

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 8, 2019
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Cynthia Lipscomb

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Filmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Kevin Holle, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Brad Stulce, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Missouri State University Faculty: Jodie Adams, Dr. Hugh Gibson, and Dr. Sarah McCallister

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made the motion to approve the February 8, 2019, Park Board Minutes; seconded Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Dee King made the motion to approve the February 8, 2019, Closed Park Board Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. MISSOURI PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, mentioned that the Missouri Park and Recreation Association Conference was held last week at the Branson Hilton Convention Center. Matt Crouse, Director of Nixa Parks and Recreation Department, did a great job as Conference Chair in organizing the conference educational classes, vendor expo, and awards banquet. Brad Stulce, our School-Park Administrator, served as the Conference Room Host Coordinator for the third time. Jana Andrews and Morgan White, School-Park staff, also assisted on other conference committees. Mr. Belote stated that we were fortunate to have Mr. Sidney Needem, Park Board Vice Chair, be awarded the MPRA Citation Award. Mr. Needem has the distinction of being the only individual to serve three different terms on the Park Board. Additionally, Mr. Needem has been an active Board member for the Boys and Girls Club for over 40 years. Missouri State University also nominated Dr. Sarah McCallister, former Park Board Chair, for a MPRA Citation Award. Dr. McCallister and Mr. Needem were honored with a video slide show, which highlighted their many accomplishments of community and professional service, at the MPRA Awards Banquet. Mr. Needem thanked the Park Board for its support and continued partnerships with many organizations in the community. Dr. McCallister mentioned that Missouri State University has a

Public Affairs mission, which includes community engagement. With the internship/practicum partnership between MSU and the Park Board, rewarding experiences are provided to students interested in a variety of degree programs such as recreation and leisure and sports and facility management. Dr. Hugh Gibson thanked everyone for continuing to work together in sharing resources such as academic and professional expertise, park sites and facilities, and study-away educational opportunities. Former Director of Parks and now MSU faculty member, Ms. Jodie Adams, stated that the Park Board has a top team of professionals, and she was lucky to have been part of the team in the past. She appreciates the continued working relationships she has with the Park Board staff through the MSU intern/practicum program and the many staff who agree to guest lecture in MSU's classes and curriculum.

IV. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION GRANT FOR LAKE SPRINGFIELD PARK NATIVE HABITAT

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, stated that this is the second year the Park Board is being offered an opportunity to partner with Missouri's Department of Conservation (MDC) for the removal of non-native and/or invasive plant species, as well as planting native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers throughout Lake Springfield Park. Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes made a motion to accept the MDC grant funding, including authorizing the execution of the finalized Cooperative Agreement, and proceeding with this project; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

As suggested at the last Park Board meeting and during this year's budget discussion, Mr. Belote mentioned that we will schedule a Funding Workshop the week of March 25 or April 1 based upon the availability of the board members. Mr. Belote mentioned that the proposed Parks FY 2019-20 Budget is moving forward after his recent meeting with the City Manager's office. At a recent City Council luncheon, which involved the discussion of how to allocate the City's carry-over funding, the City agreed to recommend funding for the \$495,000 ice cooling plant for Jordan Valley Ice Park, along with \$11,000 for needed repairs of the Jordan Valley Park fountain vault control box. Additionally, the City plans to allocate \$60,000 for the redesign of Founders Park. Mr. Belote is grateful for the City's support to allocate funds for these necessary projects in our city parks.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the MSU Ice Bears are currently ranked #14 in the country and are playing in the Division 1 post-season. The D3 team is ranked #10 in the country, and they are also continuing to play in the post-season. The Try Hockey event had a record number of participants with 110 kids enjoying a free lesson on the ice with our coaches. After the event, we had 26 participants enroll in ice hockey programs. Mr. Cumley mentioned that our 2018 CSDP Athlete of the Year, Birdie Hendrickson, was selected as the Missouri Gatorade Player of the year in the sport of volleyball.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that pelicans have been visiting Lake Springfield Park. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park summer camp registration is

