

`MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Timmons Hall, 1055 E Webster St, Springfield, Missouri
Friday, April 14, 2023

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Leslie Carrier, Ann Compton (Teams), Curtis Jared, Mark McNay, Heather Noggle, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding (Teams), 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, Ben Kellner. Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Christine Peoples, Kim Reser, Jennifer Shepherd, Jeff Smith, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey.

Guests Present: Kennedy Adams

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Susie Turner, Secretary, presented the minutes from the March 10, 2023, meeting. Ms. Heather Noggle made a motion to approve the March 10, 2023, Park Board open and closed session minutes; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. Motion passed unanimously.

III. AMENDMENT 3 UPDATE/PROPOSED CITY CODE REVISIONS

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Attorney, took the Board's comments and recommendations to City Council to help craft an ordinance that also took into account considerations for our park system as well.

Ms. Lana Woolsey stated that when voters approved Amendment 3, it provided authority for local governments to regulate different areas of use of recreational marijuana. Ms. Woolsey was asked by City Council to do some research and comparisons with other venues and present language to Council about possible adoption of ordinances for the City. The ordinances were prepared based on feedback from City Council, and consistent with the limitations imposed by Amendment 3. The ordinance that was prepared would restrict marijuana possession for individuals under 21, restrict possession of recreational marijuana in amounts exceeding three ounces and restrict possession in certain locations authorized by the Constitutional Amendment. There would be exceptions for the possession of medical marijuana because those are two separate provisions in Amendment 3. An ordinance was also drafted that would restrict public consumption of marijuana and consumption in motor vehicles. The two new sections drafted were 78-262 and it addressed restrictions on consumption of recreational marijuana in public

places, which was defined to include locations including but not limited to: streets, highways, sidewalks, transportation facilities, places of amusement, parks, park properties, playgrounds, parking lots and common areas of public and private buildings. Ms. Woolsey stated that marijuana has been defined consistent with the city code, references were made to Amendment 3 whenever possible to ensure we remain in compliance and consistent with the Amendment. It specifically prohibits consumption of marijuana in a public place, or any vehicle parked in a public place. This would not allow anyone to consume marijuana on park property, park facility or in their vehicle at these locations. It does not address any type of possession or distribution. City Council also restricted consumption of marijuana in a residence or a non-public location if the odors are going to impact someone else's property. Anyone that is in violation of this is subject to a civil penalty that doesn't exceed \$100.00 or could perform a public service. Section 78-263 was also drafted which covers consumption of marijuana in a motor vehicle. It is consistent with Amendment 3 which states that a person is not to drive a vehicle or operate a vehicle while they are under the influence or consuming marijuana, passengers are also not allowed to smoke marijuana in a motor vehicle while it is being operated as that could affect the driver of the vehicle, this would be punished under section 1-7 of the City Code if in violation. Ms. Woolsey said that the Park Board needs to decide if something should be added to our park rules to address the concerns they have with possession, distribution, consumption, with people being under the influence and using our facilities and putting themselves or others at risk. If amendments need to be added to our park rules, which is Section 82.1, she can prepare them and bring to the Board for review and consideration.

Mr. Randy Blackwood asked about impairment issues and how we would carve out anything that's different as far as the park rules go? He asked if parks have any policies regarding impairment due to alcohol on park property? Ms. Woolsey said that there are code provisions addressing someone being drunk in the parks. She stated that with alcohol it's more apparent when someone is under the influence versus marijuana where it might not be as obvious based on the form of consumption. Mr. Tim Carpenter, Park Ranger Administrator, stated that the "Drunk in the Parks" ordinance is written in a way that we must find a safe place for the person deemed under the influence to go.

Ms. Susie Turner stated that in the definition of "public place" it does not specifically call out trails, that trails are implied but not specifically called out. Ms. Woolsey said that is correct, that it talks about parks and trails are linear parks, it talks about park properties which includes trails, but it doesn't specifically call them out.

