

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Friday, March 11, 2016
Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center
4007 N. Farm Road 171, Springfield, Missouri**

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Shyrack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Members Present: Scott Bailes, Carolyn Gerdes, Paula Glossip, Bob Horton, Sarah McCallister, Sidney Needem, John Price, Tim Shyrack, Chair.

Members Absent: Matt Bailey

Park Board Staff Present: Bob Belote, Jon Carney, Matt Coats, Mike Crocker, Jeff Cumley, Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Jim Fisher, Karen Herron, Anne-Mary McGrath, Jerry Mitchell, Tom Moore, Miles Park, Kim Reser, Misty Trent, Diana Tyndall, Lynn Vandenberg, Lana Woolsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bob Horton made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2016, Park Board Meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Sidney Needem. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. EQUESTRIAN CENTER STAFF INTRODUCTIONS AND FACILITY OVERVIEW

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities, welcomed the Board members to the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center (EC). Mr. Moore stated that the Special Facilities staff works closely with several partners including the Watershed Committee, City Utilities, and Missouri Department of Conservation. Mr. Moore introduced Ms. Lynn Vandenberg, our Equestrian Center Coordinator. Ms. Vandenberg stated that the EC is open daily offering over a 100 horse-riding lessons per week, camps, and other shows and activities in the arena. Ms. Chelayne Andrews is the lead horse riding instructor, while Ms. Vandenberg spends more time managing operations staff and coordinating the various activities and maintenance projects at the facility. Ms. Vandenberg shared information about upcoming activities, along with how staff maintains and follows safety protocols for all visitors at the EC. Recently, staff repurposed lights and added them to the outside arena. The additional outside lighting allowed the EC to double the amount of lessons and activities offered including private rentals. There will soon be a horse show featuring the Valley Water Mill Rider Drill Team, which is comprised of the students who take lessons at the EC. Many parents of the EC students have shared how their lessons, interaction with the horses and the instructors, have improved their child's self-confidence and even helped the student excel academically. Ms. Vandenberg thanked the Board for their support of the EC facility and staff.

IV. COOPER PARK STORMWATER PROJECT REPORT

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks, stated that we will have a presentation from Chris Dunaway, Chief Stormwater Engineer in Public Works, and Assistant Director, Miles Park, regarding the Cooper Park Stormwater Project at the April Park Board meeting. Mr. Dunaway will have photos of the project and provide more information on how park land was used to help further address flooding in the neighborhood near Cooper Park.

Mr. Belote stated that earlier this week the Springfield Sister Cities' Board met to approve the naming of the band shell structure that will be placed near the Botanical Center in Nathanael Greene- Close Memorial Park. The funding for the structure has been provided by Mr. Tom Finnie, along with Sister Cities, and Friends of the Garden. Mr. Miles Park stated that the structure will provide an additional amenity to this very popular park. Sister Cities and Friends of the Garden are working together to provide new cultural experiences, concerts, and other educational opportunities utilizing the band shell. Mr. Park stated that the architects are working to design the new feature with similar elements as the Botanical Center. Mr. Park provided an architectural picture of the proposed design for the Board to review. Additional landscaping will be included to better define the space and add some shade to the area. The band shell is located near the playground and parking lot for easy access. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes, Park Board and Sister Cities' member, stated that members of the Sister Cities organization were solicited for names for the band shell. The name that the Sister Cities approved was "Peace Through People Pavilion". Mr. Bob Horton made the motion to accept their recommended name for the new structure; seconded by Ms. Paula Glossip. Ms. Carolyn Gerdes and Mr. John Price abstained from the voting as they are both members of the Sister Cities' organization. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gerdes invited everyone to attend the Sister Cities' Annual Membership Celebration which is scheduled for this evening at the Old Glass Place.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee: Mr. Belote stated that the Nominating Committee, chaired by Ms. Paula Glossip, has been reviewing the Park Board By-laws, along with the roles and responsibilities of the Chair, to make sure they reflect the City/County role. The Committee would like to present the proposed updates and obtain approval by the Board at an upcoming meeting. We also plan to have a City Council and County Commission meeting in which we will provide updates on park projects and the accreditation process, and also seek formal approval for the updated Park Board By-laws.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities Mr. Moore mentioned that the Special Facilities staff planted 55 trees at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. The Farm Park also welcomed several animal births including baby lambs, piglets, and a Jersey and Hereford calf this past month. Staff is preparing to host "Easter at the Farm" on March 19, which is a free family-friendly event.

Mr. Jeff Cumley, Superintendent of Jordan Valley Park and CODP Programs Mr. Cumley reported that the 417 Express hockey team finished second in their division this season and qualified for the playoffs as a result. The CODP Volleyball 18's team finished first out of 44

teams in a Dallas tournament last month. The USA Hockey “Try Hockey for Free Day” was on February 20. Players and coaches from MSU and Springfield Express were on hand to work with the 56 participants.

Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Superintendent of Business Operations Mr. Mitchell stated that sales tax revenue continues to be strong. In March, we were up \$130,000 from last year at the same time period. Revenues were up significantly in February, which helped our year-to-date figures as compared to the same time last year. Golf revenue also was up compared to last year. Mr. Mitchell thanked our Budget Analyst, John Waldo, for providing expense and revenue reports monthly to our administrative team so we may address any budget concerns in a timely manner. Mr. Belote mentioned that he and Mr. Mitchell met with the City Manager’s office last month to share our budget priorities and projects for the next budget cycle. They will also meet with the County Commissioners office to provide similar budgeting updates at the end of March.

