MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, April 9, 2021
Chesterfield Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Road, Springfield, Missouri
Meeting also conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams Teleconferencing

I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Leslie Carrier, Mike Chiles, Carolyn Gerdes, Tammy Mast, Sidney Needem, Heather Noggle, Susie Turner

Members Absent: Curtis Jared

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Filmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Adam Kriegshauser, Anne-Mary McGrath (via Teams), Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Diana Tyndall, Steve Webb, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the March 12, 2021, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTION OF KEY CHESTERFIELD FAMILY CENTER STAFF

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Mr. Steve Webb, Community Recreation Services Administrator, who oversees the three Family Centers, along with the Health and Wellness and Aquatics Divisions. Mr. Webb introduced Mr. Adam Kriegshauser, who previously worked in our SPARC Division before becoming the Chesterfield Family Center Coordinator nearly two years ago.

Mr. Kriegshauser stated that he has been utilizing his knowledge and experience of managing sports leagues, recreation programs, and a licensed childcare facility to bring new ideas for our Chesterfield Family Center patrons. Within a short time of starting his new position, our family centers were shut down due to the pandemic. The facility was closed for six weeks, and when we initially re-opened, it was for only limited hours. Staff were trained to conduct screening safety protocols, temperature checks, and contract tracing in coordination with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's guidance. On June 1, we began programming classes again. Workout equipment was spread out within the facility and capacity limits were in place for classes and the weight room. We were diligent in cleaning all equipment surfaces after patron use. Childcare services at the family center restarted on November 2, using a reservation system. At the beginning of the year, we noticed an increase in daily patron use and over 1,200 memberships were renewed. We also gained some new members due to the closure of the Meyer Center during the pandemic. Mr. Kriegshauser stated that we are working to bring back our programs for seniors, as well. Upcoming special events include the Indoor Triathalon, which includes swimming, treadmill, and biking; a Floating Easter Egg hunt in the Chesterfield Family Center pool; and a special Princess Tea Party. Mr. Kriegshauser pointed out that thanks to the Park Operations crew, the gym and the childcare area were recently painted.

IV. <u>ACCEPTANCE OF EQUESTRIAN CENTER DONATION</u>

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, stated that a family in Nebraska approached Lynn Vandenberg, our Equestrian Center Coordinator, about a possible donation of a horse. Jax, is a 7-year old Thoroughbred Friesian cross gelding, and in Ms. Vandenberg's opinion, a horse with this type of cross breeding and temperament would be a tremendous asset to our Equestrian Center's youth rider programs. Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, indicated that the average age of the horses at the Equestrian Center is 20-25-years old. Mr. Coats indicated we have 28 horses, and average 80 lessons per week, which includes different levels of riders, so different horses are needed for the programs. Mr. Coats indicated that maintenance and feeding costs are approximately $2,000-$3,000 annually per horse. We feed the horses hay grown within our park system, which provides a significant cost savings. Ms. Heather Noggle made a motion to accept the horse donation valued at $6,500.00 by the owner; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion passed unanimously.

V. <u>ACCEPTANCE OF MUSGRAVE FOUNDATION FOR SPARC PROGRAM GRANT</u>

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, stated that the staff from the School-Park Division were made aware of a grant funding opportunity from the Musgrave Foundation. SPARC staff were recently notified by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks that we were awarded $5,152 in grant funds, from The Jerry Redfern Grant Program, and will be used to offer a new program called SPARC'ler: STEAM Scientist. The 10-week program is designed for youth ages five to 11 years old and will focus on science, technology, engineering, art, and math activities. The grant funding will cover the cost of the activity kits and enrollment for each student and will be free to Title 1 school participants. Ms. Tammy Mast made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the Park Board to apply for and accept the Jerry Redfern Grant as part of the Musgrave Foundation that provides for $5,152 in grant funds to be used in Park Board's SPARC after-school programs; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. <u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>

a. **<u>Proposed Slate of Board Officer Candidates</u>** Mr. Belote stated that the Nominating Committee, consisting of Carolyn Gerdes, Randy Blackwood, and Tammy Mast, have discussed the extensive experience, hands-on involvement with the Board and Board Committee matters, overall community involvement, and appropriate mix of City/County representation, and respectfully submit the following candidates for the 2021-22 year:

Chair:	Sidney Needem
Vice Chair:	Tammy Mast
Secretary:	Bob Belote*

*It is customary for the Director of Parks to assume this role.

Mr. Belote stated that it was important to note that Ms. Mast was recommended by other Committee members and was separate from her involvement with the process. An Election of Officers Ballot was included in the Board members' packets. Mr. Belote inquired if there were any write-in additional candidate recommendations for formal consideration. Hearing no additional write-in candidate recommendations, Board members were asked to complete the ballot and submit their signed forms to be counted prior to the end of the meeting. After the ballots were tallied, Mr. Sidney Needem was unanimously elected as Chair, Ms. Tammy Mast was elected as Vice Chair, with one abstention, and Mr. Belote was unanimously elected as Secretary.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that with a lengthy agenda and a Closed Session today, we will forgo our verbal Divisional Reports. Detailed written reports were included in the Board Member's packets for review.

Mr. Belote stated that on April 16, 2021, an updated City of Springfield ordinance will allow facilities to increase to 50 percent capacity, while still masking and following social distancing protocols. Mr. Belote invited Park Board members to attend a special event to recognize Bass Pro's donation to the Park Board, which includes 40 new kayaks and canoes, along with life jackets and dry bags. The event will take place on Thursday, April 15, at 3 pm, at Lake Springfield Park and Boathouse.

Mr. Mike Chiles, Board Member, inquired if the Park Board was still having difficulty hiring seasonal staff. Ms. McGrath indicated that although we are making progress, there is still a need for more lifeguards. Ms. McGrath stated that we provide the certifying classes for lifeguard training. Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director, stated that his division is also having difficulty finding people to hire for maintenance and field prep operations.

Ms. Leslie Carrier, Board Member, stated that she has been impressed with the information she receives as a Board member. She indicated she has learned so much through the details provided in the divisional reports.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Chair, stated that she was flattered when she was elected as Board Chair. It has been a very rewarding experience in which she has enjoyed and learned considerable. She credited the Park Board staff for making it easy to serve as Chair. Ms. Gerdes stated that it is a good feeling to observe how each Park Division compliments one another and works together for the betterment of our community.

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 meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14, 2021. Time and location will be determined.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sidney Needem made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.