Mr. Curtis Jared asked if trails could be more specifically defined. Ms. Woolsey stated that it is too late to add the verbiage to the Council bill addressing Amendment 3, but we could do something to our own park rules.

Ms. Turner asked if enforcing this would put the Park Rangers in an awkward place because trails are not specifically mentioned? Mr. Carpenter said that Parks has its own alcohol ordinance and would like to see a Parks specific ordinance that clearly defines trails regarding marijuana because this would make it easier for Park Rangers to enforce.

Mr. Belote said that this issue is being brought forth to the Park Board so that we can decide if further clarity is needed. He stated that we want to have consistent enforcement across all our

different law enforcement entities. He said that the park rules can be amended to add specific language defining trails and that we can draft those changes for the Board's review and consideration.

Mr. Blackwood asked for clarification about the possession of marijuana paraphernalia, can people bring these items into the park without using them and be in violation of the rules? Ms. Woolsey said that we can make the rules as restrictive as the Board would like, although there would be exceptions for people with medical marijuana.

Mr. Jared said that the parks are family friendly environments, and everything should be spelled out as detailed as possible to make things as clear as possible to the patrons and for any potential future litigation. Ms. Leslie Carrier agreed with Mr. Jared and stated that in the past there has been a need for better definitions of property and space. She stated that it may not be common knowledge to the public that trails are included in the parks system. Ms. Woolsey followed up and said if we clearly defined trails, it would likely cause less confusion with the Sheriff's Department and the City Police Department, so everyone has the same interpretation.

Mr. Jared asked what the legality of medical marijuana in the parks was. Ms. Woolsey responded that medical marijuana is only supposed to be consumed in the individual's private residence. The issue is that someone who uses medical marijuana may have it on their person and we don't want to restrict access if they medically need it, but they are not supposed to be out in the parks using it and a Park Ranger can ask them to leave the area.

Mr. Blackwood asked if signage would be put up throughout our parks system addressing the consumption of marijuana. Ms. Woolsey said that it was something to look at, she stated that this is an evolving and developing law that we may need to revise in the future. The sign issue is something that the Park Board can take care of administratively. Mr. Belote indicated we want all the different law enforcement entities to be consistent with the park rules and code and we need to communicate it effectively to the public. We can provide a draft of the amendment to the Park Rules 82.1 and bring it back to the Board for review.

Mr. Jared asked if the Park Rangers are consulted when making these types of amendments, Mr. Belote said that they are consulted regularly on all law enforcement matters and provisions. Ms. Woolsey stated that they also consult with the prosecutor's office to make sure that it's something they can prosecute and that we are posting our signs appropriately to assist them.

Mr. Blackwood said he appreciated all the effort going into making these changes and doing the research to make sure the parks are as safe as possible for our users.

IV. ELECTION UPDATE/CITY CHARTER CHANGES

Mr. Belote discussed with the Board some of the implications for parks with the April 4th election results regarding City items. The vote was successful for Questions 1 and 2 which were amendments to the City Charter regarding employment changes that will have positive budgetary implications and expedited contract processing, reducing the time needed for the City to enter new contracts. The vote for Question 3 was also successful and it is regarding hotel/motel tax which remains the same, but the funds will be allocated differently. Mr. Belote

wanted to thank Ms. Jenny Edwards and her team for the education efforts she helped provide for this election. He also said that City Charter changes take time to go through council and is hoping the changes will occur by the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1st).

V. COMMITTEE REPORT - Nominating

Ms. Turner stated that she has a meeting scheduled next week with the Greene County Commission to discuss potential reappointment of County affiliated members of the Park Board.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Mr. Coats said that the access road between Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park and the Wilson's Creek Greenway has been asphalted which was a much-needed improvement particularly for our patrons with disabilities. He stated that the Easter at the Farm event at Rutledge-Wilson Farm part was successful. He said that canoe and kayak season begins on April 15th at Lake Springfield. The Timber stand improvement project has begun at Lost Hill Park. He also said that summer camps at the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center are at full capacity. Christine Peoples at Timmons Hall has been getting ready for the Juneteenth event and Park Days Celebration.

Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator

Ms. Edwards said that her and her team have been focusing on the Pool Connection marketing materials and hiring campaigns. The hiring campaign is utilizing radio, billboards, digital, and print. She stated that her team is also working on the May-August Park Bench. She stated that the Mizumoto Stroll Garden webpage has seen high traffic in anticipation of its opening date.

Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services

Mr. Carney stated that the weather has been impacting various projects causing delays. He did say that the Cherry Blossom and Kite Festival had high attendance. There have also been improvements made to the Killian and Cooper Sports Complexes in anticipation for the coming baseball and softball seasons.

Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations

Mr. Mitchell stated that the budget is up for this monthly period from the previous year. However, these additional funds are being used to offset rising utility costs. He stated that Golf and Zoo revenue are steady.

Ben Kellner, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CSDP Program

Mr. Kellner said that March is a transitional time for the Ice Park, the college hockey seasons have ended and they have removed the ice on the east rink and a roller derby team will be utilizing it. He stated that CSDP volleyball summer camp is currently open for registration. Archery ended its indoor season, and it is getting ready for the outdoor season. On April 22nd, there is an Earth Day Festival at Jordan Valley Park featuring the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation

Ms. McGrath introduced Ms. Kennedy Adams, an intern working in recreation with the Outdoor Initiatives section. She stated that Ms. Adams has been getting to experience multiple

departments and experiences within Parks for her internship. She said that the SPARC Spring Break camp was very successful and are at pre-pandemic enrollment numbers. There are Summer Camp Brochures now in circulation with all the summer camp programs that parks has to offer. She said that the Scholarship Fund awarded 37 scholarships. She said that Miracle League begins on April 17th with games on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. She said that concessions staff has begun moving into Rivercut Golf Course to assist with their food service there.

Kim Reser, Assistant Director

Ms. Reser stated that business operations systems is working with the City finance department to generate a report in our POS system, Active, that can upload directly into their system, Oracle. She said that part time/season summer hiring is going well and that we are also processing a lot of volunteers. She stated that there will be a few interns for the summer season as well. She said that the USA Pickleball Middle States Regional will be held in Springfield for the first time in early June with 400-500 players.

Miles Park, Assistant Director

Mr. Park stated that the Mizumoto Stroll Garden opened for the season. He said there has been a lot of interest in the gardening classes offered at the Botanical Center. He stated that the schematic design package for the Cooper Soccer project has been received. He said that we have received two submittals for the Phase II Killian and Cooper improvements and will be scheduling interviews with the consultants. He said that there will be a Lake Springfield master plan meeting on May 1st.

Jim Fisher, Assistant Director

Mr. Fisher said that he is currently working on updating the evidence of compliance document for the CAPRA annual accreditation report. He said that they are making progress on Park Ranger vacancies with a recruit soon starting. He shared that Saturday, May 13th is the 25th Anniversary event for Rivercut Golf Course.

Mike Crocker, Assistant Director

Mr. Crocker said that the Zoo has 25-30 interns working over the summer coming from areas across the world like the Netherlands and France. He stated that the elephant exhibit has reopened. He shared that the orphan cougar they recently took in is not on display yet but will be soon. He stated that the AZA accreditation team has been selected and that the inspection will be done in June over the course of two days. Mr. Crocker shared that the zoo had a special visit from 101-year-old veteran Jack Hamlin to celebrate the zoo's 100th birthday. Mr. Hamlin was given a behind the scenes tour and greatly enjoyed his time learning about the wildlife and zoo.

The KY-3 News video segment on Mr. Hamlin was shown to the Board.

Mr. Blackwood followed up with announcing that Mr. Mike Crocker will be receiving the Pinnacle Award at the CVB Salute to Travel & Tourism Event on April 27th. The proceeds for this event will benefit the Friends of the Zoo organization.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair Report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

- a. Park Board Meeting: Friday, May 12, 2023, at 8:30 a.m, at Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center Meeting Room (tentative).

XI. CLOSED SESSION

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into closed session; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.