

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, July 9, 2021**

**Lake Springfield Park Boathouse, 5324 S. Kissick, Springfield, Missouri
Meeting also conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams Teleconferencing**

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Leslie Carrier, Ann Compton, Carolyn Gerdes, Sidney Needem, Heather Noggle, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Members Absent: Curtis Jared

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the June 11, 2021, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Heather Noggle made a motion to approve the June 11, 2021, Park Board Closed Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Carolyn Gerdes. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. WELCOME TO NEW PARK BOARD MEMBERS: ANN COMPTON AND ROYCE REDING

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, welcomed new Board Members, Ann Compton and Royce Reding, who were recently appointed by the Greene County Commission to serve three-year terms. Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, mentioned that their resumes were also included in the Board members' packets for review.

IV. SPARC BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, stated that we were selected as one of eight non-profit recipients to receive a three-year grant funding program from the Jeannette L. Musgrave Foundation's Change for Children. The grant will provide high-quality professional staff training to address the mental and social-emotional behavioral needs of Springfield youth through Before and After School programs. Park Board staff will collaborate with the staff at Burrell Behavioral Health and the staff at Agency for Teaching, Leading, and Learning at Missouri State University to provide training for all full-time and part-time staff in our SPARC section. Our SPARC staff will be trained to recognize and respond to positive behaviors and to common mental health issues and connect families to community resources. Mr. Belote stated that one of the goals from moving forward after the pandemic is to address mental health with the assistance of partnering health agencies. Ms. Susie Turner, Board member, appreciated staff's

initiative in seeking additional funding opportunities. A resolution to accept the grant funding from the Jeannette L. Musgrave Foundation was included in the Board members' packets for review. Ms. Turner made a motion to approve the resolution to accept the first-year grant funding in the amount of \$50,000 from the Jeannette L. Musgrave Foundation; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Needem stated that when community organizations collaborate together, everyone walks away with something. Mr. Belote stated he appreciated the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and their ability to bring opportunities and donors together to complete projects within our community.

V. LAKE SPRINGFIELD PARK PROPOSED DISC GOLF COURSE DONATION

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, stated that we were recently approached by Black Ink Disc, a local disc golf vendor, about developing a disc golf course at Lake Springfield Park. Black Ink Disc proposed to donate the materials for the course, while the course installation would be completed by Special Facilities staff. Mr. Jeff Smith, Senior Park Planner, reviewed the proposed layout of the disc golf course with the Board. He indicated that there would be minimal disturbance to the park with the installation of the concrete pads. The disc golf course at Lake Springfield Park would be a professional-grade disc golf course for Springfield, making it a good location to host regional tournaments. As a free family activity, Mr. Coats stated that additional disc golf courses are a frequent patron request, including at Lake Springfield Park. The Board continued discussion regarding how the course was created, how long it would take to complete the course construction, how often the baskets require replacement, and would any additional maintenance be required. Mr. Coats indicated that staff is hopeful to host an opening tournament in September, so we anticipate construction to take just a few weeks. The Board also discussed the creation of a phone app that would include an interactive map and electronic scoresheet in the future. Ms. Lana Woolsey stated that the agreement states each entity's contribution, and the estimated donation value of \$13,000 includes 18-disc baskets, concrete, and reinforcement materials for the tee pads, along with topsoil for leveling the tee pads. Mr. Randy Blackwood made the motion to enter into an agreement with Black Ink Disc; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to accept the \$13,000 donation from Black Inc Disc for materials necessary to construct a disc golf course at Lake Springfield Park; seconded by Ms. Heather Noggle. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Nominating Committee Update and Recommended Candidate for Vice Chair Term

Mr. Belote stated that Ms. Tammy Mast was elected Vice Chair earlier this spring, but since the Greene County Commission elected not to reappoint Tammy, we need to elect a new Vice Chair to help fill in for the Chair as needed. The Nominating Committee recommended Mr. Randy Blackwood for the Board's consideration. Mr. Belote requested that Board members complete the Election of Officers Ballot, which also includes space for write-in candidates. After the ballots were submitted and counted, the vote was unanimous to elect Mr. Randy Blackwood as the Vice Chair. Mr. Blackwood abstained from the vote.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the Nomination Committee recommended to reappoint Ms. Susie Turner to her first three-year Board term and Mr. Randy Blackwood for a second Board term, and they are on the City Council's Agenda for the first reading approval on

Monday, July 12. Mr. Belote mentioned that Ms. Turner was fulfilling the remaining term of a Board member who had resigned, and therefore, eligible for appointment to her first three-year Board term. The Nominating Committee's recommendation for our new Board Member, who will replace Ms. Carolyn Gerdes as her second term has expired, is also listed on the City Council agenda for first reading approval on Monday.

