

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, August 9, 2019
Park Board Administrative Offices
1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Mike Chiles, Carolyn Gerdes, Dee King, Cynthia Lipscomb, Tammy Mast, Sidney Needem

Members Absent: Randy Blackwood, Michele Risdal-Barnes

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Filmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Paul Nahon, Amanda Nguyen, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Kyle Wartick, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Maurice Jones, Deputy City Manager

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the July 12, 2019, Park Board Minutes; seconded by Ms. Dee King. Motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Tammy Mast made a motion to approve the July 12, 2019, Closed Session Minutes; seconded by Mr. Scott Bailes. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD LASERS 2019 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON WRAP-UP

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, reported that the Springfield Lasers defeated the New York Empire team, 20-19, in Las Vegas earning the Lasers the 2019 World TeamTennis Championship title for the second year in a row. Mr. Belote shared information about our 2019 season, which included an undefeated record at home, to help us qualify for the playoffs. World TeamTennis officials attended a few of our home matches at Cooper Tennis Complex and expressed how much they enjoyed the welcoming environment and atmosphere, including the public aspect of being a community-owned team. We averaged a little over 1,300 spectators at each match. Mr. Belote stated that while Coach JL is managing our team on the court, there are many team players that contribute to our daily operations and off-court success. Jim Fisher, Anne-Mary McGrath, Amanda Nguyen, along with Park Operations and many other key staff, make daily preparations throughout the season, so that match day runs smoothly.

Mr. Belote stated that we are planning an event that will celebrate the official unveiling of the newly renovated Courts 1-6 and the Lasers championship win. We have asked John Cooper and his family to participate in the ribbon-cutting of the renovated courts and Coach J.L. de Jager to

share behind the scenes information about our 2019 season and the championship match. Mr. Belote thanked the Board members for their support of the team and to those who attended the matches to see this year's team. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, stated that we are the smallest city in the league and the only park system that manages a World TeamTennis team. The WTT executives impressed with our operations should perhaps explore this model in other cities that have well-developed park systems. Mr. Belote stated that the King Cup Trophy will be on display during the celebration event in a few weeks.

IV. GALLOWAY/SEQUIOTA CORRIDOR UPDATE

Mr. Belote stated that the City has completed its Public Engagement Process for the Galloway/Sequiota Corridor. A Stakeholder Committee was formed to work with City staff to help engage the community and identify recommendations for the future of this area. A copy of the Staff Recommendations for Development and Summary of Public Engagement document prepared by the City's Planning and Development Department was distributed to Park Board members. Mr. Belote stated that the document discusses the concerns, impacts, and future implications, along with the common themes, that may affect the Galloway neighborhood, Sequiota Park, and Galloway Creek Greenway. The staff recommended Public Safety be addressed including improving traffic flow and safety in the area, installing a physical barrier between the trail and roadway, addressing flooding concerns, and maintaining and enhancing the safety and quality of the Galloway Trail. Staff also recommended Natural Environment Protection, including protecting the tree canopy in the Galloway area. Another staff recommendation is Image Enhancement, which includes improving and expanding park and trail amenities in Sequiota Park such as restroom renovation, drinking fountains, and seating areas, and the development of "pocket parks", along the trail area. One of the recommendations also includes emphasizing the history and character of the area, especially Sequiota Park. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the great input from the community, and he is hopeful that discussion will continue within the City departments about how to fund these recommendations and make good on the needed improvements, while continuing to build relationships and improve communication between everyone involved. Mr. Belote stated that he thought the public engagement process was a good exercise and example of what to do to gain community input on future developments. Mr. Belote mentioned that the amount of public participation further illustrates how important and valued our parks and trails are to our community, and he appreciated both Assistant Director, Miles Park, and Senior Planner, Jeff Smith, and their extensive involvement in this process. A Community Improvement District (CID) proposal for this area is in the process of being presented to City Council for approval. Lana Woolsey, Assistant City Attorney for Parks, stated that the Park Board will be on the CID Board and involved in any future developments.

