

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, December 10, 2021
The Davis House, 5780 S Farm Road 141, Springfield, Missouri
Meeting also conducted via Microsoft Teams platform

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sidney Needem called the meeting to order at 8:38 am.

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

Absent: None

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

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, thanked Jeff Cumley and Lori Vandersnick for the set up and Olympic décor, and Karen Mellinger for the preparation of breakfast this morning.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the November 12, 2021, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion was passed unanimously.

III. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT ADVANCE AUTO PARTS DONATION

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath stated that on September 30, 2021, as part of the Advance Auto Parts grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at their first Springfield store, Darrin Wheat, District Manager, presented a \$5,000 check to Park Board Community Recreation Supervisor, Cyrus Taylor. At the request of the donor, the funds are to be divided equally and allocated to our Accessible Recreation and School-Park programs through the Park Board's Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund. Ms. McGrath explained that Mr. Wheat was a former temporary employee in our Accessible Recreation program and wanted to give back to the community. Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to accept the grant donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Advanced Auto Parts and the accompany resolution; seconded by Ms. Heather Noggle. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT CFO EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION GRANT

Ms. Christine Peoples, Timmons Hall Coordinator, stated that Timmons Hall has been awarded \$25,000 to implement the Meet 'n Greet History Project. The project teaches African American Studies through place-based learning at Silver Springs Park and Timmons Hall, through Alberta Ellis's family timeline, including training for educators, and opportunities for the community to engage in education, local history, conversation, and community building. The Meet 'n Greet

history kits for teachers will be available through the Springfield-Greene County Library. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to accept the Community Foundation of the Ozarks' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant in the amount of \$25,000, authorize the execution of the finalized contract, and proceed with this project; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CSDP) OVERVIEW & UPDATE

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP, welcomed the Board to the Davis House, which has served as the CSDP headquarters for the last 10 years. Ms. Lori Vandersnick, CSDP Director, shared a brief history about the Community Olympic Development Program (CODP) that began in Springfield in 2003, which is why the house is decorated with Olympic memorabilia. Several years ago, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) decided to discontinue the CODP programs throughout the country, but we chose to change the name to Community Sports Development Program (CSDP) and continue providing elite coaching to local athletes. Most of the Olympic items have been donated by locally Olympians, many who serve on the current CSDP Board. Ms. Vandersnick stated that Bill Ingemi, Parks Health and Wellness Coordinator, also works with coaches and athletes to include nutrition and mental health support and education. Through the CSDP program, we have provided outreach lessons and activities to over 5,000 youth in 2021. In 2015, we started the CSDP Athlete of the Year reception recognizing one athlete from each of our four CSDP sports, archery, tennis, hockey, and volleyball, for their accomplishments based on their work ethic, community service, and character. Ms. Vandersnick provided additional highlights of success from each of the four programs. Additionally, she shared information about the unique indoor archery facility and the outdoor field course we have at the Davis House Property. Ms. Vandersnick mentioned that our facility is missing a 70-meter, non-sloped Olympic qualifier field. The closest such field is in South Dakota, Florida, or Georgia. The addition of this type of field, a restroom facility, and conference meeting area would probably draw 1,000 archers for national-caliber competitions.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. **Park Board Committees/Assignments for 2022** Mr. Belote reviewed the Park Board Committees and Assignments, which will begin in 2022, stating that we worked to provide Board members with either their first or second choice when assembling the committees. It is anticipated that the first committee to meet will be the Fees and Charges Committee.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney mentioned that the third annual Gardens Aglow event has been well-attended with over 10,000 people walking through the lighted display in the Mizumoto Stroll Garden in just seven evenings. Mr. Carney mentioned that staff are assessing the recent fire damage to the historic Fasnigh Pool bath house.

Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath reported that our School-Park enrollment numbers are close to the participation numbers we had before the pandemic began. Ms. McGrath shared information about recent activities held within the Recreation Division including the Veterans Day celebration at Northview Center, with 42 people in attendance, who enjoyed sharing stories and brunch, and the Accessible Recreation Christmas Party. The party included a private visit to drive-thru Candy Cane Lane at Rutledge-Wilson Farm

Park, which ended with a gift from Santa. Ms. McGrath stated that the Park Board has been a partner of the Price Cutter Charity Championship for over 25 years. We provide marshals for Hole #15, golf staff to assist with the qualifier tournament, and host the junior golf outing before the championship event. This year, PCCC gifted \$1,000,000 back to the community, including \$7,000 to the Park Board, which was placed in our Youth Recreation Scholarship fund. The PCCC has gifted over \$17 million dollars to our community throughout the years.

Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Coats mentioned that staff hosted a special appreciation luncheon honoring the Master Naturalist volunteers who have provided 400 hours of service this past year to Lake Springfield Park. Mr. Coats reported that during the first weekend, 860 cars drove through the lighted display of Candy Cane Lane at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. The Special Facilities Maintenance staff has been revamping the native landscape beds at the Lake Springfield Boathouse, including installing irrigation and a new field stone rock boarder.

Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that we are preparing an in-depth review of fees and charges, along with projecting salary and operating costs, and the increased costs of supplies and utilities. We have continued to see sales tax revenues higher than last year over the last five months, so we anticipate that there will be a decline at some point. Revenues in the Golf Fund and at Dickerson Park Zoo continue to be strong due in part to mild weather conditions this season. Total revenues for the Recreation and Special Facilities Divisions are also up compared to the same period last year.

Diana Tyndall, Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator

Ms. Tyndall is substituting for Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator, and stated that today is her last Park Board meeting. She thanked the Board members for their service and expressed her appreciation for their support during her tenure. Mr. Belote stated that we appreciated the many projects that Ms. Tyndall has coordinated including improvements to the Golf Patron Plan and more visibility for the Park Board through billboards and radio advertisements, which will have a lasting impact.

Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Ice Park and CSDP

Mr. Cumley mentioned that he recently met with Drury University officials about their upcoming hockey program beginning in Fall 2022. Recently, there has been a lot of discussion among city and county officials about the increased sports tourism and economic impact that college sports bring to our community.

Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser mentioned that we have received only three of the 55 new credit card readers needed throughout the park system due to shipping issues with suppliers. Lake Country staff and board members are continuing to fundraise to meet the \$5 million dollar match to the City of Springfield's financial commitment. Mr. Belote stated that we are working with several interested partners including one of the local universities to pull our resources together to complete the impactful soccer enhancements and amenities that have been discussed with this project.

Jim Fisher, Assistant Director

Mr. Fisher mentioned that we are in the process of converting contract employees to full time employees. The next round of position conversions is underway and should be completed in March. Mr. Fisher reported that we had nearly \$180,000 in food

and beverage sales at the golf courses this past year, which is \$40,000 more when compared to last year.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that the Zoolala event will be held Sunday, December 12, which is a special event to thank donors who have contributed to the zoo throughout the year. The new Jumping Jewels water play feature is nearly completed. This new attraction will be very popular with guests as it is much bigger and safer. Mr. Crocker reported that his book should be completed in the next week.

Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that the contractor for the new fountain in Nathanael-Greene Close Memorial Park is preparing to start construction. We are working with the same contractor that recently completed the Ambler Fountain in the same park. We appreciate the \$500,000 gift from the Thomas Kachel Foundation to build the new fountain.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote reported that the Springfield Lasers won their regular season with an 8-4 record, but we finished as the runners up in the championship match. Our Coach, John-Laffnie De Jager, is now the number three coach with the most wins in WTT history. Mr. Belote announced that Paul Nahon, Lasers General Manager for the last eight years, announced his retirement at the end of December. Mr. Nahon is an avid sailboat sailor, and he is working to provide some instructional sailing lessons at Fellows Lake. Mr. Belote stated that for the eighth year in a row, our Parks employees have generously donated more than \$10,000 in support of United Way. This year, the pledges and raffle ticket purchases totaled more than \$14,000. Mr. Belote mentioned that we had our Parks Employee Department Appreciation meeting at the Fieldhouse Sportscenter this week, which included the distribution of pins to employees who had achieved a service milestone. We recognized 56 employees, whose years of service totaled more than 700 years, and introduced new employees. Park Ranger Robert Bridges, who was recently injured in the line of duty, was also able to join the meeting, and it was very uplifting to see him doing so well.

Mr. Belote stated that in January we will begin our budget review with the Board. We will also have a lease renewal to review on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. The lease is current, but the lease needs to be extended beyond five years in order for the organization to potentially receive federal funding.

Mr. Belote thanked the Park Board for their time and service this past year and wished everyone a happy holiday season. He stated that he was proud of our many accomplishments, especially through a pandemic, including expanding Sequiota Park, adopting a new Master Plan, assisting with the Forward Springfield Comprehensive Plan process, achieving CAPRA reaccreditation, and acquiring the Fieldhouse Sportscenter.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, stated that he has served on the Park Board three separate times, and he believes the Park Board is one of the best run departments, and he is proud of the work our staff does daily.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XI. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting will be Friday, January 14, 2022, at 8:30 am. The location will be determined.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Ann Compton. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.