

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri, and
Virtually via Microsoft Teams Platform
Friday, June 10, 2022

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Leslie Carrier, Ann Compton, Curtis Jared (via Teams), Mark McNay, Sidney Needem, Heather Noggle, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: Royce Reding

Park Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Mike Crocker, Jenny Edwards, Katie Keith, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Jeff Smith, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Brian Weiler, President of Rotary Club of Springfield Downtown; CJ Miles, President of Rotary Club of Springfield Metro; Christopher Jones, President of Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise; Kim Flores, President of Rotary Club of Springfield North; Lisa Blumenstock, President of Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast; Vickie Dudley, Executive Director, Isabel's House; Stephanie Ireland, Ireland Architects, Inc.

Mr. Sidney Needem, Chair, asked for a moment of silence in honor of the recent passing of former Springfield City Councilman Denny Whayne and the many lives impacted by the school shooting incident in Uvalde, Texas.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion to approve the May 13, 2022, Park Board minutes; seconded by Mark McNay. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the May 13, 2022, Closed Session minutes; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. Motion passed unanimously.

III. SPRINGFIELD AREA ROTARY CLUBS' PARK SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS

Ms. Jenny Edwards shared a powerpoint presentation on behalf of Jeff Cumley, who was unable to attend today's meeting, showcasing the many projects the Rotary Clubs of Springfield have generously funded to provide additional amenities within our Parks. These projects include the K-Man structure within K-Park. An outdoor classroom was established in 2005, located on the west side of the Creamery Arts Center, and is used every year for youth performances during summer camps at the Creamery. The Climbing Rock was added in 2006, and then, in 2012, the Rotary Clubs funded the Springfield Wagon, a feature children can climb in and out and slide out the back and pretend to experience a wild west adventure. The Rotary Clubs added a shade structure and picnic table area in 2016, planted trees in 2019, and recently, added a Peace Pole,

with plans to add four more Peace Poles in several other parks. Along with other donors in 2011, the Rotary Clubs were instrumental in helping initially fund and construct the Miracle League field. In 2022, the Rotary Clubs provided additional amenities to the Miracle League field including a new shade structure, permanent sound system, lights, and new striping of field lines and batter boxes. Ms. Edwards mentioned that earlier this year, the Rotary Clubs also provided \$16,000 to our Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship fund, which allowed the Park Board to provide over 200 scholarships to youth in the Greene County area for various programs. Mr. Belote thanked the Rotary Club Presidents for their attendance today and representing the five clubs in Springfield. Each of the Rotary Club Presidents were presented with a plaque from the Park Board in appreciation of their continued support and partnership with our parks system.

IV. ISABEL’S HOUSE EXPANSION AND GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. Vickie Dudley, Executive Director of Isabel’s House-Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, provided a brief background about the non-profit emergency child-care services facility for at-risk children located on Park Board property at Ewing Park (west), which began in August of 2006. Recently, the Crisis Nursery submitted a proposal to Park’s staff requesting approval for capital improvements of its facility, which included a building addition and playground renovation. Ms. Dudley explained the building addition would provide in-house counseling services to the children staying at the facility as the current wait time for outpatient counseling services in our area is six to eight weeks, and the children stay at the facility for only 30 days. The playground area will provide a motor play area and a better variety of outdoor amenities as the facility houses children from infant to 12 years old. Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, mentioned that as part of this proposed project, Crisis Nursery is seeking grant funding for completion of these capital improvements. To satisfy the grant requirements, the original contract with the Park Board needs to be amended to extend the term of the contract to sufficiently cover the capital improvement investment and for specific authority of the proposed improvements since they exceed the \$25,000 allowed under the original agreement. If approved by the Park Board, the First Addendum will extend the lease through August 21, 2036, approve this specific project, and increase the dollar value for future improvements for seeking Park Board approval to \$100,000 and update other general terms of the contract.