V. TEFFT SCHOOL RIGHT-OF-FIRST REFUSAL

Mr. Belote stated that as part of our current Lease Agreement with Springfield Public Schools (SPS) for the O'Reilly-Tefft School property, the Park Board was provided a first right-of-refusal to purchase the Tefft School property when SPS decided to sell it. Park Board staff did review the property, but we did not have significant funds to renovate the property, and it was not a fit for our needs at this time and declined this option. SPS is currently working with Greene County to acquire the property for the Family Justice Center. Before the transfer of property ownership

can be finalized, SPS has requested formal documentation of the Park Board's decision to not purchase this property. Ms. Woolsey stated that if the current transfer of ownership is not finalized formally, the process would start over. Our current lease expires in 2024. Ms. Tammy Mast made a motion to adopt the Park Board Resolution Rejection and Waiver of Option to Purchase and proceeded to read in its entirety (see attached); seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPROVEMENTS: MEADOR, SMITH PARKS

Meador Park: Mr. Belote stated that we have a Right-of-Way request from Public Works to increase the amount of Park property needed at Meador Park by 3,356 square feet to complete planned improvements and to approve pursuing approval from Missouri's Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for this increased amount. Because Parks previously received Land and Water Conservation funds for improvements of Meador, the approval of MDNR is necessary. We asked for Park Board approval in 2017 to allow for intersection and roadway improvements along the Fremont and Sunset Intersection at Meador Park. The requested land will have minimal impact on Meador Park, as it is buffer ground and will provide increased access to the park and improve park patron safety and aesthetics. Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion authorizing the change of use of 10,798 SF of Meador Park property for the Public Works Improvements along Meador Park, approving the City Attorney's Office to seek approval from Missouri's Department of Natural Resources for this change of use, and authorizing the Park Board Chair to sign a Change of Use Form substantially similar to that attached to this Memorandum that will allow for the completion, management, and classification of the property in question for Public Works' Improvement purposes; seconded by Mike Chiles. Motion approved unanimously.

Smith Park: Public Works is improving and widening Division along Smith Park and has again requested the Park Board's assistance to accomplish the planned improvements. The proposed plan is requesting six feet of right-of-way along the north property line, and ten feet of right-of-way about 100 feet east of Fremont at the Fremont and Division intersection. Once completed, the final improvements for widening Division will take approximately two feet farther south into Smith Park, but will allow for a ten-foot wide bicycle/pedestrian concrete walkway along the north end of Smith Park that will eventually connect to Glenstone. The total area of park land needed for this final improvement is approximately .167 acre.

Additionally, there is a drainage easement at the SE corner of the Fremont and Division intersection that is outside of our softball outfield fence where a storm basin is to be constructed. The total park land needed for this stormwater improvement is approximately .28 acre. Ms. Tammy Mast made the motion authorizing the change of use of .447 acre of Smith Park property for the Public Works Improvements along Smith Park and authorizing the Park Board Chair to sign a Change of Use Form substantially similar to that attached to this Memorandum that will allow for the completion, management and classification of the property in question for Public Works' Improvement purposes; seconded by Dee King. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. Future Funding Committee Update** Mr. Belote stated that the Greene County Commissioners have requested a Parks update meeting about budgetary challenges, programs and events, and future plans. Mr. Belote will follow up with the Presiding Greene County Commissioner about a prospective date for this meeting with the Park Board.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and Community Sports Development Program Mr. Cumley reported that the staff is transitioning from summer to fall activities in the downtown parks. Staff is assisting with the Route 66 Festival, including the pre-parade party, in which our Concessions Division will provide food for attendees. The ice plant is undergoing testing to improve the efficiency of the system. Once testing is completed, we plan to bring in the new system and have everything back online and running more efficiently. New signage was installed with the updated CSDP logo at the Davis Property.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats reported that there is new signage at the Lake Springfield Park gates, which was completed by Parks staff. Over 60 hours of volunteer service was completed within Lake Springfield Park last month. Mr. Coats mentioned that over seven acres of the invasive honeysuckle bush has been removed. The last days of summer camp have been completed at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, with 175 campers, ages 4-11 years old. Staff built and installed new feeders for our patrons to feed the park animals. Timmons Temple was opened during the annual Park Day reunion, with many historical exhibits tying in to the event's theme of the 70's, 80's, and 90's.

Mr. Belote mentioned that he appreciated the Park Rangers attendance and support at the Springfield Lasers matches and many other events over the summer. Having the Rangers present at these community events, helps to provide a safe environment for everyone.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that her staff has been primarily working on the promotion of Springfield Lasers and heat advisory announcements. When we are under a heat advisory alert, we offer several park facilities as cooling sites, along with special admission prices and extended hours at our pools. Ms. Edwards stated that anything in print or on social media promoting the Lasers was the work of her staff, and she is proud of their teamwork. Ms. Diana Tyndall was responsible for the coordination of the online ticketing service for Lasers again this season. Ms. Tyndall also coordinated our booth representatives at the 417 Bridal Show. Brittany Bywater worked on most of the Lasers promotional and signage pieces. Kara Remington updated the website with the WTT league changes, making the transition seamless.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath mentioned that we assisted with the Price Cutter Championship Golf Tournament by staffing the Junior Golf Am event at Oscar Blom, providing marshals for Hole 15, and providing support in the volunteer tent. Ms. McGrath stated that our Outdoor Initiatives Program partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Library's summer reading program, Moonlight Madness, at Sequiota Park. The evening included a librarian reading a book about the moon and its different phases. Telescopes were set up for viewing the moon, along with additional onsite activities and a moon photo

