

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Jordan Valley Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway, Springfield, Missouri
Friday, October 13, 2023

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

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

Park Board Members Absent: Mark McNay

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Mike Crocker, Chris Farthing, Ben Kellner, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Jeff Smith, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Janet Dankert, Community Partnerships of the Ozarks

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Susie Turner, Park Board Secretary, presented the minutes from the September 8, 2023, Park Board Meeting. Mr. Royce Reding made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

- a. **Park Board By-Laws Upcoming Review** Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, stated that due to the observance of Veterans Day, City Offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, which would be the next scheduled Park Board Meeting. Since most of the Park Board members expressed interest in reviewing and discussing the by-laws, we will schedule a By-laws Review workshop in lieu of the monthly Park Board meeting.

Mr. Blackwood mentioned that he attended the Japanese Fall Festival last month. He said the event was amazing, and he appreciated the hard work from everyone who helped to make the event successful.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **CPO Grant for Roseann Bentley Playground** Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, stated that last month we made a presentation about the special musical playground project, honoring retired State Senator and Greene County Commissioner, and founding board member of CPO, to be constructed in Phelps Grove Park. Several Rotary Clubs of Springfield agreed to donate their portion of their District Grants to the project in the amount of \$43,700. Ms. Janet Dankert, CPO, stated that this was a very exciting project, as it will be fun for all ages. She appreciated the partnership with the Park Board, and it has been a pleasure to work with our staff. She stated that they met and exceeded their financial goal. Today, CPO is donating \$70,195.24 to be used towards the construction costs

for this playground, which makes the project now fully funded. This donation is another tangible example of CPO's ongoing partnership with Parks and demonstrates the many enhancements received for the benefit of our community. Parks staff respectfully requests review and approval of the Resolution included in the Board's packets, which accepts this donation from the Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. made the motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution included in our packets and accept the CPO Donation of \$70,195.24, 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. A check was presented to Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair.

- b. **Springfield Botanical Gardens: Gingko Mosaic Sundial Amenity and Dedication** Mr. Jeff Smith, Senior Park Planner, provided an overview of the Gingko Mosaic Sundial. At a Master Plan Review Committee meeting for the gardens, a potential project donor was identified with a desire to improve the look of the Drummond Peninsula. Many concepts for the peninsula were reviewed, but improvements were limited to flatwork due to stormwater overtopping the peninsula during large flood events. The project donor mentioned that a human sunclock might be a fun element as there are not many located in the Midwest. The plans were purchased from a company in Scotland that specializes in the design of sunlocks. After several trigonometric calculations based on the longitude and latitude of the project location, the size and shape of the sunclock was determined. Local mosaic artist, Christine Shilling, was contacted to create the sunclock out of a mosaic pattern embedded in the concrete. Ms. Schilling had previously installed a mosaic north of the Rose Garden. A gingko concept was chosen due to the outline of the sunclock, which is similar in shape of a gingko leaf. Ms. Susie Turner stated that it is a truly remarkable project and beautiful vision on behalf of the donor. Mr. Belote stated that we are appreciative of the many recent donor projects in the Botanical Gardens such as the Rose Garden improvements, the Kachel Fountain, Sail Away sculpture, and the relocation of the Azamaya structure at the entry area of the Sister Cities Garden. Mr. Smith stated that the Caterpillar Café and a new wooden fence around the Hosta Garden are two new projects also funded by donors. The dedication for the Gingko Mosaic Sundial is Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 10:30 am.
- c. **Dickerson Park Zoo Accreditation Update** Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director, stated that the Dickerson Park Zoo was reaccredited for the eighth time. A copy of the full narrative report was included in the Board's packets for review. Mr. Crocker stated that the hearing before the AZA Accreditation Team in September was brief, and the team was very complimentary of the Zoo staff. Mr. Jackson Thomson led the accreditation team through the onsite inspection, and he also received positive comments about the zoo and its staff.

Mr. Crocker stated that ten years ago, the Zoo lost a 30-year staff member in a tragic event with an elephant. Mr. John Bradford was a respected, dedicated, and experienced Zookeeper who had a passion for working with and training staff regarding elephants and their care. Mr. Crocker requested a moment of silence to recognize and honor Mr. Bradford for his many contributions and lasting impact to the Zoo.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Garden Gala Ms. Susie Turner, on behalf of Friends of the Garden Board, provided a brief summary of the Garden Gala held on Saturday, September 30. The first-time event was sold out

with many requests for additional tickets. The money raised at the event was for the sensory garden, which has been a proposed garden on the master plan for some time. Ms. Turner stated that she enjoyed her first time working directly with Park Board staff, and she was very grateful of everyone's time and effort to make the event successful. The committee has already begun discussing plans for next year's gala.

Board Workshop

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, mentioned that the November Park Board meeting falls on Veterans Day, and City offices are closed. Instead of our monthly meeting, there was discussion about organizing a committee to review and update the Park Board Bylaws. Since the entire Board wished to be part of the discussion, we will send out several dates and times to schedule a Bylaws Workshop instead of rescheduling the November meeting. Mr. Royce Reding mentioned his interest in also scheduling a Board retreat to review budget issues and forecast for next year. Typically, we also have a Budget and Fees and Charges Workshop in January after staff has prepared a preliminary budget for the next cycle.

Turkey Trot

Registration is open online for Turkey Trot!

Staff Reports

Bob Belote, Director, indicated that we would forgo the staff reports today since several staff were attending our annual National Recreation and Park Association conference, but encouraged the Board to review the submitted reports for an update on Park Board activities.

VI. CALENDAR

- a. Gingko Mosiac Human Sundial Dedication will be Saturday, October 14, at 10:30 am, in the Springfield Botanical Gardens.
- b. The Bylaws Workshop will be scheduled once a date and time can be confirmed.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion that we now go into Closed Session under RSMo. Sections 610.021 (1) and (3); seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. A roll call vote was taken in response to the motion:

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

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:21 a.m.