

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Jordan Valley Ice Park, Upper Lobby Area, 635 E. Trafficway, Springfield, Missouri
Virtually via Microsoft Teams Platform
Friday, January 13, 2023

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Heather Noggle, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Leslie Carrier, Curtis Jared, Mark McNay, Heather Noggle, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: Randy Blackwood, Ann Compton

Park Board Staff Present: Lisa Bakerink, Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Waylon Cavinder, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Caleb Hollis, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Mark Nelson, Miles Park, Jill Simmons, Jess Weber, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Lexi Saner-Schmitt, Associate Director, Springfield Sister Cities; Springfield Sister Cities Board Members: Denny Pilant, Michael Thomas, and Tom Finnie; Sara Byrd and Allie Smith, Community Engagement Coordinators from Ozarks Food Harvest; Marissa DeClue, Executive Director and Robin Helsel, Community Support Director from Development Center of the Ozarks.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to accept the December 9, 2022, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. Motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to accept the December 9, 2022, Park Board Closed Session Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. TURKEY TROT EVENT RECAP AND CHECK PRESENTATION

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation, provided a detailed report about the 28th annual Turkey Trot run/walk event held on Thanksgiving morning. She thanked several Park Board Divisions who assisted in making this community event so successful including Park Operations, Business Operations, Public Information, Concessions, Recreation, and the Park Rangers. Additionally, Ms. McGrath recognized our event partners including Dr. Brad Bradshaw, Positronics, Quantum, Ozarks Coco-Cola, Camp Bow Wow, CoxHealth, Davis Properties, Brightspeed, Mid-west Family Marketing, O'Reilly Auto Parks, KGBX 105.9, KY3, and many others for their continued support. It was the first time since 2019 that we hosted the event in person due to Covid-19 concerns. We had 4,137 registered participants, which included 300 people who registered on site Wednesday and Thursday before the race began, and 512 dogs who walked with their owners. We collected over 6,000 pounds of non-perishable items for Ozark

Food Harvest. Since 2001, Ozarks Food Harvest has provided 267,000 meals from the food donated during Turkey Trot and Splash 'N Sizzle events. The Developmental Center of the Ozarks (DCO) has partnered with the Park Board since the first Turkey Trot event and receives 50 percent of the Turkey Trot proceeds. In 2022, DCO provided services to over 1,200 people through therapy sessions, inclusion programs, and help finding jobs for adults with disabilities. The Park Board's portion of the proceeds helps to fund our Youth Recreation Scholarship Program. Today, we presented a check in the amount of \$27,645.66 to DCO representing their portion of the 2022 Turkey Trot event. Ms. Heather Noggle, Vice Chair, thanked everyone who contributed to the success of this community event.

V. JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL RECAP AND CHECK PRESENTATION

Ms. Lisa Bakerink, Sister Cities Coordinator, provided an overview of the Japanese Fall Festival held in the Mizumoto Stroll Garden in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park in September. The festival included a variety of high-quality performances and workshops related to Japanese culture including Samurai Sword Soul sword stage fighting, Seiran Chiba, a world-renowned large-scale Japanese calligraphy artist, St. Louis Osuwa Taiko Japanese ensemble drumming, along with storytellers, dancers, and Springfield's Cosplay players. Ms. Bakerink also mentioned that the Azumaya structure, given to the City of Springfield as a gift from Iseskai community in 1997 and located near the Busch Municipal Building, was recently relocated to just outside of the Japanese Stroll Garden. She appreciated the support from Carson-Mitchell, Inc. contractors who moved the structure, and Ron and Sally Baird with Conco, Inc., who provided funding for the concrete pad for the Azumaya site. Ms. Bakerink also mentioned that the unveiling and dedication of Rodo Padilla's "Cultivating Love" sculpture took place on October 13. The sculpture was commissioned in honor of Cindy Jobe, former Park Board employee and Springfield Sister Cities' first Executive Director. Ms. Bakerink stated that this year the proceeds from the admission gate sales were the largest amount collected in the 26-year history of the Japanese Fall Festival. The Park Board received a check from Springfield Sister Cities in the amount \$46,418.17, representing half of the gate proceeds. Ms. Bakerink thanked our Park Operations, Public Information staff, Park Rangers, along with donors and volunteers, for their support and help with the festival, and the many other projects and events conducted each year.