Ms. Anne-Mary McGrath, Superintendent of Recreation Ms. McGrath stated that the national trend for family centers in March is to see a decline in attendance; however, our family centers remain consistently active as members continue to visit on a regular basis. Personal training appointments have also been on the rise, and we have seen increase in seniors participating in the Silver Sneakers program. The Bike Camp at the Skatepark is already full with participants including some non-members. Ms. McGrath mentioned that the National Home School Basketball Championships are scheduled this weekend. With 329 teams from 29 states, it is expected about 8,000 people will visit Springfield and provide a significant increase to the economy this weekend.

Ms. McGrath stated that several park divisions will host a Job Fair at Mediacom Ice Park in hopes of identifying some quality employees for this year’s summer season. We are working with the Missouri Career Center to utilize their mobile unit with computers so interested applicants can apply online on site. We are seeking not just the first-time employee, but also retired or seasoned workers, who have flexible schedules including working evenings and weekends. Summer day camp registration is now open. SPARC hosted a 3 on 3 basketball tournament to raise money in support of the Park Board Scholarship Fund. The Easter at the Farm event is schedule on March 19.

Mr. Jon Carney, Superintendent of General Services Mr. Carney stated that with the warmer and dryer than normal weather, staff has been able to complete many outside projects. We have already started to mow which puts us about two to three weeks ahead of our normal mowing season. Recently, we had an informational booth at the Lawn and Garden show. It was a good experience connecting with the public and sharing information about Parks. The litter collection was nearly 41,000 pounds last month. Mr. Carney announced that long-term employee, Matt Ruzicka, retired this week after 28 years of service. Although Matt had many skills as a maintenance worker, he was best known for his incredibly precise painting ability. Matt will be missed, but we wish him the best in retirement.

Ms. Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator Ms. Edwards has been reviewing Park division flyers as we implement system-wide style guidelines. We developed a “Now Hiring” list of jobs we were accepting applications for use at the Job Fair. We are now developing an online portal that will be updated frequently and list which jobs are still available for temporary and seasonal applicants. Our Web Designer, Tom Adams, will be retiring at the

end of March. Ms. Edwards, along with Tim McCrea, Kim Reser, and Diana Tyndall, is working with Tom to facilitate a smooth transition for the new person. They are also working to make the necessary preparations for changing over to the new Park website.

Mr. Jim Fisher, Assistant Director Mr. Fisher stated that the initial review of the first draft of the accreditation document has been completed. We are now in the process of checking that the links to all the documents work properly. We are planning to submit the final document by the beginning of April. Our site visit is scheduled the last week in June. Copies of the site visitors' resumes and the accreditation document will be distributed to the Board for review soon.

Mr. Miles Park, Assistant Director Mr. Park stated that 54 playground safety inspections were completed last month as part of the seasonal inspection. Dr. Chris Barnhart will have an exhibit called "Touched by Butterflies" in the Botanical Center's atrium. The Springfield Orchid Society will have a Orchid Show and Plant Sale March 19 & 20, and the Ozark Regional Lily Society will host their Annual Lily bulb sale on March 26. Mr. Park mentioned that there will be a prescribed burn in the prairie areas at Nathanael Greene Park, which helps to suppress weeds and non-native plants. The burn is conducted by trained Missouri Department of Conservation personnel. Both the Dickerson Park Zoo projects, the design of the replacement boardwalk and the new restroom facilities, continue to move forward.

Mr. Mike Crocker, Assistant Director Mr. Crocker mentioned that the warmer weather brings a lot of visitors to the Zoo. Last weekend, over 3,000 people visited in two days, and two weekends ago, about 2,300 people visited the Zoo. The Zoo collected twenty times the amount of revenue in six days this month compared to the same time period last year.

Mr. Bob Belote, Director of Parks Mr. Belote stated that the City of Springfield Employee Wellness Program, InBalance, reported that over 50 percent of the City's employees participated in a Health Risk Assessment this year. We plan to have the InBalance Committee attend an upcoming Park Board meeting to share more information about the data and research they have completed. The annual World TeamTennis draft is scheduled for March 25 in Miami, Florida. We are hoping to bring John Isner back as a Springfield Laser for his second season. The Missouri Sports Hall of Fame is hosting a Women's Sports Luncheon on March 23. Park Board members are welcome to attend. The Community Partnership of the Ozarks is hosting the CPO Open inside at the Oasis Ramada Hotel. It is played much like mini-golf and is open for area families to play free during the day. Mr. Belote stated that Mr. Tom Adams, our Web Designer, is retiring on March 31. Tom has helped us with the transition from a stand-alone website to the City's Civic Plus website. He has done a great job keeping information current on the website. Mr. Belote stated that we plan to have a special workshop with the Board in the next few months to discuss long term funding strategies and what options might be available.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Shryack, Chair, did not have a report to discuss.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Paula Glossip made the motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Mr. John Price. Motion passed unanimously. Motion adjourned to Closed Session at 9:48 a.m.