MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, August 13, 2021
Chesterfield Family Center 2511 W. Republic Road, Springfield, Missouri
Meeting also conducted via conference call (audio only)

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Leslie Carrier, Ann Compton (conference call), Curtis Jared, Mark McNay, Sidney Needem, Heather Noggle, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Members Absent: none

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Tim Carpenter, Mike Crocker, Jenny Filmer Edwards, Diana Ellison, Jim Fisher (conference call), Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Jenny Perkins, Kim Reser, Jennifer Shepherd, Jill Simmons, Diana Tyndall, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport Director and President of Downtown Rotary Club; several members of Downtown Rotary Club

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the August 13, 2021, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. WELCOME TO NEW PARK BOARD MEMBER: MARK MCNAY

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, welcomed our new Park Board member, Mr. Mark McNay, who is a city representative replacing Carolyn Gerdes, as her second board term recently expired. Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that Mr. McNay's resume was included in the Board's packets for review, as Mark's civic involvement in our community is considerable. Mr. Belote also mentioned that Mark was the co-chair of the 2001 and 2006 Parks Sales Tax Initiatives Committees and a member of the former Greene County Recreation Authority many years ago. Mark indicated he was excited to be part of this dynamic Parks organization, as he has been a supporter for many years, but he has never officially served on the Board.

IV. SPRINGFIELD DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB GRANT

Mr. Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport Director and Downtown Rotary Club President, welcomed and introduced the Downtown Rotary Club members in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Weiler thanked the Park Board members for their involvement in our outstanding Parks system. The Rotary Club decided that providing a grant to the Park Board's Youth Recreation Scholarship fund would support multiple Rotary efforts including but not limited to the Rotary Outdoors and Activity Movement Program (ROAM) to increase physical fitness and wellness; the diversity and inclusion of kids from low income and minority backgrounds; and reducing the impact of COVID on our community. The fund-raising efforts for the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship fund have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have generated only a fraction of its normal annual income. The Rotary Club Grant through the Scholarship Fund would allow income-qualifying Greene County youth, 18 and under, to participate in sports programs, educational camps, before/after school recreational activities, swim or dance lessons, and other youth-oriented parks activities. Many worthy youth would not be able to participate in these programs without the benefit of this Scholarship Fund. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to apply for and accept the Rotary Club's grant in the amount of $16,000 to be used in funding a portion of the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund as outlined in the resolution presented to Park Board members; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously.

V. SCHOOL-PARK WRAP AROUND CARE/SHINE PROGRAM GRANT

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, stated that the Springfield Public Schools officially adopted the Expansion of Service for Wrap Around Care, SHINE Program, for youth attending elementary and middle schools and reached out to our School-Park section to participate in this program through our Before and After School Program. Several other agencies, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield, the Dream Center, and the YMCA will also be partnering with SPS to offer this expanded service. Ms. Diana Ellison, SPARC Administrator, stated that children in SPS schools missed 90 seated classroom days last year due to the pandemic. The purpose of the SHINE Program is to provide educational activities to address the learning loss among students who were affected by the coronavirus and school closures. Ms. Ellison stated that students learn differently virtually than they do in a classroom. With this SHINE grant, we will hire part-time Academic Coordinators, funded by the SHINE partnership, who will work directly with our SPARC program leaders and students to bring academic enrichment opportunities. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to authorize the Park Board to enter into a contract with the School District of Springfield, R-12, and accept the proposed grant funding up to $294,450, from the school district, as part of its SHINE program, for use in and as part of the Park Board's SPARC Before and After School Program; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Leslie Carrier and Mr. Sidney Needem abstaining from the vote.

VI. FIELDHOUSE SPORTSCENTER PROPOSED OPERATIONAL BUDGET AND FEES AND CHARGES

Mr. Belote stated that the first reading for the purchase and financing associated with the Fieldhouse Sportscenter property occurred at the City Council meeting on August 9. The second reading and anticipated vote on the issue is scheduled for August 23. Mr. Belote stated that we would not be able to purchase this facility without the City's support. The City has agreed to finance the Fieldhouse operation for the first six years, and when we retire the Dan Kinney Family Center debt, the Park Board will begin making the payments for years 7-15. We had shared a prospective operational budget at our May Park Board meeting, but we included a more refined version representing our anticipated 9-month operation of the facility that would begin in October. We are working to make the transition from Fieldhouse operations to the Park Board as seamless as possible. Mr. Belote stated that one important facet in our proposed operational budget is we do anticipate operational revenues exceeding expenditures as the current owners have done during the last seven years of operation. We will place any surplus revenue into a specified repair fund for the building. The Board reviewed the Operating Income Statement that was provided to them in their packets. Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director, stated that we are estimating we will retain approximately 75 percent of the current revenue through the transition. We will offer other programs, activities, and services not currently offered, along with sponsorship opportunities, to minimize any gap of potential lost revenue. Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations, mentioned that Parks staff met with appropriate commercial vendors to review the equipment and furnishings that were not included in the purchase price to determine a fair and equitable purchase price from the owners. Mr. Curtis Jared, Board member, stated that in his opinion, the mentioned equipment should have been part of the initial facility purchase price. Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, stated that purchasing the equipment separately was how our offer was presented and agreed to with the owners. Mr. Belote mentioned that we believed that the $2,000,000 dollar donation from the owners was significant, and we proceeded with a separate and reasonable offer regarding the purchase of any equipment and excess inventory.