Mr. Belote stated that as requested by the Board, we plan to organize a few Board committees to discuss several special topics including reviewing park properties and the impact of the increased minimum wage on our operational budget and fees and charges.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that the revenues and expenditures for the month of June will not be presented to the Board until the City completes the traditional fiscal year end close. He did provide a summary of key numbers that have been determined from Parks staff's preliminary internal accounting records for the current fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The Golf Fund recorded the largest annual revenue, with 14,700 more rounds of golf played this fiscal year. Dickerson Park Zoo had 84,000 more visitors and revenues were up over \$653,000 during this fiscal year. Mr. Mitchell reported that we submitted an additional \$355,153 for reimbursement for expenditures associated with our efforts to address the COVID-19 situation for funding provided by the CARES Act administered through Greene County. Parks previously received a total of \$821,438 from our first request for reimbursement for expenditures. Ms. Susie Turner, Board member, asked if we felt we were near capacity with the increased rounds of golf and attendance at the Zoo. Assistant Directors, Jim Fisher and Mike Crocker, stated that because golf and the zoo were outside activities, they believed we had ample outdoor space to accommodate the increase in visitors at these venues. Mr. Belote stated that with the increase in sales tax revenue, we plan to increase our Parks reserve fund to one million dollars, making us closer to reaching the goal of 8-10 percent of our operating budget. He also stated that with the anticipated extra revenue, we will be able to rebuild a Special Facilities maintenance facility we lost due to a fire at Lake Springfield Park last year. With the increased revenue in the Golf Fund, we are also electing to pay off the Rivercut bridge loan to the City one year early. We anticipate the trend to remain strong in the Golf Division, which would then allow us to consider different golf course projects. We are also reviewing the minimum wage rates and incentives to hire staff after the difficulty we experienced with hiring part-time seasonal and temporary employees for the summer season.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP Mr. Cumley stated that we hosted the Wing Ding National Conference event, including a concert and picnic on opening day, in Jordan Valley Park on June 29. Our Concessions and Catering Division provided meals to over 1,200 people at the picnic and more than 4,500 people during the week-long event. Camps are ongoing in our Community Sports Development Program areas, with a continued focus of mental and physical training, along with nutrition and sports strategies.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney mentioned that staff helped with the Summer Solstice Art Fair at Lafayette Park on June 12. Staff completed a large project on the Galloway greenway trail by removing a 100-foot asphalt section and replacing it with concrete. Mr. Belote mentioned that Jeff Smith, Senior Park Planner, continues to assist other

groups with their projects including the redesign and cost of ballfields, as well as trail design and development with Ozark Greenways.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath stated the Aquatics staff has been onboarding new employees as quickly as possible, and the increase of aquatics staff has allowed us to add another open swim day at Silver Springs pool. Ms. McGrath stated that she included graphs indicating the family center membership trends, along with the Inbalance and Silver Sneaker participation at each center, as requested by Board members. Ms. McGrath reported that at the Senior Games there were 208 athletes, which is a significant increase in participation given that not all events were offered for competition this year. She appreciated the help of the Kickapoo High School Track Coach and track athletes. Sheri Davis, Northview Coordinator, retired at the end of June after 22 years of service. We appreciate her work with the Senior and Accessible Recreation program participants. The international Go Skateboard Day was June 21. The Skate Park had 230 people who enjoyed complimentary admission, contests, and prizes from the vendors. Heather Noggle, Board member, asked if we were increasing our programming for seniors. Ms. McGrath stated that we have been organizing indoor-oriented activities that we can do outside to make it more comfortable for our senior population. Ms. Leslie Carrier, Board member, inquired if we have been successful in hiring for the summer. Ms. McGrath explained that we are doing better and hire seasonal staff who can work a full-time schedule from April to September, but we also hire temporary staff who can work up to a certain number of hours every week but may also work all year round, which helps with our staffing issues in each division.

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Coats mentioned that the Special Facilities staff teamed up with the Recreation Division and hosted Kids Fishing Day at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park on June 5. The Farm Park gift shop has sold more than 4,500 fishing worms this fiscal year. The pumpkins and mums have been planted for the upcoming Harvest Fest, which is scheduled for the first four weekends in October. Staff at Lake Springfield Park and Boathouse partnered with our Outdoor Initiatives Division and successfully hosted several new programs including Float and Hike. Over 800 kayaks/canoes were rented during June. Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Director, Bob Kendrick, conducted a presentation at Timmons Hall on June 27, on the history of the negro leagues. He highlighted Springfield, Missouri native, Herman "Doc" Horn, Jr., who played for the Kansas City Monarchs.

