

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, June 12, 2020**

Lake Springfield Boathouse, 5324 S. Kissick Avenue, Springfield, Missouri

I. ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, welcomed and introduced our two new Board members, who are Greene County representatives. Curtis Jared, President, Jared Enterprises, has also been an active Friends of the Zoo Board member. Heather Noggle has worked for Export Internet Trade Systems for nearly 20 years, and since 2018, is now the owner of the company. Mr. Belote mentioned that we were able to get Curtis and Heather a Board packet yesterday evening, but that he will provide both with a more in-depth orientation, including a possible park tour, very soon. Each of the Park Board members introduced themselves and welcomed the new Board members.

Members Present: Mike Chiles, Carolyn Gerdes, Curtis Jared, Tammy Mast, Sidney Needem, Heather Noggle

Members Absent: Scott Bailes, Randy Blackwood, Cynthia Lipscomb

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Filmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Jenny Perkins, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to approve the May 8, 2020, Park Board Meeting minutes, and the May 8, 2020, Closed Park Board Meeting minutes as a group; seconded by Mr. Mike Chiles. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. DAN KINNEY FAMILY CENTER REFINANCE/REFUND RESOLUTION

Mr. Belote stated that Greene County staff approached Parks staff earlier this year to discuss an opportunity to refinance the debt service on the Dan Kinney Park Series Bonds issued in 2011, which would hopefully offer monetary savings for the Park Board over the remaining term for the loan. At the March 13, 2020, Park Board meeting, the Board approved pursuing the refunding of the Bond Debt but did not have an opportunity to review or approve the necessary legal documents. Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, presented a formal Park Board Resolution to the Park Board, which was prepared by Bond Council, Mr. Rick McConnell. Mr. McConnell and Mr. Michael Short with the Bond Council joined the meeting via Webex to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the refinancing of the bond.

Ms. Woolsey stated that the Resolution seeks specific approval of the issuance by the County of an amount not to exceed \$3,700,000 for refunding the existing bond debt and paying the associated costs and sets the parameters for the refunded bond. There are additional documents that are discussed in the Resolution and will need to be executed by the Board, including the Third Addendum to the Interlocal Governmental Agreement between the City, Park Board and County for use and distribution of the Park Board's 2001 Park Sales Tax Revenues for repayment of the refunding bond obligation; and the Third Amendment to Third Addendum to Agreement of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri and Consent to Security Interest for the Dan Kinney Park Project. Mr. McConnell reviewed the refinancing parameters with the Board, explaining that they hoped to have the bond transaction closed by the end of July. Ms. Lana Woolsey stated that with Greene County's improved bond rating, the reserve fund that was being held until the end of the loan to be applied to the last payment, was being applied now to the principle of the loan. Based upon closing numbers on June 11, 2020, this should provide a savings of approximately \$74,000 annually. Greene County Commissioners will review the documents for approval next week. Once the bonds are sold, all legal documents will be signed. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the County bringing this opportunity to the Park Board, and this action to move forward had the support of Park Board Administration. Ms. Tammy Mast made the motion to adopt and approve the proposed resolution as stated; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. The motion passed, with Carolyn Gerdes abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Belote introduced Mr. Tim McCrea, our Business Systems Analyst, who has been instrumental in training and setting up various virtual platforms to conduct meetings for Park Board Staff. Mr. Matt Coats introduced Jenny Perkins, Coordinator, at Lake Springfield Boathouse. Jenny transferred from Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park to Lake Springfield Park when long-time employee, Jon Chamberlin, retired after more than 30 years with the Park Board.

IV. UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION RECOVERY GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director, stated that our Community Tennis Section applied for a USTA Facility Recovery Grant, and we have received notification that we were selected for the award. Ms. Reser stated that USTA provided \$5,000,000 in grants to facilities for a portion of costs associated with COVID-19. The grant award was based upon the number of courts at the facility. Ms. Reser stated that the Park Board received the maximum facility grant award amount and requests the Park Board's approval and acceptance of the grant funds in the amount of \$5,000.00. Mr. Curtis Jared made the motion to accept the USTA Facility Recovery Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00; seconded by Ms. Tammy Mast. The motion passed unanimously.

