SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
BY-LAWS WORKSHOP
Thursday, November 30, 2023
Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian Street, Springfield, Missouri

I. CALL WORKSHOP TO ORDER

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, Royce Reding, Dr. Dianna Parker, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: none

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Mike Crocker, Jim Fisher, Karen Mellinger, Miles Park, Lana Woolsey

II. INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD AND THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, GREENE COUNTY

Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, reviewed the City Charter provisions and how the City of Springfield, Greene County and the Park Board relate to one another. She also explained the responsibilities and differences between Advisory Boards and Administrative Boards. Ms. Woolsey mentioned that Article 15.3 of the City Charter references that all Boards are governed and subject to the legislative control of City Council and Board actions must remain in compliance of the City Charter.

Ms. Woolsey reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City, Greene County, and the Park Board, from 2012, which was designed to develop a long-term funding source, including a possible Park District. At that time, staff members researched the possibility of a Park District, which seemed unfavorable at the time, due to the financial feasibility costs associated with necessary legislature changes, protection of benefits for employees and merit rules, title issues of properties, and a variety of other reasons. It seemed the consensus was that Parks did not have the resources to pursue a Park District.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, shared information about which cities benefit from the current county-wide parks sales tax. It is obvious from recent initiatives such as the Forward SGF and the Lake Springfield Master Plan that the community wants more parks, trails, and greenspaces. However, it all comes down to a funding source and how to best utilize that money.

The Board agreed that we want to offer the best quality of amenities and service with our funding sources. It was suggested that a consultant be hired to assist with the research to determine financial advantages and disadvantages of a Park District; however, it is important that City and County officials meet first to discuss these options and agree to work together to help identify a future funding source for Parks. The Board informally agreed that a letter be drafted, along with a resolution signed by its' members, be sent to the City Manager and the

Greene County Administrator as a request for a meeting to further discuss pursing a long-term funding source such as a Park District.

III. PARK BOARD MEMBERS' GOALS FOR THE BY-LAWS REVIEW PROCESS

It was suggested at this time that the By-law review process be tabled until the status of pursuing a Park District is determined. It is likely there would be new by-laws associated with a park district. The Park Board may want to reconvene to review the by-laws and perhaps make changes in phases based on the status of pursuing a Park District. Ms. Woolsey stated that any changes to the by-laws would require approval of City Council.

IV. REVIEW OF EXISTING PARK BOARD BY-LAWS PROVISIONS

Due to the discussion to meet with City and County officials to discuss pursuing a Park District, there was no further discussion of the By-Law provisions.

V. OTHER SUGGESTION AND CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE BOARD

The Board discussed about whether staff should make verbal reports at the monthly Park Board meetings. Several members indicated that they appreciated the staff's time in preparing the written reports and enjoyed hearing pertinent and timely information. It was also suggested that the Board's time should mainly focus on new business items, and perhaps staff could do a verbal report quarterly.

VI. NEXT STEPS IN THE BY-LAWS REVIEW PROCESS

See information on Agenda Item III.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Curtis Jared made a motion to adjourn the workshop; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.