

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Lake Springfield Boathouse, 2312 Lake Springfield Park Road, Springfield, Missouri, and
Virtually via Microsoft Teams Platform
Friday, February 11, 2022

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 Staff Present: Bob Belote, Tim Carpenter, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Mary Kromrey, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Jenny Perkins, Stacia Portis, Kim Reser, Lana Woolsey

Guest: Christina Angle, Ozark Greenways Board Member and President

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2022, Park Board Meeting; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2022, Park Board Closed Meeting; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. LONE PINE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PROJECT OVERVIEW

Ms. Mary Kromrey, Executive Director, Ozark Greenways provided an overview of the Lone Pine Public Open Space and Trails project. Ms. Kromrey stated that Ozark Greenways is a non-profit organization that builds trail systems that connect and enhance our region, including paved, unpaved, and converted rail-line trails. As a Land Trust, Ozark Greenways also partners with public and private landowners to conserve and protect the land, especially in riparian corridors of our creeks and rivers. Ms. Kromrey stated that the Lone Pine Public Open Space and Trails Project was designed to allow the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and our partners to do the following:

- 1) Formalize and make safety improvements to existing and add new, soft surface trails that will connect to the Galloway Creek Greenway Trail;
- 2) Support the grassroots involvement of our community's youth residents;
- 3) Create a unique outdoor place for people to hike, run, and cycle on unpaved trails within walking and cycling distance of nearby schools and neighborhoods; and
- 4) Provide appropriate access, via the trails, to this public open space.

Ms. Kromrey reviewed the timeline and summary of activities that have taken place since August 4, 2020. The same information has been printed in newspapers, uploaded on social

media outlets, and on Ozark Greenways website. The Board members discussed and asked questions about several topics including adding native species grass and landscaping after the removal of invasive plant species, along with clarification of access points to the trail, future communication, and whether trash cans will be placed on the trail. It is typical trails protocol to take out any trash that is brought in on trails, so we will follow this protocol and assess the area in the future if needed. Ms. Kromrey stated that the Lone Pine Park and Trail project is designed on a neighborhood scale. Ozark Greenways and other partners have another prospective project that will be 15+ miles long, the Chadwick Flyer rails-to-trails project, which will connect Springfield to Ozark, and we are hopeful that it will become a regional trail destination. Ms. Susie Turner, a Park Board and Ozark Greenways Board member, asked about the ongoing maintenance of the new project. Ms. Kromrey stated that the Park Board will continue mowing the perimeter area, but Ozark Greenways is onboarding a new position to work with volunteer groups and develop a plan for ongoing maintenance at Fellows Lake Marina, Sac River, and this trail. The Board members also discussed if the area was reservable space. Although we have partnered informally with a few groups for special events, Ms. Lana Woolsey stated that an agreement and insurance documents would need to be in place to reserve the open space for an event. Mr. Belote stated that Parks has been stewards of the property for 19 years, and he acknowledged the neighborhood's extensive efforts to form the Neighborhood Improvement District that served to preserve the property and put it in city ownership back in 2003.

Mr. Belote reviewed a site plan that specifies the substantial modifications that were made to the project after obtaining input from concerned citizens who live in the neighborhood near the trail. Although we have been unable to reach a full consensus with the group, we took into consideration their concerns and significantly reduced the trail footprint and expanse, keeping the trail primarily in the wooded area. Hearing no other discussion, Ms. Woolsey stated that to move the project forward, we will need to finalize the License Agreement with Ozark Greenways for the construction of the project, which was included in the Board Member's packets for review. Ms. Heather Noggle made a motion that the Park Board approve the resolution authorizing staff to proceed with the Lone Pine Public Open Space and Trails project, which includes the authority to finalize the terms of the License Agreement with Ozark Greenways for this project; seconded by Mr. Randy Blackwood. Ms. Susie Turner stated her appreciation to Ozark Greenways and the Park Board staff, along with the City of Springfield and the neighborhood youth, for their work on this project. She stated that our youth have shown that they want to be engaged and make Springfield better. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Turner abstaining from the vote since she serves on both the Park Board and Ozark Greenways Board.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORT

Fees and Charges Committee – January 27, 2022 Meeting

Mr. Belote stated that the notes from the Park Board Fees and Charges Committee were included in the Board member's packets for review.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Belote stated that with the Parks Budget Workshop immediately following this meeting, we will forgo our verbal divisional reports today.

Mr. Belote mentioned that several of our staff are working with City Utilities staff regarding the implosion of the smokestacks at the power plant near Lake Springfield Park. City Utilities also created a fund-raiser for United Way with a raffle to win the opportunity to push the detonator button to start the implosion project.

The City of Springfield Leadership team is working on a proposal of “Transformative Projects” for State Legislative consideration, which may have some significant benefit to our park system. The Police vs Fire Department annual ice hockey game is scheduled for Saturday, February 26. The event proceeds will be donated the Greene County 100 Club, which provides immediate funds to spouses of law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, mentioned that our Park Rangers Division will be honored by the national Park Law Enforcement Agency with the Platinum Excellence award, which is given to an agency that “. . .demonstrates a commitment to excellence in park law enforcement, safety and education, and has demonstrated a commitment to sustainability, crime reduction, interagency collaboration and accountability to the taxpayer in reducing duplicative services.”, (ParkRanger.com/Awards-and-Scholarships.) We are one of two agencies in Missouri that has fully-commissioned rangers. This is the second time our Ranger Division has received this award. Mr. Tim Carpenter, Park Ranger Administrator, and Mr. David Bright, Park Ranger, are attending the national conference to receive the award. After a brief round of applause, Mr. Sidney Needem, Board Chair also congratulated the Ranger Division on this achievement and mentioned that we all appreciate their help throughout the park system.

VI. CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair did not have a report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. CALENDAR

The FY 2022-23 Parks Budget Workshop will immediately follow this meeting. The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, March 11, 2022, at 8:30 am. The location will be determined.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Heather Noggle. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.