V. JEANNETTE L. MUSGRAVE FOUNDATION DISCRETIONARY GRANT

Ms. McGrath stated that in March 2022, School-Park staff were notified that they had been selected as a recipient of the Jeanette L. Musgrave Foundation Discretionary Grant to provide support for programming supplies and equipment for the SPARC programs. Recently, the School-Park section was notified of an additional award of \$5,000 for the purchase of ten i-pads for staff use. As part of the safety protocols used within our SPARC programs and activities, the i-pads will be used to expedite the check-in/check-out process at nine school-park sites and summer camps for the 1,200 monthly youth participants. Mr. Mark McNay made a motion that the Park Board accept the Jeannette L. Musgrave Foundation's Discretionary Grant for \$5,000 in grant funds for use in the Park Board SPARC before and after-school programs; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR CITY CODE 82.1 GENERAL PARK RULES

Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, stated that it was determined that an exception to the newly proposed subparagraph x, relating to alcohol restrictions, was needed for clarification for participants who were attending Park Board approved events where alcohol had been authorized at the event. An Amended Resolution updating the Park Rules found in City Code Section 82.1, as previously approved by the Park Board, and now includes an additional subparagraph that provides the necessary exception, was included in the Park Board packet. Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the amended Resolution, which replaces the Resolution approved by the Park Board at its December 9, 2022, Board meeting, approving amendments to City Code Section 82-1, Park Rules Generally; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously. The item will now be under consideration by Springfield City Council.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mark McNay, stated that the Property Assessment/Development Committee recently met with the Neighborhood Coalition group regarding their interest in improving Silver Springs Park. At this time, there is not a definitive plan as how to move forward, but the Committee will continue to have additional conversations with the group. Once more information is obtained, the Committee will report back to the full Board.

Mr. Belote mentioned that he recently met with Springfield Public Schools officials, and their plan to present to voters a bond initiative focused on improving middle schools is moving forward.

Ms. Susie Turner mentioned that Bob Belote, Director of Parks, was named a Hometown Hero by the Kansas Chiefs and GEHA during the December 24, 2022, Chiefs home game at Arrowhead Stadium. The Hometown Hero program honors public servants and frontline workers. Bob was nominated by his children, Abbey and Alex, who highlighted his lifetime of service to the community especially through the pandemic when he and many others worked to keep our parks and trails open. Ms. Turner thanked Bob for his leadership and his ability to lift spirits and bring people to parks. Bob indicated that it was indeed a unique opportunity to be named a Hometown Hero, but in our Parks Department, we truly embody the team approach. As it was a massive team effort getting through the pandemic, in that regard, everyone deserves a share of the credit.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Belote mentioned that there were several flyers about activities and programs at Jordan Valley Ice Park and within the Recreation Division distributed to the Park Board members today.

Ben Kellner, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and Facilities

Mr. Kellner mentioned that youth/adult hockey and figure skating programs will restart in mid-January. The last opportunity to watch MSU and Drury Ice Hockey teams will be January 13 and 14, as they will play each other. The Archery Complex at the Davis House hosted the Missouri Bowhunters Association State Indoor 450 Championship on December 3, with 73 overall participants, and 8

State Champions from the Ozark Target Archers. The CSDP 16 National Volleyball Team competed in a tournament in Kansas City and finished in first place.

Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards mentioned that the Communication Division worked together in planning the current fitness center promotion for January, which included radio, print, and billboard advertising. The annual Springfield Metropolitan Wedding Show was held on January 8, 2023, and staff developed a publication highlighting affordable wedding venue options to distribute at our Parks booth. The new Park Bench publication is now available and was distributed at today's meeting.

Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that the City of Springfield's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, was issued by the City's independent auditing firm, RSM US LLP, in December. The annual audit included a review of our Parks Department funds, and there were no findings or matters noted, and all budgetary and compliance requirements were met. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that the January sales tax revenues were up 16 percent compared to last year. Although there were fewer golf rounds played this December compared to last year due to weather, golf revenue is still up over \$8,000. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that in July, the City of Springfield is planning to utilize a cloud-based accounting system, offering an online portal with complete transparency for citizens to review revenues and expenditures in real time. Once the Park Board approves our departmental budget for FY 2023-24, it will be loaded into the new system.

Mr. Belote mentioned that we will be sending out dates and times for the Board's annual Budget Workshop. At the recent Board retreat, we did share an updated unfunded priorities document to show where we have made progress in completing some of the projects listed.

Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath mentioned that 40 Accessible Recreation participants took a trip to Candy Cane Lane at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. At the end of the drive-thru lighted display, each participant visited with Santa and received a gift. The Family Center fitness promotion is in underway. Patrons can receive a 7-day trial membership, and if they join or renew their membership at the end of the trial, and pay in full, the patron receives \$100 off the membership. The annual Daddy Daughter Dance, which includes a catered meal, music, and dancing, will be held at Northview on February 25.

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney mentioned that there was quite a range of temperatures during December, along with high winds, that led to several water line breaks at park facilities. The Gardens Aglow event was extremely successful again this year with over 25,000 visitors. The proceeds from the event, which were up by 10 percent from last year, help with improvements throughout the gardens. Ms. Susie Turner stated that she appreciated the leadership and organization that Ambur Gossen, Parks Horticulture Interpreter, provided, along with the dedication and extra support from the volunteers and staff, to make this event so remarkably successful.

Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats reported that over 2,500 cars drove through the lighted-display, Candy Cane Lane, in Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, during the three weekends the event was held. Mr. Coats stated that staff were extra diligent taking care of the animals during the cold weather temperatures. The "beer prairie" has been planted at

Lake Springfield Park. Staff will host an “Owl Prowl” event and Eagle Days next weekend at Lake Springfield Park. Volunteers planted 300 daffodils in the park, which were donated by Community Foundation of the Ozarks. At Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center, a local veterinarian is working with our Equestrian Center Coordinator to develop a stretching protocol to help keep the horses used for lessons healthy and happy. The results of the study will be presented at a special horse lameness seminar. The Special Facilities maintenance staff is working on a native plant nursery for in-house landscaping needs.

Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher mentioned that the Annual “Chili Classic” Two-Person Best Ball Scramble Tournament was held on New Year’s Day at the Bill & Payne Stewart Golf Course, with a total of 134 golfers participating. Mr. Fisher stated that the annual Human Resources service summary within his report represents a significant number of hours our staff has worked with HR on promotions, transfers, FTE new hires, seasonal/temporary hires, and the development of new positions and job descriptions throughout the entire 2022 year.

Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park mentioned that discussion continues regarding how to best connect the Chadwick Flyer Trail from Springfield to Ozark including unifying the signage, logos, design elements, amenities, and other information regarding the trail. We appreciate the continued assistance of Tina Stob, Senior Designer for Public Works, and her work with Burlington Northern Railroad. Mr. Park mentioned that the consultant will be providing drawings, which will relate to all the facilities within the Cooper Park corridor, at the next Cooper Master Planning meeting. We are working to efficiently design and utilize the space we have available throughout the entire park area.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker shared a recent story regarding a citizen who contacted the Zoo for their assistance with an injured bird that they found. The Zoo staff was able to nurse the bird back to health and successfully release the bird near the area where it was found and where a fellow bird of that species had been looking for it. Mr. Belote mentioned that Mr. Crocker and the Zoo have many stories of successful rehabilitation of a variety of animals throughout the years. It was mentioned that we should have a Board meeting at the Zoo in the future.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

XII. CALENDAR

We will send prospective dates/times for the next Park Development/Property Assessment Committee meeting, along with possible dates/times for the annual Budget Workshop.

The next monthly Park Board Meeting will be Friday, February 10, 2023, at 8:30 am, at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.