 2019-20 budget and recommended it be forwarded to the City Manager's Office and City Council for further approval; seconded by Ms. Cynthia Lipscomb. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COOPER FAMILY DONATION: COOPER TENNIS COMPLEX RENOVATIONS, INDOOR COURTS 1-6

Mr. Belote stated that the renovation of the original Cooper Tennis Complex indoor courts has been an unfunded project for nearly 14 years. Mr. John Cooper has pledged up to \$300,000 of a prospective \$400,000 project to allow for the full renovation of the original indoor Courts 1-6 of the facility. Our primary objective would be to improve the tennis court lighting as it has changed and improved significantly since the original lighting was installed in 1995. The project would include the installation of new LED lighting and reflective panels, allowing for uniform light distribution, new tennis court surfacing and color-coating, new tennis netting and paneling and full repainting of that portion of the facility. Additionally, the project would also include new tennis court surfacing for Indoor Courts 7-12 upon the completion of the initial project and the possibility of future LED light installation, as well. The best time for installation to minimize interruption to our patrons would be June and July as the outdoor courts will be available, along with the Indoor Courts 7-12. Ms. Gerdes suggested the consideration of adding industrial fans to increase the air flow on the courts. Additionally, it was suggested the inclusion of camera and video equipment for future live-streaming and recording of college and professional matches. Mr. Randy Blackwood suggested including lighting flexibility such as dimming the lights or spotlight capabilities for additional facility usage opportunities. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made the motion to accept Mr. John Cooper's generous donation for the Cooper Tennis Complex Renovation of Indoor Courts 1-6; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion passed unanimously. Mr.

Miles Park, Assistant Director, will work with the City's Purchasing Division to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals process for this renovation project. Board members expressed much appreciation for John Cooper and the Cooper family for their continued support of the Cooper Tennis Complex.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell introduced our new Financial Analyst, Mr. Anders Kropp, who replaces John Waldo. Mr. Kropp is familiar with the City's and Parks' accounting processes, including our point-of-sale system, as he is a former Springfield-Greene County Health Department and Parks School-Park employee. Mr. Kropp is currently working on his CPA certification and will be an asset to the Business Operations team.

Mr. Mitchell stated that sales tax revenue was up by \$140,000 compared to last year, and we are on target with our budgeted sales tax revenue. Overall expenditures are down year-to-date due in part to continued lower fuel prices. Golf revenues continue to be strong with the help of nice golf playing weather in January, along with additional revenue from food and beverage sales.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Belote mentioned that Mr. Carney has recently been elected to the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Region 3 Director-Elect position. Mr. Carney commented that he excited to support MPRA's efforts as he appreciates their commitment to what we do in the parks field.

Mr. Carney stated that the weather fluctuated from 6 degrees to 66 degrees in January creating successes and challenges with scheduled maintenance projects. In response to Mr. Mike Chiles suggestion of a LED light replacement program, Mr. Carney stated that we do replace lights with LED bulbs as replacement bulbs are needed, but the LED technology keeps advancing. It remains a challenge to keep up with the availability of LED lights we have already replaced.

Ms. Diana Tyndall, Marketing/Sponsorship Coordinator for Ms. Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator Mr. Belote congratulated Ms. Tyndall for her recent recognition as one of the Springfield Business Journal's Forty under 40 Award winners. Ms. Tyndall and other recipients will be celebrated at an upcoming event on March 21. Ms. Tyndall commented that the Communications Team has been working on making changes on various media platforms associated with the Jordan Valley Ice Park recent name change. Staff has also been instrumental in assisting with the launch of the Neogov online software initiative for the hiring of Parks temporary and seasonal employees. Ms. Tyndall mentioned that we recently participated in the Metro Bride Show to highlight our wedding venues. Lake Springfield Boathouse and the Botanical Center are the most popular search sites that brides select depending upon the number of guests attending their event.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that staff hosted a recent Leadership Springfield event at the Lake Springfield Boathouse. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park staff welcomed a new baby lamb named Dolly. Urban garden plots are now available to rent for the season at the Farm. Nearly 700 Springfield Public Schools children visited the Lake Springfield Park to view the bald eagles. Over 1800 patrons attended the Missouri Department of Conservation Eagle Days weekend event held at Lake Springfield Park. Special Facilities Maintenance staff are installing a false ceiling to reduce heating costs in the restrooms of the Watershed Committee Building, which is located within Valley Water Mill Park.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath mentioned that the Outdoor Initiatives Division has added a new program entitled "Ultimate Cave Tour", which features a tour of Ritter Springs, Giboney, and Sequiota caves on the same day. A second tour date was added to accommodate all interested participants. The recent Family Center promotion was very successful with 663 new memberships added and 451 memberships renewed. Patrons received a free trial week, and then a free month if they joined or renewed their membership. Ms. McGrath thanked the Family Center staff who provided over 1,100 tours to interested patrons during the promotional period. Ms. McGrath reported that we hosted the USTA Missouri Valley Boys 12 and Under Supers Tournament at Cooper Tennis Complex. Two of our youngest players, ages 10 and 9, made it to the semi-finals. This tournament is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the USTA Missouri Valley as the participants received national points.

