

**MINUTES**  
**SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**Timmons Hall, 1055 E Webster St, Springfield, Missouri**  
**Friday, September 9, 2022**

**I. WELCOME TO NEW PARK BOARD MEMBER: DR. DIANNA PARKER**

Dr. Dianna Parker was introduced as a new City Park Board member. Dr. Parker detailed her experience, which included serving on the Board of Public Utilities. Park Board members and staff also introduced themselves to her.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

**Park Board Members Absent:** None

**Park Board Staff Present:** Bob Belote, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Christine Peoples, Kim Reser, Jennifer Shepherd, Justin Wilson, Lana Woolsey.

**Guests Present:** Sidney Needem

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion to approve the August 12, 2022, Park Board minutes; seconded by Mr. Mark McNay. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. PARK DAY EVENT RECAP**

Ms. Christine Peoples, Timmons Hall Coordinator, gave a presentation about the annual Park Day Event that took place on August 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> at Silver Springs Park. Ms. Peoples detailed the work the Park Day Committee and the Springfield Reunion Club provided to bring this event back from a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. There were more than 750 people in attendance at this historic event. Mr. Sidney Needem also spoke about the event thanking the Park Days Committee and Park Board staff for their collaboration through the years.

Ms. Peoples also gave an update about upcoming programming at Timmons Hall.

**V. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING PARK BOARD MEMBER: MR. SIDNEY NEEDEM**

Mr. Sidney Needem was recognized for his three terms of service on the Park Board: 1994-1999, 2006-2012, and 2015-2022. Mr. Needem is the only Park Board member to serve three terms in

the Board's 109-year history. Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, presented Mr. Needem with a plaque recognizing his service to the Park Board, and thanked him for his contributions to the park system through the years.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no Committee Report.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bob Belote stated that Park Ranger Robert Bridges received the Red, White, and Blue Heart Award from Governor Parsons in Jefferson City, Missouri, on Wednesday, September 7. Mr. Belote spoke about a new community initiative, Celebrate Springfield, which will have its finale event on October 2 at Jordan Valley Park. The Park Board is one of many co-partners of this event that highlights events and activities available in Springfield. Mr. Belote stated that the Azumaya Rededication will take place at 2pm, September 9 at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. Following the rededication, the Japanese Fall Festival will begin with events and activities scheduled throughout that weekend. Mr. Belote stated that the annual Cider Days event will be held September 17-18 on Walnut Street. The Park Board will have a booth at this event and provide information about programs and events along with kid activities. Ozark Greenways is having their annual Fall Party at Finley Farms on September 20.

**VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was no Chair Report.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Royce Reding asked if there was an update regarding a possible Park Board Retreat. Mr. Belote said that staff is reviewing possible dates for November and will provide options to the Board soon.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**XI. CALENDAR**

- a. Azumaya Rededication: Friday, September 9, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., at Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden Entry Area, within Springfield Botanical Gardens.
- b. The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Royce Reding made a motion to adjourn the meeting and enter into closed session; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.