

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Missouri and
Virtually via Microsoft Teams Teleconferencing
Friday, May 10, 2024

I. ROLL CALL

Randy Blackwood, Chair, called the meeting to order 8:34 a.m.

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Blackwood, Don Chenevert, Jr., Ann Compton (via Teams), Curtis Jared, Dr. Diana Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

PARK BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Leslie Carrier, Mark McNay

PARK BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Josh Curnutt, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Ben Kellner, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

GUEST: Chris Coulter, Greene County Administrator

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackwood presented the minutes from the April 12, 2024, Park Board Meeting. Mr. Royce Reding made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2024, Park Board Meeting, with the amendment from Ms. Susie Turner to change walnuts to walnut trees under New Business, Item A; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Curtis Jared made a motion to approve the April 12, 2024, Closed Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

- a. **Park Board Chair Report and Comments** Mr. Blackwood mentioned that the ribbon/vine cutting of the newly enhanced Caterpillar Café at the Butterfly House within Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park was held on Thursday, May 9. The upgrades, which included a larger patio, many more varieties of plants, and additional seating was funded by private donors and constructed by long-time volunteers.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Silver Springs County ARPA Improvement Project** Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney stated that after numerous meetings and input with the Neighborhood Coalition Group (NGC), the Park Board Properties Committee, and various City employees, it has been determined that an upgrade to the existing pavilion would be the best and most useful improvement with the Greene County ARPA Funds that were awarded to the NCG. Ms.

Woolsey mentioned there were several factors that led to this decision. Ms. Woolsey stated that the County offered to be the General Contractor for this project and is willing to handle all funds and contract with all entities necessary for the planning, design, and construction of these improvements. Ms. Woolsey mentioned that the proposed Agreement with the County, along with Exhibits A and B, are attached to the Resolution, which is included in the Board's packets today. Mr. Blackwood mentioned that this is an opportunity to maximize the space and enhance the park amenities. Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion that the Park Board approve the Silver Springs Park Pavilion Project and authorize the execution of the proposed contract with Greene County, as set out in the resolution presented to the Board today; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

- b. **Interim Director of Parks and Comments** Mr. Jim Fisher, Interim Director of Parks, mentioned that the contractor for the Cooper Park Phase I project has been on site and is preparing to begin as long as the weather is dry. Springfield Mayor Pro-Tem, Matt Simpson, will read a proclamation today at 6:00 p.m., in support of the USTA's declaration that the month of May is National Tennis Month. The proclamation recognizes the declaration as a chance to promote local programs and activities at parks and facilities to showcase tennis, to spread the word about the sport and its benefits, and to help players and non-players alike find courts and play opportunities in their communities. Gigs in the Garden will be held in Nathanael-Greene/Close Memorial Park on Sundays in May. The Founders of the Park concert series are on Wednesdays at noon during May and June. Bark in the Park will be held at Phelps Grove Park on May 18. Outdoor pool season begins on Saturday, May 25. Mr. Fisher also invited the Park Board to attend the Dickerson Park Zoo's Nursing Station dedication at 8:00 am on May 22. The Nursing Stations were funded by Mercy Hospital, constructed by Zoo's maintenance staff, and furnished by the Habitat for Humanity Restore. For more information on other programs, activities, and events, Park Board members were encouraged to review the submitted written reports, the weekly event email sent by Jennifer Shepherd, and the Park Bench publication.

V. CALENDAR

- a. The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 14, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at Cooper Tennis Complex.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dianna Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Curtis Jared. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:48 a.m.