V. DEPARTMENTAL COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Belote stated that we have made progress since our last Park Board meeting in May as part of the Springfield-Greene County's Road to Recovery Plan, from Phase 2 to Phase 3, effective June 15. Mr. Belote mentioned that with the Phase 3 Recovery Plan implementation, contact sports activities/practices can begin with 50 percent occupancy limitations based on square footage of fixed seated spectator areas. We will begin league play in baseball and softball, both youth and adult leagues, with modified guidelines and rules. Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath

mentioned that we have met with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and other like-minded sports groups to discuss protocols in keeping dugouts cleaned and marked for social distancing of the players, seats marked for distance in the bleachers, controlling game times and entrances and exits, along with encouraging spectators to bring their own chairs, wear a mask, not arrive early or stay after scheduled game times, Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated the patience of our patrons as we worked through the necessary guidelines. Mr. Belote announced that effective June 12, 2020, we resumed taking reservations for park pavilions at ten locations. Our indoor pools are open, and our staff is working to hire additional seasonal employees to allow us to potentially open 1-2 outdoor pools. Organizers of other community festivals such as Cider Days/Arts Fest, and our own Harvest Fest, are still discussing how to host these events within the guidelines.

Mr. Belote stated that World Team Tennis will have a 2020 season, but the Springfield Lasers and the other WTT teams will not have any home matches. All matches will be played at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. There will be at least three matches per day at The Greenbrier's 2,500-seat outdoor stadium, with limited spectators. This will be the first major professional tennis league to resume play since the COVID-19 pandemic. The matches will be available on a variety of media platforms throughout the three-week season. Park Board staff is meeting internally on how to engage our Lasers fans for the 2020 season and celebrate our two back-to-back championship wins with one or two events at Cooper Tennis Complex.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

Although Ms. Michele Risdal-Barnes was unable to attend this month's Park Board meeting, Mr. Belote acknowledged Michele's contributions during her four-year service on the Park Board. She was actively involved on our Future Funding Committee and served as Chair of our Park Board Nominating Committee. We wish Michele the best in her future endeavors and are confident she will remain involved with the park system moving forward.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP Program Mr. Cumley reported that several programs are up and running, with hockey programs starting very soon. He was happy to report that summer activity levels are up at Jordan Valley Ice Park. The fountain at Founders Park is open, and staff plans to open the Jordan Valley Park fountain within the next two weeks. The CSDP Coaches are beginning to offer programs including modified tennis practices, summer camps for ice hockey, and volleyball activities starting June 29. The Wednesday Concert Series in Founders Park is underway during the month of June. We will offer a modified season of Movies at Founders Park on Friday evenings in September, which will also include a concert before the movie.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that several facilities have increased their operation hours, and Cooper Tennis has resumed offering adult and youth tennis programs. Our SPARC programs are in session with staff keeping groups together throughout the camp week and following appropriate guidelines. We are working to hire lifeguards, provide training and certification, so that we can potentially open one, maybe

