

NOTICE OF MEETING



CITY OF BRANSON

ADVISORY PARK BOARD

Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 20, 2017 – 5:15 p.m.
Branson RecPlex – 1501 Branson Hills Parkway – Branson, MO

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order.
- 2) Approval of May 16, 2017 Minutes.
- 3) Presentation of Financial Report.
- 4) Update on Flood Clean-up in Parks and Trails.
- 5) Discussion about Stockstill Park.
- 6) Review of Summer Programs.
- 7) Member's Report.
- 8) Adjourn.

Where Values are the Difference

JUNE: Safety

Maintaining an environment free from harm

Posted: June 19, 2017

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At: _____ By: _____

Lisa Westfall, City Clerk, 417-337-8522

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Park Board Minutes
May 16, 2017

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Julie Wolfe, Wes Stoner, Bob Simmons, Jamie Whiteis, Mica Farley, and Danielle Dingman

Members Absent: Garrett Vanderpool, Gabe Miller, and Perry Phillips

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Marsha Fulton

The meeting was called to order. Julie Wolfe made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated March 21, 2017. Mica Farley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Candy Sullinger welcomed the newest board member, Danielle Dingman, who then shared with the board information about herself and expressed how excited she was to be serving on the Park Board.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the financial report. Cindy opened this item by briefly explaining the report to the newest member and then directed everyone's attention to the capital expenses. Cindy explained that the capital expenses were up due to purchase of two new trucks and the improvements at Lakeside Forest. Cindy went on to explain that the revenue in the form of an insurance check for the Lakeside projects came in during the 2016 fiscal year but the work was not completed and paid for until 2017. Cindy remarked that the pool expenses were up due to repair of the pool pump, painting of the pool, and ordering of chlorine earlier for this pool season. Cindy then directed the board's attention to the campground cost center where she explained that the financials will be skewed due to the fact that expenses for the December 2015 flood at the campground were paid in 2016, causing that cost center to be increased also. Bob Simmons stated that overall expenses looked similar to last year if the capital costs were factored out. Bob then inquired as to the extent of flood damage to the Don Gardner Par 3 golf course. Cindy stated that there was more damage than in past floods, especially to the greens, and that they were currently working on a plan for it. Wes asked why the programs were showing a decrease in expenses. Cindy explained that after Brandon left there was a time period where his salary was not coming out and there wasn't a need to purchase a lot of equipment this year. Wes then inquired if Cindy thought program fees are where they should be, knowing that she always tried to keep a sharp eye on it. Cindy stated that she felt they had a good handle on the fees with the continual surveys and comparisons, and reminded the board that they had raised the day camp fee for this year. Jamie then asked about adult softball. Cindy stated that the board might recall that as part of priority based budgeting we decided to basically sub-contract the league to Jeff Pruis, the adult softball supervisor from last year. Cindy went on to say that overall adult softball was trending down. Jamie then asked if the April flood would impact the adult league and if they would lose any of their season. Cindy stated that the league is on-hold and that it will resume the week of June 5 when Stockstill reopens.

2. The next item on the agenda was the update on the scholarship program. Jason reminded the board that a new program that been implemented over the past several years in which household maximums were established and a criteria for need was applied by adopting free or reduced meal guidelines. In 2015, the department applied for and received a \$4,900 Helping Hands Grant from

the Skaggs Foundation. Jason reported that in 2014 there was just over \$3,700 in scholarships given, in 2015 just over \$4,900 and in 2016 just over \$3,500. Jason explained that because there were funds left from 2016, they did not re-apply for the grant for 2017. Instead, they started the year with the remaining funds and have now applied for the grant again for 2018. In addition, due to the Fogle Family Foundation's generous donation, the new batting cages were now open. Jason then shared photos of the recent ribbon cutting and added that people were very excited about having the cages available for local teams as well as the tournament teams that use the RecPlex. Danielle inquired if anyone had looked into a grant that could put together a fundraising event? Cindy stated that she had not, but that it was a great idea. Julie then added that Rotary may be able to help. Jamie stated that Rotary has grants available for non-profits to apply for. Cindy then added that they would like to expand the scholarships to include swim lessons. Candy asked if they were opposed to having a sponsor for the scholarships. Cindy responded that too was a good idea.