Ms. Woolsey explained that due to the short time-frame available, we are also including a separate Resolution for Park Board approval that addresses and authorizes only the described capital improvements in addition to the request for approval of the First Addendum. This will allow the Crisis Nursery to submit the signed Resolution with their grant application since their Board does not meet until the end of June to approve and sign the First Addendum. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution provided in the Park Board packet, allowing the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, Inc. to complete the proposed Capital Improvements at its facility located in Park Board’s Ewing Park, 2750 W. Bennett, Springfield, MO , 65802, solely at Crisis Nursery’s expense, to allow Crisis Nursery to better accomplish its mission and goals, which benefit the City, the Park Board, and the general public; seconded by Ms. Heather Noggle. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Randy Blackwood made a motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution provided in the Park Board packet, which approves the Park Board entering into a First Addendum to Contract Number 2006-1004, which will allow the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, Inc., to complete the currently proposed Capital Improvements at

its facility located in Park Board's Ewing Park, 2750 W. Bennett, Springfield, MO , 65802, solely at Crisis Nursery's expense, and to update the general terms and conditions of this Contract, to allow Crisis Nursery to better accomplish its mission and goals, which benefit the City, the Park Board, and the general public; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Turner stated that she has been a long-standing Junior League member and worked with the Park Board to develop the Crisis Nursery facility more than 15 years ago. She is appreciative of the partnership and excited to see the future impact the new facility project will have on Springfield.

V. CFO GRANT FOR TIMMONS HALL PROGRAMS

Mr. Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities, stated that the Community Foundation of the Ozarks has extended the Park Board a \$6,000.00 Celebration of Belonging Grant, in honor of Juneteenth, for use in support of the Park Board's Family and Community Programming at Timmons Hall in Silver Springs Park. The programming will include, but not be limited to, home economics, transitioning classes, History-Keeper luncheons, family movies, and volunteering opportunities that will serve to celebrate, educate and support families, cross generational engagement, local history conversations, and community building. Ms. Leslie Carrier approved the Resolution that was included in the Park Board packet authorizing the Park Board to apply for and accept a \$6,000.00 Celebration of Belonging Grant, in honor of Juneteenth, from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to be used in support of family and community programming at or through Timmons Hall; seconded by Ms. Ann Compton. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. SPRINGFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS PROJECTS UPDATES

Ms. Katie Keith, Botanical Center Coordinator, provided a powerpoint presentation about a wide variety of projects in the works for the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Over the last year, through the generosity of many donors and the work of Park Board staff and volunteers, we have completed a new roof on the Japanese Tea House and repaired the moon deck, moved the Azumaya structure from the Busch Building site to the Stroll Garden, replaced the roof on the Gray-Campbell homestead, resurfaced the Butterfly playground surface area, resolved stormwater issues, established a new mosaic planting project, along with a sculpture at the entry of the Rose Garden, expanded walkways and provided seating near the White Garden, increased accessibility and provided new plantings and a small gathering place in the Anne Drummond Garden, completed the original plan and added accessibility pathways in the Founders Garden, completed the installation of a 30-foot tall jet stream fountain with space for landscaping and benches at the Kachel Fountain, new seating area and landscaping at Drummond Cove, food forest addition on Serviceberry Lane, increase accessibility and connections to other pathways from the Peace Garden, future installation of the human sundial that will include stories and puzzles within the tiles, installation of roof, bench, green wall, and landscaping at the entry of the Sensory Garden, connection of pathways to the Ambler Fountain, and installation of a Rotary Peace Pole at the entry point to the Peace Through People Pavilion. Other notable projects include a new cart and accessible trailer, which allows for small groups to request a motorized cart to tour the gardens. Through our partnership with the University of Missouri Extension Center, we are creating a new Lavender Research area to include the production of dried and fresh bundles of lavender for a variety of products. Ms.

Keith stated that the Butterfly House has welcomed 12,800 visitors in the first four weeks it has been opened this year, which is an increase of 45 percent from last year. Ms. Keith stated that the Springfield Gardens has received \$736,385 in funding from donors and partnering organizations for the projects mentioned, with the Park Board contributing \$71,000 to help complete many of the projects. Mr. Belote thanked our collaborative partners who continue to help make the Springfield Gardens a beautiful destination park for local patrons, as well as out-of-town visitors.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. **Park Development/Property Assessment Committee** Mr. Belote stated that we will send out dates for the next Committee meeting and plan to follow up on discussion items from the first meeting and discuss new property opportunities.
- b. **Park Board Nominating Committee** Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Sidney Needem's second term will be coming to an end soon. The Park Board Nominating Committee will review City applications and select candidates to interview. Additionally, the Nominating Committee will make recommendations for the Park Board Slate of Officers for 2022-2023, which will be voted upon at our next Park Board meeting.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated that summer camps are underway, along with over 4,000 kids scheduled for summer field trips, at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Canoe and kayak rentals are a popular summer activity, as staff rented 150 canoe/kayaks over the Memorial Day weekend at Lake Springfield Boathouse. Ms. Christine Peoples is preparing for Juneteenth activities that will take place at Timmons Hall within Silver Springs Park, June 18-19.

Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that we recently hosted the Missouri Valley Conference Softball Championship at the Killian Complex, and Missouri State University won the tournament, which is the second time the team has won on their home field. Board Member, Randy Blackwood, stated he was very proud of how well the Killian facility looked during the tournament. Ms. McGrath thanked the Park Operations pool staff who worked diligently to have the pools ready to open on Memorial Day weekend. A copy of the staggered pool schedule was included in the Park Board packet.

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney mentioned that it was challenging to bring all pools back online since some of them had not been used in a couple of years, but they looked great on opening day. We would like to have more pools open each and every day, but there is still a lifeguard availability issue. Mr. Carney commented that the Killian Complex did look great, as well, especially with the new addition of the electronic videoboard.

Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that a lot of what the Communications Team has been working on were the various flyers in the Park Board packet. She has also been participating in media interviews sharing about all of the activities and events taking place in our parks.

Kim Reser, Assistant Director Ms. Reser reported that the Queen City Open Pickleball Tournament has nearly 300 registered participants. The tournament activities include a player's clinic with national champions, Kasandra Gehrke and Jarrod Smith, a players' dinner, and pro exhibition match, along with tournament matches. The Ozarks Pickleball Club has raised nearly \$50,000 for improvements to pickleball courts. Board member, Susie Turner, inquired about what is the tournament participant capacity for the tournament, and Ms. Reser stated approximately 700 participants.

Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park thanked Katie Keith for her report on the various completed projects in the Springfield Botanical Gardens. He also thanked the Friends of the Garden organization for their financial support in the construction of the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center. Mr. Park provided updates on the Kachel Fountain completion, Lake Springfield Master Plan, and Chadwick Flyer trail development.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker stated that attendance has been good at the Zoo, and the new splash pad is extremely popular with kids.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote mentioned that we are awaiting the Governor's signature on the State's annual budget to award the \$13.5 million in ARPA funding for projects at Lake Country Soccer, Killian Softball Complex, and Cooper Baseball Complex, which would include turf fields at these locations. We appreciate the work of City officials, local and state legislators in helping move forward these projects that support sports tourism but also provide upgraded facilities for our local athletes. Houseal-Lavigne, the consultant for the Forward SGF initiative, will present to City Council and share what the report data means for the City of Springfield, with a plan to adopt the report by the end of the summer. Houseal-Lavigne was also the consultant who worked on our recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Both plans identified that Springfield citizens want more outdoor lifestyle activities in our community. Mr. Belote reported that we are still waiting on an official announcement from the World TeamTennis organization regarding the 2022 season. It was difficult for a variety of reasons when the past two seasons were played remotely. We anticipate there will be more discussion and possibly changes to the traditional July schedule for 2023. Mr. Belote will update the Board once more information is available. Mr. Belote mentioned that Rivercut Golf Course was voted one of the Top 10 Best Golf Courses in Missouri in Golf Week Magazine. The new Lake Springfield Park Disc Golf Course was voted number four of the best city disc golf courses in Missouri by U-Disc publication. There are nine disc-golf courses in the Springfield metro area. Mr. Belote mentioned that David Moore, who has worked for the City of Springfield for 27 years, including 15 years as a Park Ranger, recently retired. Ranger Dave was a member of the two Park Ranger units that have been nationally recognized.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sidney Needem thanked the Park Board's assistance in cleaning up a recent vandalism issue.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Member Ann Compton thanked Jennifer Shepherd and Karen Mellinger for sending out the list of Park Board weekly activities. Board Member Mark McNay stated that he is amazed at the wide variety of activities the Park Board offers and the passion exhibited by the staff and patrons involved.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XII. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 8, 2022, with the location to be determined.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mark McNay made a motion to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session after a brief break; seconded by Mr. Randy Blackwood. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:54 a.m.