booth. The evening ended with the Park Board's bat flight program, and at dusk, over 2,000 bats flew out of the cave, which amazed the 125 participants. The OI staff ventured out with an extended trip to Estes Park, Colorado. The participants thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Rocky Mountain National Park, with a view of white-capped mountains and an elk sighting, a snowball fight, and a hike to the top of the Estes Cone, which even included a marriage proposal. Nightly Dutch Oven meals and s'mores around a campfire made for a memorable week. Ms. McGrath has been involved with the onboarding of eight staff members within Recreation Division. She appreciated the assistance of Amie Davis', Parks HR representative, for coordinating the interviews and completing the hiring process for these positions.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that we are closing out the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The July sales tax revenue was down from this same time last year, but July is also typically a low reporting month. Expenditures were up for July over the prior year, due mainly to an increase in salary expenditures as expected and budgeted. Golf revenue continued to be strong in July due to the enhanced food and beverage amenities and good weather. The Zoo began the new fiscal year strong, with an increase in revenue compared to July of last year. As we do each fiscal year-end, and in conjunction with the City's Finance Department, a budget adjustment was approved by City Council in July to approve any necessary transfers. Mr. Mitchell stated that he was proud of his staff for the way they interact with the public daily, in addition to their financial responsibilities.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame will induct this year's class on Tuesday, September 17. Former Park Board member, Tim Blasi, will be inducted for his accomplishments as a baseball player at Hillcrest High School and Missouri State University.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that the contractor is resurfacing Courts 7-12 with the same mix as the newly renovated courts 1-6, so that they will play similarly. Park Operations crews will replace the court curtains this week. Mr. Park stated that he appreciated the support of the Cooper Tennis members and the staff during the renovations. Mr. Park also thanked John Cooper and the Cooper Family for making these improvements possible. Mr. Park reported that the contractor is making good progress on the construction of the pair of water fountains at Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park with plans to have it operational before the winter season.

Mr. Park provided a brief report on the litter collection and weather statistics on behalf of Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services, who is on vacation. There was an 11 percent increase in litter collection in July over June, and we experienced five rain events in July making precipitation amounts about normal for this time of year.

Mr. Park briefly provided an update on the Jordan Valley ice plant, along with background information about the system that is nearly 20 years old. There are many repairs needed on the system, and the technology has advanced significantly. With an upgrade to the electrical system, it will cost less in the long run to operate and maintain. Mr. Park mentioned that repairs at the Nathanael Greene Park playgrounds will begin in October as soon as we receive the new surfacing material which required a significant lead time to receive.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that during National Zookeeper Week, staff attended a variety of special events including a movie at Alamo Drafthouse and a Springfield Cardinals' game. The Zooperhero event is Saturday, August 10, and the Kids Fair, is on Sunday, August 25, with over 30 vendors. The second Annual Brew at the Zoo is Saturday, September 14.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that golf rounds and revenue remained strong in July. The courses were in excellent condition for the numerous tournaments we hosted during July. Mr. Fisher reported that we are still awaiting approval from the City's Risk Management staff on the contract execution for our Parks Economic Impact Study. He explained that the insurance issues are under review in order to comply with City requirements. We are hopeful that we may begin the study very soon.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that we successfully hosted the National Neighborhood Night Out event at Meador Park on August 6th. The Police vs Fire softball game had a lot of spectators to cheer for the teams. Mr. Belote stated that we are featured in a recent Springfield Business Journal publication on page 27, as a recipient of a 30+ year in Business Economic Impact Award. Mr. Belote thanked our Park Board Chair, Carolyn Gerdes, and former Park Board Director, Jodie Adams, for attending the event.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Cindy Jobe, Community Recreation Services Administrator and Sister Cities Executive Director, retired after 34 years of service on August 1. Cindy also served as our Lasers DJ during the home matches. Lisa Bakerink, former Friends of the Garden Executive Director, has been selected as the new Sister Cities Executive Director.

Mr. Belote reported that the City's Comprehensive Plan process is moving forward. The first community kick-off meeting is August 20 at the Springfield Arts Museum. There are also several community workshops planned, including one at Northview Center on September 4.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Sidney Needem thanked the Park Board staff for their support of the Park Day weekend of festivities. Silver Springs Park looked beautiful, and he appreciated the Park Rangers presence to help keep everyone safe. Next year, the Park Day Reunion will be July 31, August 1 and 2, 2020.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XII. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, September 13, 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 Mr. Scott Bailes. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.