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Filed: 01-09-18

Sponsored by: Fisk, Ferguson, and Ollis

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

COUNCIL BILL 2018 - 010

GENERAL ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE

1 AMENDING the Springfield City Code, Chapter 78, 'Offenses and Miscellaneous
2 Provisions,' Section 78-4, 'Possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic
3 beverages in public place,' to amend section (a) Generally, to remove
4 parks from this restriction. The Community Involvement Committee
5 recommends approval.
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7

8 THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
9 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:

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11 NOTE: Deleted language is ~~stricken~~.

12
13 Section 1 – The Springfield City Code, Chapter 78, Offenses and Miscellaneous
14 Provisions, Section 78-4 Possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in
15 public place, Subsection (a) is hereby amended as follows:

16
17 **Sec. 78-4. - Possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public
18 place.**

19 (a) *Generally*. No person shall drink, sell, give away, purchase or dispense
20 alcoholic beverages as defined in section 78-189(b) in any street, alley or
21 other similar public place in the city, ~~nor shall any person sell, dispense, give
22 away, offer to sell or possess or consume any beverage or drink containing
23 alcohol in any public park or on lands held by the city for park purposes.~~

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25 Section 2 - This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after
26 passage.

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28 Passed at meeting: _____

29
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31 _____
32 Mayor
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34 Attest: _____, City Clerk

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37 Filed as Ordinance: _____

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40 Approved as to form: _____, Assistant City Attorney

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43 Approved for Council action: _____, City Manager

EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL 2018 - 010

FILED: 01-09-18

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Park Board

PURPOSE: To amend the Springfield City Code, Chapter 78, 'Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions,' Section 78-4, 'Possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public place,' to amend section (a) Generally, to remove parks from this restriction. The Community Involvement Committee recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Park Board presented this proposal to the Community Involvement Committee on December 5, 2017. After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted their approval for formal presentation to City Council.

This proposal would allow the Park Board to permit alcohol at park sites designated by the Park Board under strict conditions, as continually requested by Park constituents, partner organizations, sports tournament enthusiasts, rental groups and community event planners. After extensive research and investigation, the Park Board is requesting an amendment to the City Code to remove parks from the application of Section 78-4. This amendment will be in-line with the City Charter and its grant of authority to the Park Board for the overall operation, maintenance and management of the Springfield-Greene County Park System, which includes the administration of all city and county park sites. It will also put the Park Board back in the same position, with authority to handle alcohol-related decisions, as the City's other Administrative Boards. The intent of the Park Board is to implement a policy allowing alcohol at various locations and/or events, while tracking its experience and updating its policies, as needed, and ensuring that all operational protocols, safety provisions and security measures are implemented and followed throughout this process. Overall, this action by City Council will enable the Park Board to honor these requests, remain marketable and competitive at its various facilities, attract new activities and events, and provide new revenues for budgets impacted by the sunset of the 2001 and 2006 Park Sales Tax Funds.

This amendment will allow the Park Board to implement its plans in a controlled and safe environment, ensuring that safety protocols and guidelines are established and followed. The Park Board is committed to protecting the programs and facilities that are primarily used by younger patrons; the Board does not intend to offer alcohol at youth sports, family-themed events, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, pools or picnic pavilions (except permitted events at Springfield-Greene County Botanical Gardens). We also believe that identifying specific facilities, with defined and limited access points designated for an alcohol exception, will allow the Park Board to affirmatively respond to repeated constituent requests, while remaining competitive and maintaining a safe environment. Initially, the Park Board intends to include the following:

- (1) Rivercut Golf Course, Horton Smith Golf Course, and Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course (excluding Betty Allison at Oscar Blom Course);

- (2) Mediacom Ice Park and Cooper Tennis Complex, but only during college, semi-pro and professional events, private rentals, or other special events, and only in designated areas;
- (3) Dickerson Park Zoo, but only during after-hours events and only in designated areas; and
- (4) The following facilities, but only for private rentals or other special events, and only in designated areas:
 - a. Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center and Gardens;
 - b. Lake Springfield Boathouse; and
 - c. Davis House and Property.

If passed by City Council, this will also enable the Park Board to:

- Provide specified venues and facilities, as requested by its patrons and partner organizations, and keep its constituents satisfied;
- Allow for reinvestment in our park facilities, by providing additional revenue for improvements and maintenance to existing facilities, ensuring that we retain state-of-the-art facilities and remain competitive with private industry offerings, and assist with the further accumulation of park reserve funding;
- Offer additional economic development throughout the park system, with new and enhanced events and activities, rental opportunities, and sports tournament activities;
- Enable the Golf Division to implement improvements to facilities, course infrastructure and equipment, and assist with repayment of existing golf loans;
- Assist the Park Board in keeping its fees and charges from significantly increasing; fees and charges would remain reasonable as compared to industry facilities and services; and
- Help to preserve available Park programs and/or services offered.

As previously highlighted by the City, festivals and events celebrating a variety of food, fun and entertainment offerings are becoming a part of what makes Springfield a great place to live. Responsibly-managed festivals and events offer a host of economic and social benefits to communities, with benefits similar to those achieved through tourism. Additionally, these types of events enhance the opportunity to bring communities together and instill a sense of community pride and historical knowledge of the area, provide an economic investment in our community parks and facilities, and stimulate tourism and business growth through visitor or destination attractions. Popular music, food and entertainment festivals and events offered at various park sites provide a variety of social benefits as well, which often assists in creating a distinct, branded boundary within which all of the fun takes place in a safe and manageable environment. In a prior presentation to City Council, City staff referenced numerous citizen surveys and feedback avenues that have noted the extreme popularity of these types of events and festivals with the millennial population and other generational groups. Presently, the Park Board is considering allowing alcohol, under specified rules, guidelines, oversight and permitting requirements, at only 9 of its 104 park sites (less than 10 percent overall). With this limited consideration, the Park Board will be able to grow and improve its facilities and services throughout its entire park system, while providing its

constituents with requested food and beverage enhancements in a safe environment, which is key to successfully accomplishing the Park Board's goals and responsibilities.

The Ordinance being presented to City Council respectfully requests that the Park Board be given the authority to safely and responsibly manage, operate and maintain its park sites, and will assist the Park Board as it strives to develop, grow and improve its facilities and services throughout its entire park system. Providing the Park Board constituents with requested food and beverage enhancements is key to these efforts. The Park Board respectfully requests approval of this Ordinance by City Council, and the Community Involvement Committee recommends approval.

Submitted by:

Approved by:



Bob Belote, Director of Parks



Greg Burris, City Manager