Ms. Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards stated that the recent vaccination events at park sites have been well-attended, and we have received positive feedback from participants. Ms. Edwards stated that we have several newly designed Parks t-shirts available for sale at the Botanical Center and Lake Springfield Boathouse gift shops. Mr. Belote thanked the facility managers who helped to coordinate the vaccination clinics with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser mentioned that Lake County Soccer will host a Speed, Agility and Skills Camp for ages 8-18 on August 9-12. Tim McCrea, Business Systems Analyst, has been assisting the City Information Systems staff with several projects. Mr. Belote thanked Ms. Reser for assisting various areas in Recreation as needed.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that the Botanical Center staff hosted nine weddings in the month of June. Park Operations staff assisted with the Juneteenth events at Silver Springs Park and Washington Park. Mr. Park stated he appreciated the assistance of Jeff Aldridge at the Botanical Center who helps coordinate many of the volunteer activities. Staff worked to place new patterned and tinted concrete walks in the Founders Garden and the Drummond Garden. The construction plan documents for the new Thomas J. Kachel Memorial Fountain are completed and under final review. Mr. Park has met with the consultant for the design of the new maintenance building at Lake Springfield Park. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes asked when the Anne Drummond statue will be back in its original location. Mr. Park thought it would be within the next month or two.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that the Ball of the Wild event is scheduled for tonight, July 9, and he anticipated 600-700 guests will attend the event. Mr. Crocker will be helping with the Missouri Bicentennial event in partnership with Missouri State University and the Zoo's bear exhibits that are sponsored by MSU.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that he was pleased that golf revenues have remained consistent throughout the pandemic. Tim McCrea, Business Systems Analyst, and Tim Carpenter, Park Ranger Administrator, have been reviewing our security alarms and systems in park facilities. Our CAPRA virtual site visit takes place beginning next week, July 12-16. All the standard leaders who were a key contributor in the preparation of the CAPRA self-assessment document will be involved in the process. Ms. Susie Turner asked how long after the site visit would we know whether we were recommended for reaccreditation. Mr. Fisher stated that at our last site visit five years ago, we had a good indication that we would be recommended for accreditation from the site visit team by the time their review was completed. The NRPA Conference will be offered virtually and in-person for a limited number of people, so we are uncertain if a ceremony will be held at the Conference. Mr. Belote stated that he appreciated Mr. Fisher's leadership during the accreditation process. We believe that CAPRA accreditation represents an agency's effort to aspire to the best practices, including exceptional customer service and delivering quality services. We do feel that we have completed the necessary requirements to achieve reaccreditation, and we were glad to share information about our unique city/county park system with other agencies through the accreditation process.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that City Utilities will rename the existing park and recreation area near Fellows Lake Marina, Miller Park, at a dedication ceremony at 4 pm on July 24. The park will be named in honor of former City Utilities General Manager Scott Miller. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks will manage the marina, including a new 28-slip marina that is under construction to replace the original marina. Several mountain bike trails, which will eventually be around the entire lake, are now open. These were completed in conjunction with the Dirt 66 Initiative and Ozark Greenways. Mr. Belote mentioned that we have three park sites that we operate on City Utilities property: Dan Kinney Park, Lake Springfield Park, and Valley Water Mill Park. We appreciate our partnership with City Utilities including allowing us to participate in their Master Plan development process.

Mr. Belote stated that discussion continues among community leaders about bringing additional revenue to our community through sports tourism, trail development, and reinvesting in current

sports infrastructure. At a recent City Council retreat, there was discussion on how potential ARPA funds could be used to regain revenue lost during the pandemic, and which groups could partner together to create the most impact for the community.

Mr. Belote mentioned that recently the Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center near the west side of Silver Springs Park was vandalized. This center is used by several organizations and churches to offer assistance to individuals and families, and also where the Park Days Reunion Club conducts meetings. Our staff helped to remove the graffiti and clean up the house. Mr. Belote thanked the staff for the quick clean up and stated that a fund was set up at Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, stated that he is a member of the Reunion Club Board, and more than \$5,000 was raised to help with other projects. He appreciated the collaborative effort of partner organizations working together.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sidney Needem stated that he has been on several boards, but truly believes that the Park Board is the one of the best City Boards. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes has served as a Park Board member for the last six years, but she has also offered her leadership and participation on City Council, Friends of the Garden, and a variety of other civic organizations over the past 40 years. Ms. Gerdes stated that everything the Park Board does, eventually pays off. She is looking forward to seeing the many great projects that the Park Board completes in the future. Mr. Needem presented Ms. Gerdes with her Board service plaque. Ms. Gerdes and her dedicated six years of service to the Park Board will be missed.

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 will be Friday, August 13, 2021, at 8:30 am. The location will be determined.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Gerdes made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Randy Blackwood. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.