

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Lake Springfield Boathouse, 2312 Lake Springfield Park Road, Springfield, Missouri
Virtually via Microsoft Teams Platform
Friday, December 9, 2022

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 (via Teams)

Park Board Members Absent: none

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Tim McCrea, Anne-Mary McGrath, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Jeff Smith, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mark McNay made a motion to accept the Park Board Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2022; seconded by Ms. Ann Compton. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, introduced Ben Kellner as the new Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and Facilities. Ben has worked in several positions during his 20-year tenure with Parks, including most recently the Parks Supervisor at the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

III. PARKS GARAGE SIGNING AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF PARK BOARD

Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, stated that the updated Resolution formalizes the authority for the Parks' Maintenance Equipment Crew Leader to execute contracts and other legal documents relating to titling, licensing, leasing, insuring, and surplus documentation for physical equipment and motor vehicles used by the Parks' Department. Historically, this position has held this authority, as this is a common practice throughout the City's various departments. Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution provided in the Park Board packet, which updates the authority for executing contracts, legal documents, and forms on behalf of the Park Board by adding the position of Parks' Maintenance Equipment Crew Leader with authority relating to the titling, licensing, leasing, insuring, and surplus documentation for physical equipment and motor vehicles used by the Parks' Department; seconded by Ms. Heather Noggle. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. UPDATING CITY CODE SECTION 82.1 GENERAL PARK RULES

Ms. Woolsey referred to the Resolution and the Park Rules found in City Code Section 82.1 in the packet. She indicated that there were two areas that needed an amendment related to the

hours of operation and closure of our park sites and alcohol in parks. Ms. Woolsey mentioned that to ensure that the Park Rules are enforceable city-wide with the Police Department, the rules and the park signage must be consistent with the 11:00 pm Park Curfew intended for the entire park system. In 2018, City Council adopted Council Bill 2018-010, which amended City Code Section 78-4 by removing the general prohibition of alcohol in parks. The Park Board requested the action to allow the Park Board to manage and control the existence and consumption of alcohol in the city-county wide park system, which included adopting various rules and regulations relating to the availability and consumption of alcohol in specified park sites. Since the park rules regarding curfew hours required an amendment that must go before City Council, it seemed to be an ideal time to also further clarify the Board's authority and mechanism for enforcement of alcohol at our park sites. Mr. Mark McNay made the motion that the Park Board approve the Resolution provided in the Park Board packet, which updates City Code Section 82-1 by adding a new subparagraph x in Section (a)(1) to improve the regulation of alcohol at park sites and by amending subparagraphs b and c in Section (2) to clarify the hours of operation and closure of City's various park locations, and approving the presentation of these amendments to City Council for formal approval and adoption into the City Code; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, inquired about the recent passing of Amendment 3 legalizing marijuana sales in Missouri and the impact of it in our community. Ms. Woolsey stated that although it will take some time to implement the Amendment, the City's Law Department is reviewing it as there may be enforcement and security provisions that may need to be put in place due to the passage of Amendment 3.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Belote stated that we will forgo the divisional reports today due to the scheduled Park Board retreat immediately following this Board Meeting, but he provided the following updates for the Board.

Mr. Belote stated that we were delighted to host the annual Turkey Trot in person this year, and approximately 4,500 people and dogs participated in this great community event. Anne-Mary McGrath will have a more in-depth report at our January Park Board meeting.

Mr. Belote invited everyone to attend Gardens Aglow at Springfield Botanical Gardens in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. Additionally, he invited the Board to drive through the lighted holiday display, Candy Cane Lane, at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, or take their family to Jordan Valley Ice Park to enjoy ice skating.

Long-time tennis instructor at Cooper Tennis Complex, Jean Larrick, will be inducted to the USTA Missouri Valley Hall of Fame. Ms. Larrick, who has taught tennis to generations of families and has been a positive influence with our junior programs at Cooper Tennis Complex, was also inducted into the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame in 2021.

Mr. Belote mentioned that Tracy Kimberlin, President, Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, is retiring after a 35-year career with the CVB at the end of the year. Mr. Kimberlin has been an advocate for reinvestment in sports facilities and increasing sports tourism. We appreciate his support of the ARPA funded Cooper Park projects, which will allow enhanced turf fields and amenities for local players and families, but also increase sports tourism in our community. A nationwide search was conducted by the CVB, and Mark Hecquet will begin as the new Springfield CVB leader on January 17, 2023.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Blackwood commended the efforts of the Park Board staff and its partners in bringing back the Turkey Trot as a live event. The event brings a lot of energy and joy to the community.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. CALENDAR

The Park Board Retreat will begin immediately following the Park Board Meeting today. The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be Friday, January 13, 2023, and the location will be determined at a later date.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Heather Noggle made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Royce Reding. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.