MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Springfield Skate Park, 945 W. Meadowmere Street, Springfield, Missouri
Friday, September 8, 2023

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Randy Blackwood, Leslie Carrier, Don Chenevert, Jr., Ann Compton, Curtis Jared, Mark McNay, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: none

Park Board Staff Present: Lisa Bakerink, Bob Belote, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Jim Fisher, Eric Green, Seth Hanners, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Jackson Thompson, Daniel Villalobos, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Matthew Suarez, President, Rotary Club of Springfield-Downtown; Michael Brady, Rotary 6080 District Grant Coordinator; Chris Coulter, Greene County Administrator; Austin Fax, Attorney, representing Greene County

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Susie Turner, Park Board Secretary, presented the minutes from the August 11, 2023, Park Board Meeting. Mr. Curtis Jared mentioned that Dr. Dianna Parker was absent from the meeting and Mr. Royce Reding attended the meeting via Teams. Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. SKATE PARK INTRODUCTIONS AND FACILITY OVERVIEW

Before this Agenda Item was presented, Mr. Jared stated that he believes there is confusion regarding the Park Board Bylaws and Policy and Procedures. It was suggested that the Board may wish to conduct a retreat to review this information in more detail and recommend any necessary updates or amendments to the bylaws. Ms. Woolsey indicated she would be happy to assist the Board with this process and stated that all bylaw amendments will need to be approved by both the Park Board and City Council and remain compliant with the City Charter. Ms. Leslie Carrier mentioned the names of the Park Board members who had expressed an earlier interest in serving on a Bylaws Review Committee. In order to follow necessary Sunshine Law provisions, Ms. Woolsey recommended that the Board continue with the posted agenda for today's meeting.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Daniel Villalobos, the Skate Park Coordinator. Mr. Villalobos provided a slide show presentation that included a history of the Skate Park, current programs and activities, along with major events that have been hosted at the facility. The

Skate Park staff work to provide a safe, welcoming, and family friendly place to learn to skate or practice skating skills. It is a member-based facility, and we also offer birthday parties and private rental opportunities on Mondays. The facility has a Pro Shop with skateboard and safety gear accessories, along with a few BMX accessories. Staff provide a camp once a quarter with the help of additional instructors, which helps to recruit additional members. The Ladies Night event has seen a significant increase over the last year. We had approximately 250 patrons join us for the National Go Skateboarding Day event in June. The staff held a canned-food drive in conjunction with Turkey Trot last year which allows patrons to bring in canned items in exchange for a free skate pass. Recently, the staff offered a new program, Step Up and Ride Volunteer Program. Patrons volunteered by landscaping an area outside the facility and received a free skate pass. We are hoping to offer this program again and continue to improve the facility.

IV. 27TH ANNUAL JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL INVITATION

Ms. Lisa Bakerink, Volunteer Coordinator for Sister Cities, thanked the Park Board for their ongoing support and partnership with the Japanese Fall Festival Event. Ms. Bakerink also thanked the many Park Board sections such as the Communications Team, Park Rangers, and Park Operations for their assistance with poster and flyer design, media promotion, safety and security, and set up and organization of the site for the event. A brochure was distributed which includes a site map, along with a schedule of the top-quality entertainment appearing on the stage and planned workshops, throughout the weekend. Ms. Bakerink shared information about the various performers and the traditional art forms that will be shared at the event. Mr. Belote mentioned that Sister Cities and the Park Board split the proceeds from the event. The money we receive directly benefits maintenance and projects within the Mizumoto Stroll Garden.

As a courtesy to guests in attendance at the meeting today and their respective schedules, Agenda Items V and VI were switched in order of discussion.

V. ROTARY CLUB GRANT FOR ROSEANN BENTLEY PLAYGROUND

Ms. Jenny Edwards stated retired State Senator and Greene County Commissioner, Roseann Bentley, has achieved many accomplishments, which includes serving as a founding board member of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) Board. When she stepped down from this board, CPO approached the Park Board with a proposal to honor her lifetime of advocating for families and children. The proposal is the Roseann Bentley Musical Playground at Phelps Grove Park. It is one of Ms. Bentley's favorite parks as she has lived near it for most of her life. Ms. Edwards explained the fundraising campaign launched by CPO for the estimated $105,000 needed to construct the playground. After the Rotary Club of Springfield committed to contributing its annual District Grant towards funding this playground, the three other Rotary Clubs also committed their annual District Grant funding for the project, bringing the total to $43,700. CPO will also make a donation towards the project with an additional amount necessary to complete the project. Construction for the playground is planned to begin in October with a completion date of sometime in November, weather permitting. Ms. Edwards described the interactive and fully-accessible musical playground, which is designed for kids of all ages and abilities, and a first of its kind for the Park Board. Mr. Mark McNay made the motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution included in our packets and presented today, authorizing applying for and accepting a combined District Rotary Club Grant for $43,700, with the funds to be used by the Park Board for its Roseann Bentley Musical Playground at Phelps Grove Park; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHINE GRANT FOR SPARC PROGRAM

Ms. Lana Woolsey, Assistant City Attorney for Parks, stated that the Park Board has approved and received a total of $578,114 in grant funds from the Board of Education Springfield School District (School District) as part of the SHINE Program over the last two years. The School District has approved the continuation of this Program and reached out to the Park Board's School-Parks section to participate in this program through our Before and After School Programs. The program would provide $449,175 in grant funds for this school year to continue to provide age-appropriate educational activities for children to address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by Covid and school closures. Our School-Parks section will continue to employ part-time Academic Coordinators, funded through the SHINE partnership, who will work directly with SPARC program leaders and students. The SPARC school sites include Carver Middle School, Cherokee Middle School, Harrison Elementary, Pipkin and Reed Middle School, Pleasant View K-8, Truman Elementary, Watkins Elementary, Westport K-8, and Wilson's Creek Elementary. Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution provided in the Park Board packet, authorizing the Park Board to enter into a contract with the Springfield School District R-12 and accepting the grant funding from the school district to be used as part of the Park Board's SPARC Before and After School Program; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Belote mentioned that our School-Parks section has received over one million dollars from the School District in support of helping kids in our Before and After School programs.

