

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, January 14, 2022
Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri, and
Virtually via Microsoft Teams Teleconferencing

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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

Park Board Members Absent: None

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Anne-Mary McGrath (via Teams), Kim Reser, Jeff Smith, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Didem Koraglu, Boys & Girls Club; Robin Helsell, Developmental Center of the Ozarks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. TURKEY TROT EVENT RECAP AND CHECK PROCEEDS

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, provided a detailed report about the 27th annual Turkey Trot run/walk event held on Thanksgiving morning. This year the event was offered virtually, and participants could run/walk a variety of courses mapped out by Ozark Ridge Runners or their own 5K course and upload their results on to the Turkey Trot race website, although no awards or prizes were given. We had over 1,500 participants, which included 68 people who registered on site during the drive-thru packet pick up the day before the race. Over 80 percent of the registrations were completed online this year. We collected over 2,600 pounds of non-perishable items and a \$75 cash donation for Ozark Food Harvest. Through our summer Splash 'N Sizzle events at the outdoor pools, we collected over 2,600 pounds of food. The Developmental Center of the Ozarks has partnered with the Park Board since the first Turkey Trot event. DCO receives 50 percent of the Turkey Trot proceeds, and in 2021, they provided services to over 1,700 people including therapy sessions and work force programs. The Park Board's portion of the proceeds helps to fund our Youth Recreation Scholarship Program. In 2021, we provided over 300 scholarships to youth 18 years or younger, totaling more than \$18,000. Since we began issuing scholarships in 2004, we have provided 9,940 scholarships totaling more than \$393,000. Today, we presented a check in the amount of \$16,611.38 to DCO representing their portion of the 2021 Turkey Trot event. Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the event, including our

sponsors Dr. Brad Bradshaw, Positronics, Quantum, Burrell Health, Camp Bow Wow, CoxHealth, and many others, for their dedicated efforts.

IV. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB LEASE EXTENSION

The Boys and Girls Club officials recently approached Parks staff regarding the need to extend their lease for the Stalnaker Unit facility located within Smith Park. They are requesting the extension of the lease for an additional four-years, which would mean taking their original 25-year lease that expires in 2027 and extending it to 2031. By doing so, it would allow them to apply for Federal NAP Tax Credit Program funding that has a requirement of guaranteeing viability of those improvements funded for five years after project completion. The Boys and Girls Club staff have met with Miles Park, Parks Assistant Director, to discuss facility improvements which include roof replacement, interior renovations, security improvements, lighting upgrades, and HVAC upgrades. Ms. Didem Koroglu, with the Boys & Girls Club, stated that they cherish their partnership with Parks at the Stalnaker facility, along with the other two facilities, the Henderson Unit located within Grant Beach Park, and the Musgrave Unit, located directly adjacent to Zagonyi Park. By securing the lease extension, their staff is most hopeful that necessary capital funds can be facilitated through the NAP Tax Credit program opportunity, which will encourage donors to participate in their capital campaign. Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to move forward to extend the Boys and Girls Club current lease; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Mr. Randy Blackwood, Vice Chair, called for the vote since Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, is an active longtime Boys and Girls Club Board member. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Needem abstaining from the vote.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Fees and Charges Committee Meeting Dates Mr. Belote mentioned that we will be scheduling the Fees and Charges Committee before the annual Park Board Budget Workshop meeting and the February Board meeting. The Fees and Charges Committee consists of Randy Blackwood, Heather Noggle, and Royce Reding, and members of the Park Board Management Team. We will review recent budget concerns such as increased labor costs with minimum wage, cost of living adjustments, increased costs passed on to our operation, and market studies of select services and programs, along with any other specific items the Committee would like us to address.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that they had a good pool of candidates applying for the Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator position recently vacated by Diana Tyndall. The Communications Team spent considerable time marketing winter activities such as Gardens Aglow and Candy Cane Lane. The Jordan Valley Ice Park received a lot of internet inquiries last month.

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that with the weather about 11 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year, it helped crews complete many projects and encouraged attendance at Gardens Aglow, which our records indicate over 30,000 people attended. We appreciate the many volunteers who helped with Gardens Aglow.

We are beginning site preparation for the Kachel Fountain and the human sundial project at Drummond Lake located within Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park.

Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats mentioned that the Watershed Corp started Phase 3 of the bush honeysuckle removal on 19 acres in Lake Springfield Park. They also worked with Parks staff to complete a control burn of the glade and prairie within the park, which will allow native plants to flourish. We had 2,182 vehicles visit Candy Cane Lane, a lighted, drive-thru display at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Ms. Christine Peoples will begin the Freedom class workshops, with Akbar Cook, a Newark principal who will share his story on how he empowers his students, on February 4. Mr. Coats also mentioned the great article about Sidney Needem in the UNITE newsletter. Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Needem is the only Board member to serve three separate terms on the Park Board. He was recognized for this accomplishment and his 40-plus-year service on the Boys and Girls Club Board when he received the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Citation Award a couple of years ago.

Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that the Springfield Archery Complex continues to have steady participation in programs and tournaments. He mentioned that golf revenue remained strong in December. The annual Chili Classic Golf Tournament at the Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course was rescheduled for March 12. Mr. Fisher thanked Parks staff and Law Enforcement officers who furnished meals and sent get well wishes to Park Ranger Robert Bridges, who was injured in the line of duty. Robert continues to make progress, but he still has a long road of recovery.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that two houses owned by Friends of the Zoo were recently demolished as they were no longer viable living spaces. Zookeepers are slowly introducing the new tiger to the other tigers. Mr. Crocker provided updates about other zoo improvements that are nearly complete. Mr. Crocker stated that in 2023 the Zoo will celebrate its' 100th anniversary. The Zoo will apply for reaccreditation next year, which includes a three-day site inspection in June of 2023. Ms. Leslie Carrier commented that the more than 100 programs offered last month, reaching nearly 4,500 people, was such an amazing outreach effort.

Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser stated that Jordan Valley Ice Park and Parks Public Information staff members are working to create public online calendars that would show all activities at glance and be updated in real time. Lake Country Soccer started a futsal league that has over 200 teams registered to participate.

Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that the Winter Break camps were full to capacity over the holiday break. New fitness equipment has arrived at the family centers and should be installed very soon. We are currently running a join/renew Family Center membership promotion until the end of January. We also will host a Fitness Expo, which allows interested individuals/families to sample 10 different classes in one afternoon. Joining or renewing a membership allows the participant to get one additional month free.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that we will host the annual Missouri Park and Recreation Association conference March 1-4. Missouri park and recreation professionals will have the opportunity to participate in educational programs, off-site tours

featuring several local attractions, including some of our facilities, and keynote speaker presentations. Park Board members are invited to attend a session or tour. Please let Karen know, so we may complete any necessary registrations. Mr. Belote discussed the Board's preference regarding continuing to meet in person including masking and keeping seating arrangements adequately spaced out. We will also continue to provide a virtual option. The Board stated at this time they would like to continue meeting in person if possible.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 11, 2022, at 8:30 am. The location will be determined.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Heather Noggle. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to move into Closed Session after a brief recess; seconded by Ms. Ann Compton. The motion passed unanimously.