

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian, Springfield, Missouri
June 14, 2024

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, Ann Compton, Curtis Jared (via Teams), Mark McNay (via Teams), Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: Don Chenevert, Jr.

Park Board Staff Present: Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Jenny Edwards, Jim Fisher, Ben Kellner, Tim McCrea, Karen Mellinger, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Kim Reser, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Chris Coulter, Greene County Administrator; David Burton, Community Development Specialist, University of Missouri Extension Center; Jack McGee, Springfield Daily Citizen

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Mr. Mark McNay, Secretary, made a motion to approve the May 1, 2024, Nominating Committee Meeting minutes, with the amendment for clarification (in italics): "*which members will be reappointed* from the City and Greene County"; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion was passed unanimously.
- b. Mr. McNay made a motion to approve the May 10, 2024, Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Leslie Carrier. The motion was passed unanimously.
- c. Mr. McNay made a motion to approve the May 10, 2024, Closed Session Park Board Meeting minutes with the amendment to correct a typo in the heading of Item III on page 4 mentioned by Ms. Susie Turner; seconded by Ms. Susie Turner. Mr. Curtis Jared wished to discuss the minutes in more detail, but because the minutes were from a Closed Session meeting, Ms. Lana Woolsey, Parks Assistant City Attorney, advised that the discussion must take place in a Closed Session. After additional comments, Mr. Jared made a motion to table the May 10, 2024, Closed Session Park Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Ann Compton. The motion was passed unanimously.
- d. Mr. McNay made a motion to approve the May 22, 2024, Special Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Royce Reding. The motion was passed unanimously.
- e. Mr. McNay made a motion to approve the May 22, 2024, Special Meeting Closed Session Minutes; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

- a. **Park Board Chair Report and Comments** Mr. Randy Blackwood, Chair, mentioned that our outdoor pools opened on Memorial Day weekend. He appreciated the efforts of the Recreation and Park Operations staff for a smooth operation.

- b. **Nominating Committee Chair Report** Ms. Susie Turner, Nominating Committee Chair, stated that there are two City representative Board members who are eligible for reappointment and two Greene County representative Board members who are eligible for reappointment. Additionally, we will have one new City representative Board member who will replace Mr. Blackwood as his second term is expiring. Ms. Turner thanked Ms. Ann Compton for her three years of service on the Park Board as she has completed her appointment term. Ms. Compton stated it was an honor to serve with such a civic minded group.

Ms. Turner mentioned at the July Park Board meeting, we will elect new Board officers. Nominations for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions may be communicated to Ms. Turner. The vote for the new officers will take place during the July 12, 2024, Park Board meeting.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Interim Director of Parks Report and Comments** Mr. Jim Fisher, Interim Director of Parks, mentioned that after recent heavy rainstorms, Rivercut Golf Course experienced extensive flooding. The course was closed Monday, but we were able to open the back nine holes on Tuesday, with the rest of the course reopening on Thursday. The steel bridges remained in place with no structural damage unlike what would have taken place if we still had the wooden bridges. Mr. Fisher mentioned that Megan Angus was recently hired as the new Assistant Golf Pro replacing long-time Rivercut Golf Course employee, Larry Ray, who recently retired. Mr. Fisher stated that we recently completed and submitted our annual CAPRA update report. We hosted Family Fun Fishing Day at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park on Saturday, June 1. On Father's Day, Dads get in free at Dickerson Park Zoo. On Sunday, June 16, we will have a Juneteenth celebration at Timmons Hall in Silver Springs Park.
- b. Mr. Royce Reding requested information on whether a meeting was held between Park Board staff and University of Missouri Extension Center staff, which was confirmed. However, since the topic was not listed on today's Agenda and properly posted according to the Sunshine Law, Ms. Woolsey advised that the topic could not be discussed at this time.

Mr. Fisher stated that since we did not have Agenda items today, we would have verbal reports from Park Board staff today.

Jenny Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards stated that her staff developed a fun sticker, "I survived the cicadas" sticker, and they are currently on sale in our gift shops. Recently, a company contacted Ms. Edwards' office about conducting a commercial video shoot at Rivercut Golf Course. Ms. Edwards reported that she was not expecting a 45-person crew to attend the video shoot, but everything went well.

Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell reported that the June sales tax revenues are up \$42,000. He mentioned that the July and August sales tax revenues will be recorded in the June 30, 2024, ending fiscal year. Mr. Mitchell will

attend the July 8, 2024, City Council meeting to seek approval of the year-end budget adjustment request. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Golf Fund revenue remains strong and steady. The Parks Property Mill Tax is down as it has not been issued and recorded yet. It was noted that Fieldhouse revenues are up by \$140,000 due to the growing of program offerings and slight fee increases this past year.

Ben Kellner, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and Facilities Mr. Kellner reported that the extremely popular Jordan Valley Park fountain recently opened. Jordan Valley Park staff have hosted several events including the Springfield Roller Derby, a CASA Pickleball Tournament, and the Lost and Found Grief Center 5K run/walk. We continue to offer concerts at Founders Park on Wednesdays at noon through the end of June.

Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath reported a successful opening pool weekend thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Park Operations aquatics maintenance staff, who worked to clean, fill cracks, paint, and refill the pools for the summer season. We are happy to report that we have many new returning lifeguards. We will host a Splash 'n Sizzle event in celebration of Juneteenth at Grant Beach, Westport, and Meador Pools. Guests receive free admission with a donation of a canned item. We plan to participate in the World's Largest Swim Lesson at Grant Beach on June 20, 2024. Ms. McGrath reported that we have reintroduced swim lessons at Chesterfield and Doling Family Center pools for ages 6 months to 17 years old, along with lessons for adults.

Matt Coats, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Coats stated that it is hay season and staff recently finished harvesting hay at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Summer camps are underway at the Farm Park and Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. The floating wetland project at Doling Park Lake has been completed, and it is being closely monitored and maintained by our Conservation Coordinator, Caleb Sanders. Mr. Blackwood commented on the article written about the great work being done with the "beer prairie" at Lake Springfield Park.

Kim Reser, Assistant Director – Recreation Ms. Reser mentioned that she recently attended the Springfield Business Journals' Economic Growth series. She reported that there were over 75 community business leaders in attendance, and overall, it was reported that there seems to be a positive increase of economic growth in our community. Ms. Reser stated that the 3rd Queen City Pickleball tournament, presented by Dynamic DNA, is scheduled for June 21-23 at Cooper Tennis Complex. There are over 400 registered participants, which is up from last year's tournament.

Jackson Thompson, Assistant Director – Zoo Mr. Thompson mentioned that staff hosted 40 volunteers at the Dickerson Park Zoo as part of the United Way Day of Caring event. Volunteers helped out with painting and landscaping projects. Summer field trip groups have been enjoying the Jumpin' Jewels splash pad at the Zoo. Zoo staff hosted Dream Night, a private event for individuals that are chronically ill or have special needs. This event is always well-received and attended, and one of the Zoo staff's favorite

events. The annual Ball of the Wild event, which is the Friends of the Zoo largest fund-raising event, will be held at the White River Conference Center, on July 12.

Mr. Royce Reding stated that Mr. David Burton with the University of Missouri Extension Center wished to address the Board.

Mr. David Burton, Community Development Specialist, shared a recollection of how the Extension Center and the Master Gardner volunteers came to have office space in the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, including information about financial contributions made by several groups towards the development of the building. According to Mr. Burton, these contributions were in exchange for permanent office space in the building. Mr. Burton shared information regarding a recent meeting between one of the Extension staff members and Park Board staff, stating a directive and notice to vacate the building was given by Park Board staff during the meeting. Mr. Burton indicated that he was proud to call the Botanical Center home base and would like to keep their current space.

Mr. Blackwood stated that partnership is key to the Park Board's success, and we are very proud of the success of the Botanical Center. Since this topic was not posted as an Agenda item, Ms. Woosley advised that discussion could not take place. Mr. Jared commented that the Board will be involved in discussions of this situation.

V. CALENDAR

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 12, 2024, at 8:30 am, at the Lake Springfield Boathouse.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ann Compton made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:30 am.