underway. Staff increased the number of class offerings to help keep up with the demand for more educational programs. Mr. Coats stated that the maintenance staff will begin painting the Rutledge-Wilson playground structure this month.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath mentioned that staff hosted our first indoor tri-athlon, which included participants competing for a specified amount of time in swimming, biking, and running events. We hosted a Job Fair for the over 400 seasonal jobs that we have available this summer. Hiring supervisors were available to answer questions, along with the City's Human Resources staff. Workforce Development provided their mobile unit with 12 computer stations for interested applicants to apply online. The annual Daddy Daughter Dance was held at Northview with a 50's sock hop theme. Over 130 people attended this popular event. Ms. McGrath mentioned that the National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championships will be held in Springfield March 11-15. This event brings 35 teams to Springfield, with over 10,000 people, using 6,200 hotel room nights, and will provide \$4.3 million dollars of economic impact for our community. Over 25 gyms, including three of the Park Board's gyms, will be used during the competition. Four area neighborhoods, Meador, Delaware, Phelps, and Rountree, have organized a kickball tournament for April 7 at Meador Park. The new agility equipment has been installed at Cruse Dog Park.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney stated that in cooperation with Friends of the Garden and Sister Cities, we hosted the first Valentine's Day event at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. The guests who attended really enjoyed the event and staff received many positive comments. Mr. Carney mentioned that staff was working on renovating the restrooms and locker rooms at Cooper Tennis Complex including painting and updating light fixtures. The Park Operations office building also received new carpeting and lighting fixtures.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards reported that Kara Remington was hired as our new Web Designer. Ms. Edwards stated that the World Team Tennis draft will be next week on March 12. It can be viewed live on springfieldlasers.com or wtt.tv. Ms. Edwards also mentioned that Ms. Diana Tyndall has been selected as one of the Springfield Business Journal's Forty Under 40 winners. The awards banquet is at the Oasis Convention Center on March 21.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations

Mr. Mitchell reported that sales tax revenue is up compared to this time last year. Mr. Mitchell explained why expenditures appear to be higher than revenues in February. This is due to the timing of when the City records the property mill tax revenue, which is at the end of June, even though it is collected in January and February. Mr. Mitchell stated that although sales tax revenue has remained strong, we budget conservatively as the sales tax revenue trends tend to level out after a few years.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser reported that the Neogov program and operations are going well for the online hiring process of temporary and seasonal employees. Advanced training sessions will be offered to supervisors who hire many seasonal employees for the same type of position such as lifeguards to make the process more streamlined.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park mentioned that there have been articles in the News-Leader about possible ground water contamination near the former Litton plant site up in the northwest portion of the community. The ground water contamination could impact

properties within a three-mile radius, and although we do have Ritter Springs Park within the area, it has not been affected by the contamination. Even though our property has not shown signs of contamination, we had the Department of Natural Resources draw water samples to test this and our other park sites in the area. The Department of Natural Resources will conduct an informational meeting on March 14 to explain the history, mediation, and future plans of monitoring the contaminated property and all surrounding properties. Mr. Park announced that we have hired Jeff Smith, as our Senior Planner, replacing Mr. Dennis McMan, who recently retired. Mr. Smith began his new position on March 11 and has a good working knowledge of our park system already.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that the bid opening for the Economic Impact Study has been delayed until March 18 to allow several interested organizations to submit a bid proposal. The annual Masters' Kick-Off and Customer Appreciation Event will be held at Stewart Golf Course from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 10. We hired Rob Schroeder as our new Park Ranger, and he will begin working on March 11. Ranger Administrator Kevin Holle has resigned to accept a teaching position with Missouri State University. His last day will be March 15.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that Pat Gartland, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club for over 40 years, will retire on March 22. We have enjoyed a great partnership with the Boys and Girls Club with all four of their sites located in or adjacent to a public park site. Mr. Belote has met with their incoming Director, Brandy Harris, who is committed to continuing our joint partnership.

Mr. Belote stated that the recent proposed Senate Bill 122 states that a public body should not offer a competitive service that causes economic detriment of a private entity offering the same service. In a recent newspaper article, an example of SB 122 was given, which revisited a situation from more than 10 years ago, when the former area YMCA administrator questioned the validity of the Dan Kinney Family Center being built. Mr. Belote stated that our main priority has always been that citizens in our community be active and commit to a healthy lifestyle by participating at any fitness facility that they might choose. We have done joint programming with the local Y in the past, and we have discussed future possible programming ideas. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciates what the Y does in rural areas to provide health and wellness opportunities.

Mr. Belote will attend the World Team Tennis draft on behalf of our Springfield Lasers franchise next week. The WTT league has added two new teams to the league from Las Vegas and Orlando. Mr. Belote congratulated Diana Tyndall as one of the Springfield Business Journal's Forty Under 40 winners, and she will be honored at their event on March 21. Anne-Mary McGrath is the recipient of the Wynn Award and will be honored at the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Women's Luncheon on March 27.

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, April 12, 2019, at 8:30 am at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.