

MINUTES
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Park Board Administrative Offices, 1923 N. Weller, Springfield, Missouri
Friday, December 13, 2024

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Curtis Jared, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Park Board Members Present: Leslie Carrier, Don Chenevert, Jr., Cody Danastasio, Curtis Jared, Mark McNay (via teams), Dr. Dale Moore, Dr. Dianna Parker, Royce Reding, Susie Turner

Park Board Members Absent: none

Park Board Staff Present: Lisa Bakerink, Jon Carney, Tim Carpenter, Matt Coats, Josh Curnutt, Jim Fisher, Katie Keith, Karen Mellinger, Jerry Mitchell, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Ron Schneider, Jackson Thompson, Lana Woolsey

Guests: Mark Woolsey, Brigitte Marrs, and Yudai Sanada with Springfield Sister Cities Association

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. made a motion to approve the October 11, 2024, Park Board Minutes, with the addition of “specifically Meador” pickleball courts under Agenda Item IV, A; seconded by Dr. Dale Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Susie Turner made a motion to approve the November 8, 2024, Park Board Retreat Minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Cody Danastasio. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

There were no reports from the officers.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Springfield Sister Cities Association Presentation (SSCA)** Ms. Lisa Bakerink shared information about the Japanese Fall Festival, which took place in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden within Nathanael-Greene Close Memorial Park, on September 6-8, 2024. The Festival celebrates Japanese culture and our 38-year relationship with our sister city Isesaki, Gunma, Japan. A program about the performers and activities that took place during the Festival was distributed. A review of the 5-year revenue history and improvements made to the Stroll Garden from the proceeds was provided. We appreciate our partnership with Springfield Public Schools, as they help support 500 students and a parent to visit the festival during opening night of the event and help to coordinate school visits by the performers as part of the cultural exchange experience. Additionally, it was mentioned that staff from several Parks Divisions including Parks Public Information, Botanical Center, Business Operations, and Park Operations crews provided

extensive support and assistance for the event. Ms. Bakerink and members of the SSCA presented a check in the amount of \$64,248.62, which Mr. Jared accepted on behalf of the Park Board, representing a 50 percent split of the revenue shared with SSCA.

- b. **Approval of addendum to Agreement #2023-1233 with Drury University to make improvements to a baseball field stadium located at Meador Park** Recently, Drury University officials met with Parks staff to discuss an addendum to Agreement #2023-1233 to make improvements to the baseball field stadium at Meador Park. In exchange for the improvements, Drury University would collect fees and sponsorships from the stadium for 15 years. The proposed improvements and time frame for completion of the improvements were discussed with the Board. Park Board staff recommend proceeding with the addendum. Mr. Cody Danastasio made the motion that the Board approve the provided Resolution and authorize entering into a First Amendment with Drury University for Meador Park Ballfield improvements and use; seconded by Mr. Royce Reding. The motion was approved unanimously.
- c. **Approval of a license agreement with University of Missouri Extension Center for use of office space at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center** Director of Parks, Ron Schneider, mentioned that the University of Missouri Extension Center requested additional time to review the proposed license agreement, so we will need to table the discussion of this agenda item. Mr. Royce Reding made the motion that at the request of the Director of Parks, this matter will be tabled until our January 10, 2025, Park Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was passed unanimously.
- d. **Acceptance of funds from the Missouri Department of Conservation Landowner and Community Assistance Program to install native plants at Lost Hill Park** Superintendent of Special Facilities, Mr. Matt Coats, reviewed the Missouri Department of Conservation's cost-share grant opportunity as part of its Landowner and Community Assistance Program, which would be used towards the cost of transitioning nine acres at Lost Hill Park into native warm season grasses and flowers while also removing invasive herbaceous species at this location. The estimated cost of the transitional work is \$4,739.50, and MDC will provide a 90 percent reimbursement for the cost of the project. The Park Board will provide in-kind labor for its 10 percent contribution. Ms. Leslie Carrier made a motion that the Board approve the Resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of the Missouri Department of Conservation grant in an amount up to \$4,738.50 to be used for converting idle turf and invasive species plants into native grass, flowers, and prairie; seconded by Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. The motion was passed unanimously.
- e. **Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Greene County Sheriff for commissioning of Park Rangers** It was discussed that the current MOU with the Greene County Sheriff is due to expire on December 31, 2024. The proposed MOU is basically the same as before except for some minor non-substantive changes. The Board discussed the MOU and expressed concerns about the Sheriff's right to withdraw commission without notice. It was explained that this stipulation has been included in past MOU's and would be a stipulation no matter which agency provided commissioning of our Park Rangers. It was mentioned that we have received notice from the Sheriff's Office in the past when a commission was withdrawn, even though it was not required. Mr. Don Chenevert, Jr. made a motion that the Board approve