We will host the 4th annual Parks Job Fair for temporary and seasonal positions on Tuesday, February 19 from 2-6 pm at Jordan Valley Ice Park. Although no on-site interviews will take place, hiring supervisors will be available to discuss job opportunities. Workforce Development will have their mobile unit on-site for interested applicants to complete an application online and Human Resources staff will be on-hand. The popular Daddy-Daughter Dance at Northview Center will have a 50's sock-hop theme and be held on February 23. Ms. McGrath mentioned that registration is open for SPARC Spring Break Camps. Participants can sign up for one day or every camp day offered.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP Program Mr. Cumley mentioned that the Try Hockey event is scheduled for February 23. Interested participants can try hockey for free and receive introductory instruction on the ice from our coaches. Mr. Cumley stated that our Archery Program has an average of 300 participants each month, but we had 456 participants in December. Mr. Cumley reported that the City's Police Department vs the Fire Department Ice Hockey fund-raiser was a sell-out event. Mr. Cumley thanked our Public Information Communications Team for publicizing and coordinating media coverage for the event. We had over 1,100 people in attendance and more than \$5,000 was raised for the Greene County 100 Club.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that the Neogov online hiring process for Parks temporary and seasonal employees successfully went live this week. Ms. Reser thanked the City's Human Resources, Information Systems, and Finance Departments, along with our Parks internal staff for their efforts in making this transition.

Ms. Reser stated that Parks will partner with Springfield Public Schools and Missouri State University for a special sport clinic honoring Dr. Mary Jo Wynn, retired Missouri State University Athletic Administrator and Coach, who recently passed away. The clinic is part of the Dr. Mary Jo Wynn Celebration of Life, Leadership and Legacy Weekend event planned for March 1-3, 2019. The sport clinic will allow McGregor Elementary 5th grade classes to participate in basketball, volleyball, tennis, and softball activities with MSU coaches and players and Parks staff and volunteers, on March 1. In addition, a community-wide "Dr. Mary Jo Wynn Play Day" event is also planned for boys and girls ages 6-12 to participate in free sports activities in Hammons Gym during the Legacy Weekend activities. Youth participants in either event will receive complimentary tickets to the MSU women's basketball games that weekend.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park provided updates on the Neighborhood Works Projects, which included that the design work will begin soon for the new picnic shelter, off-street parking lot, concrete walk, and new park sign for Sanford Park. At the Route 66 Park, the property owner and the City have agreed to terms for the purchase of .4 acres of land that is just east of the park site but will benefit the park's development immensely. Mr. Park mentioned that Ms. Kelsey Mulholland helped to secure a grant on behalf of the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association for a new playground in Lafayette Park. Park staff and neighborhood volunteers will help prepare the site for installation of the new equipment.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker explained the process of how the Zoo acquires new species and animals. There is an animal specific steering committee that reviews a Zoo's request for a specific animal, which is based upon the facility's experience with the species, whether the animal will be bred, genetics of the animal, and several other factors.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher briefly discussed the basic Scope of Services and timeline requirements that were included in the Request for Proposal for our Economic Impact Study in which we are partnering with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. The study should take 12-18 months to complete and will include a variety of public presentations. Mr. Fisher thanked the Park Operations and Special Facilities staff for their assistance with various projects in the Golf Division.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that the annual Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference is February 26-March 1 at the Branson Hilton Convention Center. Mr. Sidney Needem will be recognized with a MPRA Citation Award for his lifetime of community service which includes serving as our only three-time Park Board Member and four decades of service with the Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Sarah McCallister, former Park Board Chair, was nominated by Missouri State University, and she will also receive a MPRA Citation Award. The Banquet and Awards Ceremony is at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 28. Board members are welcome to attend the banquet.

Mr. Belote mentioned that he recently met with the new Deputy City Manager, Maurice Jones. Mr. Jones has an economic development background in both the public and private sectors and understands ways of promoting and enhancing economic development through parks programs and facilities. Mr. Belote mentioned that Ozarks Technical College is working on a new master plan that will likely have park and trail implications near Silver Springs Park. There is a lot of interest in this corridor including the African-American Heritage Trail project, Jordan Valley

Creek Trail, reopening of Timmons Hall, and our own future development of a master plan for this 100-year old park.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau's Salute to Travel and Tourism annual event will be held at White River Conference Room on February 21. Board members are welcome to attend the event in support of our partnership with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Springfield Sports Commission.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report to discuss.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, March 8, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.