two, outdoor pools. Ms. McGrath staff stated that she was proud of her staff for continuing to answer patron questions, cleaning and sanitizing facility space and equipment, updating signage, and smiling when they welcome our patrons back to the facility. Mr. Belote stated he has appreciated Springfield-Greene County Health Department's guidance and input throughout this pandemic, as we work to reopen facilities and offer programs again.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her staff enjoyed sharing good news with activities, park history, testimonials, and videos of park sites as part of the Parks Pick-Me-Up social media campaign. Although Parks Pick-Me-Up posts continued daily for 50 days, the Communications Team has started focusing again on promoting events and programs. They are continuing to produce more videos and plan to post Parks Pick-Me-Up content weekly. Ms. Edwards stated that with the program schedules changing so much this summer, we are not publishing a Park Bench, but the latest program information will be available and updated on our website.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that he is estimating our current deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to be \$1,400,000 to \$1,600,000. However, the reopening of opening our facilities and beginning to offer programs again has helped our budget significantly. The June sales tax revenue for Parks was down 3.4 percent compared to one year ago. The City is still projecting up to a 20 percent decrease in sales tax revenue for July and August. If sales tax revenue is down 20 percent, the projected \$360,000 loss for Parks is included in our estimate for the deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. We continue to track costs related to COVID-19, and we are estimating that amount to be approximately \$400,000 by the end of June. Golf revenue has remained strong. Board Member, Mike Chiles, asked if we were eligible for the Payment Protection Plan loans, but as of this time, the loan is not extended to governmental agencies. With CARES funding, we may not be able to recover lost revenue but potentially could apply for a loan to cover supplies. Mr. Belote stated that not collecting fees and charges for programs, leagues, and camps, along with membership payments is where we have been significantly impacted in loss of revenue. Mr. Chiles mentioned that he was interested to know if the State of Missouri is any closer in collecting sales tax from internet sales, as he believes Missouri is one of the few states that has not passed this legislature. Mr. Belote mentioned that he believes that our Missouri Park and Recreation Association is keenly aware and pushing this issue forward. Mr. Curtis Jared, Board Member, mentioned that he believed a "use tax" recently failed in Christian County.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats reported that canoe/kayak season began May 15 at Lake Springfield Park, and over 725 hours were logged in rentals in just two weeks. He appreciated the assistance of Recreation staff, who helped him staff the Boathouse operations. Hay season is in full swing at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Summer camps are underway and are full through August at both the Farm Park and Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. Ms. Christine Peoples is working with Springfield Public Schools and other community groups to offer history-themed parties and programs. Mr. Sidney Needem, Board Member, recently attended a meeting in Timmons Hall and indicated that the new floor is really a beautiful feature of the facility. Mr. Coats mentioned that the donated piano is undergoing repairs so that the "self-playing" feature can be utilized for special events.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that much of his staff's activities is dictated by weather, and in May, we normally receive about five inches of rain. This May, we received 10 inches of rain, which caused significant grass growth. The second phase of concrete sidewalk repair is underway in the Mizumoto Stroll Garden. Mr. Belote stated that the City is currently under a hiring freeze, but we did receive approval to hire several essential key seasonal employees to help us conduct some of our summer-time operations such as mowing and preparation of ball fields.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Superintendent of Zoo Mr. Crocker stated that the Zoo has been open for two weeks, but that several indoor facilities remain closed for now. During the time the Zoo was closed, staff completed several projects that are nearly impossible to complete when the Zoo is open including a major renovation of the canopy entrance. Mr. Crocker announced that Ball of Wild is scheduled for September 4, although we are not certain of attendance capacity guidelines that will be applicable at that time.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that Lake Country Soccer will host competitive tryouts on June 15. Summer soccer tournaments are being planned. Ms. Reser stated that we are looking at a Learning Management System Training software that would store and track employee certifications and required training, including the possibility of monitoring training required for part-time seasonal employees such as lifeguards.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park reported that the Botanical Center reopened on May 22. With funding provided by Ozark Greenways, the Fulbright Spring Trail Phase 4 project continues to be delayed due to wet site conditions. The gazebo for the Rose Garden will be completed soon. Ben Kellner, Parks Supervisor, is working with a volunteer group, who will be doing the site prep work and planting of roses in the new display beds within the Rose Garden. The design also includes four arbors in the garden. Mr. Park stated that we appreciated the assistance of City Utilities who helped to clean up the Pythian Street corridor after a storm knocked down 12 utility poles. In an unrelated incident, a fire suppression line broke causing water damage at Cooper Tennis Complex. Contractors are working to remove the water and damaged drywall, along with cleaning the carpets and affected areas. Mr. Park stated that there is a proposal for a multi-family housing project across the street from Sequiota Park. A virtual meeting was conducted on May 13 so citizens could participate. The Planning and Zoning Committee tabled the proposal so that the developer could consult with the residents and discuss their concerns. The developer expressed interest in assisting with ways to help alleviate additional pressure from increased usage of Sequiota Park, so Mr. Park will continue to discuss options and bring any information that has implications on the Park forward to the Board. Mr. Park stated that when Nick Nelson, Director of Art Museum, and the Museum's Board developed a master plan several years ago, one of their goals was to address the storm water issue for the museum property and immediate area. Several virtual meetings have been held, and a follow up meeting to engage the community and obtain additional input, is scheduled for June 23. Mr. Park was part of the Art Museum's Master Plan and will continue to help with the overall project.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that our golf courses are offering a special 10-play pass for Father's Day. With the current hiring freeze, we have 24 open full-time positions, including three Park Ranger full-time positions. Mr. Fisher reported that we

should have the first draft of the Economic Impact Study to review soon. We have completed our reaccreditation application and staff are updating their assigned standards. One of the requirements for the CAPRA accreditation is a Parks Master Plan, and we now have the contract finalized to move forward with this project. We will use data from the recent Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan initiative, which included considerable comments about parks, trails, and outdoor lifestyle opportunities.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, stated that she greatly appreciates our parks and trails, and hopefully, the community has enjoyed the benefit these spaces offer, especially during the pandemic.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss

XI. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, July 10, 2020, at 8:30 am, and it is anticipated to be held at Timmons Hall. Mr. Belote will make a Parks Update Presentation to the Mayor and City Council on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 12 noon. The Park Board is invited to attend and offer their comments, as well.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.