the Park Ranger Police Commissioning to continue through the Greene County Sheriff and approve the attached Resolution authorizing the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff to accomplish this commissioning; seconded by Mr. Cody Danastasio. The motion was passed unanimously.

- f. **Resolution to approve 2025 Park Board regular meeting schedule** According to the current Park Board Bylaws, the regular meeting schedule should be approved by the Board each year, though it can remain flexible as long as notice is provided. Ms. Susie Turner made the motion that consistent with the Park Board Bylaws, the Board approve the Resolution establishing the Board's regular meetings schedule, which will remain in place unless and until amended by the Board in the future; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.
- g. **Superintendent of Parks Business Operations Report and Comments** Superintendent of Parks Business Operations, Mr. Jerry Mitchell, provided an update on the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024. The reasons for the significant decreases in fund balance and cash as of June 30, 2024, were reviewed and discussed with the Board. Golf Fund revenues continue to increase as total golf rounds played were up by 9,974 over the prior year. There was also an increase in sales of merchandise and food and beverage at the golf courses. The Parks County-wide Capital Projects fund includes the City of Springfield's carryover funds for the Cooper Park Project Phase 1 and 2, as well as the Park Board's contribution towards the project. These funds will be disbursed from this fund by the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Mr. Mitchell also reviewed the Parks revenues and expenditures for the four months ending October 31, 2024. Although expenditures exceeded revenues for this time period, it was an improvement from the same period last year. The reasons for this decrease were reviewed with the Board. In the Golf Enterprise Fund, revenues exceeded expenditures during the first four months, which was an improvement compared to the same time last year. The Parks County-wide Capital Projects Fund accounts for contributions/donations and proceeds from special event fund-raising throughout the year. In general, proceeds from these events are utilized to support repairs, maintenance, and other projects, as well as in support of the various special event festivals themselves.

Additionally, documents reflecting Revenues vs Adopted Budget and Expenditures vs Adopted Budget as of October 31, 2024, for Operating Funds, the Golf Enterprise Fund, and Parks County-wide Capital Project fund were provided for review.

The Attendance and Revenue Summary for the four months ending October 31, 2024, was reviewed and discussed. It was mentioned that the Board would like to see comparisons of membership and daily use numbers to facility revenue reflected in the report.

- h. **Director of Parks Report and Comments** The Director and Assistant Director's Reports have been organized and presented in a new format for the Board's review. Director of Parks, Ron Schneider, mentioned the recent partnership with Brightspeed and renaming of the Ice Park. The Dickerson Park Zoo recently welcomed new cheetah cubs and attendance has increased. A water conservation project was recently completed at the Dickerson Park Zoo entrance. The 30th Annual Turkey Trot run/walk event held on Thanksgiving morning had the

largest crowd since the pandemic with 6,200 participants. It was mentioned that Park Board staff recently met with Trailspring and other project stakeholders regarding the proposed bicycle pump track at McDaniel Park. The planning group is working to schedule a public input session to provide residents with more information about the proposed project and allow for public comment. At this time, there has been no discussion of using Park Board funds for the Trailspring's proposed bicycle pump track as it would mostly be supported through private and grant donation specific funds. Ms. Susie Turner expressed her appreciation for the Park Board staff involved with the Gardens Aglow event. Their great attitude and services provided have created an annual tradition for our community. Several Park Board members appreciated the invitation and attended the Parks Employee Holiday Luncheon. They commented it was a great event and enjoyed the service milestone recognition ceremony. The Director of Parks wished staff and Park Board members a happy holiday season and thanked everyone for all that they do.

V. CALENDAR

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting is Friday, January 10, 2025, at the Park Board Administrative Offices.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Susie Turner made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Dianna Parker. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.