VII. REVISED PARK BOARD DONATIONS POLICY

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director, stated that we initially formalized our Gifts and Donations Policy as part of our CAPRA accreditation process, and it was formally adopted by the Park Board in November 2015. To comply with current City Charter provisions, it is necessary to revise our Policy to reflect that all gifts in excess $4,000 will require Park Board approval. The policy language remains the same except for the dollar amount. Ms. Turner inquired about donations that Friends of the Garden or Friends of the Zoo receive. Ms. Woolsey indicated that due to FOG's and FOZ's 501-C-3 status, those donations are processed through their independent boards. It was discussed that a policy manual with this policy and others passed by the Board be developed for future reference. Ms. Woolsey mentioned that changes that affect the City Charter, a vote of the citizens is required to amend the Charter and can be costly to the City. Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion to accept the revised Gifts and Donations Policy as written and presented; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Nominating Committee – Election of Board Officers for 2023-2024

Ms. Turner stated that as she is the current Nomination Chair, and she is nominated for a future officer position, she is recusing herself from the process.

Mr. Jared stated that the bylaws indicate that the officers should be elected at the July meeting. Mr. Belote explained that we did not know the status of the reappointment for two of our Board members, so after discussion with the Executive Committee, it was decided to postpone the election until a full Board was appointed. After additional discussion regarding the bylaws continued, Ms. Woolsey reminded everyone of the need to follow the Sunshine Law and continue with the Agenda as posted and the discussion of the bylaws can be an agenda item for a future meeting.

Mr. Jared made a motion to conduct the officer election vote by a roll call vote instead of a paper ballot; seconded by Mr. Royce Reding. The motion for a roll call officer election vote reflected the following: In favor of the motion: Mr. Royce Reding, Mr. Curtis Jared, Ms. Ann Compton, Mr. Don Chenevert, and Mr. Mark McNay. Opposed: Dr. Dianna Parker, Ms. Leslie Carrier, Ms. Susie Turner, and Mr. Randy Blackwood. The motion passed with a 5-4 vote.

Ms. Woolsey restated that the officer election vote would be conducted when Ms. Karen Mellinger reads the Park Board member's name, and then, the Board member will respond with their candidate choice. Ms. Woolsey also called for any additional nominees for each officer position.

CHAIR: Nominees: Randy Blackwood and Susie Turner
It should be noted that no other nominations were presented for the Chair position.

Randy Blackwood	Voted for Randy Blackwood
Leslie Carrier	Voted for Randy Blackwood
Don Chenevert, Jr	Voted for Randy Blackwood
Ann Compton	Voted for Randy Blackwood
Curtis Jared	Voted for Susie Turner
Mark McNay	Voted for Randy Blackwood
Dr. Dianna Parker	Voted for Randy Blackwood
Royce Reding	Voted for Susie Turner
Susie Turner	Voted for Randy Blackwood

7 votes for Randy Blackwood; 2 votes for Susie Turner. Mr. Randy Blackwood was elected Chair for 2023-2024.

VICE CHAIR: Nominees: Susie Turner and Curtis Jared
It should be noted that no other nominations were presented for the Vice Chair position.

Randy Blackwood	Voted for Susie Turner
Leslie Carrier	Voted for Susie Turner
Don Chenevert, Jr	Voted for Curtis Jared
Ann Compton	Voted for Curtis Jared
Curtis Jared	Voted for Curtis Jared
Mark McNay	Voted for Susie Turner
Dr. Dianna Parker	Voted for Susie Turner

Royce Reding	Voted for Curtis Jared
Susie Turner	Voted for Curtis Jared

5 votes for Curtis Jared; 4 votes for Susie Turner. Curtis Jared was elected Vice Chair for 2023-2024.

SECRETARY: Nominees: Mark McNay and Curtis Jared
It should be noted that no other nominations were presented for the Secretary position. Since Curtis Jared was elected as the Vice Chair, he removed himself as a candidate for this Officer position. Board Members will answer with a YES if they wish to elect Mark McNay as Secretary to the Board.

Randy Blackwood	Yes
Leslie Carrier	Yes
Don Chenevert, Jr	Yes
Ann Compton	Yes
Curtis Jared	Yes
Mark McNay	Yes
Dr. Dianna Parker	Yes
Royce Reding	Yes
Susie Turner	Yes

9 votes of Yes; Mark McNay was unanimously elected as Secretary for 2023-2024.

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Belote directed the Board to review the written reports of the Administration Team that are included in their packets. It was decided to forego verbal reports due to meeting time constraints.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Blackwood congratulated Mr. Jared and Mr. McNay for their newly elected officer positions.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Reding stated that we have a citizen in attendance at today's meeting to address the board and introduced Mr. Joe Piatchek.

Mr. Joe Piatchek provided a summary of an incident where his daughter was a participant in a tournament and unsportsmanlike conduct was experienced. The tournament director rented our Fieldhouse Sportscenter facility for the tournament. Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, stated that due to the legality of this matter, the Board has been advised that it would be best to discuss this matter in a future closed session that has been appropriately posted.

XIII. CALENDAR

The next meeting of the Park Board will be Friday, October 13, 2023, at a location to be determined.

XIV. ADJOURMENT

Mr. Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Ann Compton. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.