Ms. Jill Simmons reviewed the Recommended Fees and Charges for the Fieldhouse facility, which will remain consistent to what their patrons are used to with only a few minor changes. We intend to offer other programs and activities, and partner with groups for additional events. Ms. Heather Noggle, Board member, asked if we had included the cost to integrate computer systems in our budget, and Ms. Kim Reser, Assistant Director, stated that we did include these costs, along with security cameras and information technology such as cabling and services. We are anticipating a minimal delay in league scheduling, but we are working to minimize any break in service as we transition. Ms. Ann Compton, Board member, asked how many current members use the Fieldhouse. Ms. Reser stated that it is not a membership-based facility, and it is not currently opened to the public. The facility has been used more for league-play and tournaments, which we will continue to offer. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to adopt the proposed 9-month budget and fees and charges, which will be forwarded to City Council for approval; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to authorize purchase of the used inventory items associated with the Fieldhouse Sportscenter, with the Fieldhouse listed as a sole source, in the amount of $69,424.70; however, a second of the motion was not made. Mr. Jared stated again that as a property developer, he believes the equipment should have been part of the property purchase price, and he believed that the appraised amount would not be received if the equipment was sold individually by the owners. Mr. Belote stated that he understands Mr. Jared's perspective, however, we made the offer to the owners to purchase the equipment separately from the initial conversation, and to change our offer now, may jeopardize the agreement and the timing needed to finalize the agreement through City Council. Mr. Mitchell mentioned to purchase new equipment would not only significantly impact our budget, but it would potentially interfere with a smooth transition to begin our operation of the facility due to having to order and install the necessary equipment. Mr. Blackwood stated that although he appreciated Mr. Jared's comments and concerns, he felt that the Board may need to look at the bigger picture, which is the incredible opportunity we have to acquire a venue like this for our park system. We not only would meet our mission, but the opportunity to fulfill a community need for additional indoor recreation space. Mr. Jared stated it is not his intention stop the property purchase, but he did suggest that we speak once again to the owners to request an additional donation for the equipment. Ms. Susie Turner, Board member, stated that although the Park Board staff does not participate in this type of transaction every day, she appreciated the staff and the work they have completed to do our due diligence in making the purchase a smooth transition. Ms. Turner suggested that a conversation requesting the equipment to also be donated by the owners could take place, but the inventory purchase should not jeopardize the purchase agreement of the property. Ms. Leslie Carrier, Board member, stated she felt the Board would be prepared to move forward after the second conversation about the inventory equipment with the owners was completed. Mr. Royce Redding made the motion to table the inventory discussion and approval and recommended staff to further review the inventory purchase with the owners; seconded by Mr. Jared. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Belote stated that we would forgo the verbal staff reports today, but written reports from each Division are available for review in the Board member and staff packets.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, announced that this year's Turkey Trot, which is the largest run/walk event on Thanksgiving in Missouri, will once again be conducted virtually. Organizers from the Developmental Center of the Ozarks, Ozarks Food Harvest and the Park Board wanted to keep the participants, volunteers, and staff safe while still offering this popular community event which provides support for each of these organizations. Registration for Turkey Trot begins on September 8. Drive-thru packet pick-up will be offered similar to last year in the Killian Complex parking lot.

Mr. Belote mentioned that the World Team Tennis league will once again conduct all matches at one location, California's Indian Wells Tennis Garden, November 13-28.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie Carrier, Board member, asked about CAPRA Accreditation status. Mr. Belote mentioned that we are awaiting the CAPRA site visit team's review after we submitted the additional evidence of compliance documents requested during their virtual site visit. Our staff feels strongly that we provided thorough documentation and evidence to meet the required standards to achieve reaccreditation. The formal review with the CAPRA full committee will be conducted virtually and is scheduled for September 8.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, September 10, 2021, at 8:30 am. The location will be determined.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Heather Noggle made the motion to adjourn the meeting and go into Closed Session after a short break; seconded by Mr. Randy Blackwood. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.