3. The next item on the agenda was the review of opening week of baseball festivities. Cindy opened this item by reporting that former employee, Brandon Stortz, had come to them last year wanting to put together events for the first week of the youth baseball season. Cindy stated that local entertainers were lined up to sing the National Anthem, throw out the first pitch, and have different themes for each night. Cindy added that Mayor Karen Best and Police Chief Dobbins had each thrown out the first pitch on separate nights. Cindy went to say that overall it was great week and the special events of the week were a great addition.

4. The next item on the agenda was the review of upcoming summer programs. Cindy shared with the board that they were currently in the 3rd week of youth baseball and that the program was up 4 teams overall from the previous year with 85 teams participating and over 1200 kids. Cindy went on to say that day camp was getting ready to get started and they would be including some new out trips to Springfield. Additionally, swim team would start practicing next week and there were three different nights for movies in the park scheduled this summer, starting with "Field of Dreams" on June 9.

5. The next item on the agenda was the review of park flooding. Cindy opened this item by stating that the flooding event had negatively impacted the parks and provided a brief description of the damage to each park.

Alexander Park: While the park was submerged for several days, fortunately there was not much damage other than debris cleanup, which was already completed.

Sunset Park: Water is still covering a lot of the park and it may take a while to recede. Cindy indicated that the walking lights in the park were not operational as they had shorted out and the city electrician will be addressing this issue.

North Beach: The park has quite a bit of debris to remove and a recent cleanup day had helped but was ongoing. Cindy continued by stating that some of the boards on the fishing docks require replacing. Jason added that Public Works would be brooming the walking path today.

Golf Course: The golf course was submerged for several days causing extensive damage to the greens. The course is currently closed as the greens have been aerated and reseeded and they hope to reopen next week. Bob asked if this was the worst one to date for the golf course and Cindy confirmed that it was. Cindy added that the good news was that since there was warning, the staff had pulled the irrigation pump out to prevent damage.

Campground: Cindy stated that the best thing that they had done for the campground was the mitigation project in 2011 to purchase the portable office. The office was removed and relocated to the RecPlex without sustaining damage. Cindy stated that they had been able to reopen some sites today with more planned throughout the week. She went on to state that the open communication

with the Corp of Engineers had been extremely helpful to forecast the impact on the park and make the decision to evacuate the park prior to any actual flooding. Cindy said they were grateful for the concrete pads and what a difference they made in the cleanup efforts and getting the park back ready to open. Cindy stated that the biggest expenses was to replace the breakers at the electrical boxes, which was estimated to run over \$13,000 to replace. Jamie asked if there was any way to make the electrical boxes removable so that they could be pulled out quickly to avoid harm. Jason stated that there was but the price tag of \$500 each made them cost prohibitive. Cindy explained that they would have to upfront the cost while working with FEMA in hopes of it being a mitigation project.

Stockstill: The damage to the park was extensive, including far more large trees being left behind in the park area than in past floods. Cindy stated that the rough estimate was over \$100,000 in damage. Cindy added that the numerous floods have provided a lot of experience in how to move forward when it happens. Jason added that they were looking to put in 10 foot removable chain link panels. He stated that they are built of the same materials and come in sections, so that with advance notice they can be removed allowing water to flow through without destroying the fencing. Cindy continued by saying that there was playground and asphalt damage to the walking paths as well. The target date to have the park reopened is in time for a large USSSA baseball tournament scheduled for June 2.

Member's Reports

1. Candy Sullinger inquired as to the status of the Old School Park and bathrooms and noted that she had heard some rumbling about the property. Bob stated that it was his understanding that they would rebuild or include public bathrooms. Candy asked if there was a timeline for the project. Bob stated that he was not aware of any timeline.
2. Danielle Dingman thanked the board for their warm welcome.
3. Wes Stoner stated he had a few items, starting with Murphy Park. He commented that the new community garden looks very nice and it has been a great addition. He continued by asking if there had been any more discussions about the possibility of expansion. Cindy responded that the site master plan had been presented as part of the Park Board presentation to City Council and had created some positive conversations and that she is working with Terra Alphonso on possible funding ideas. Lastly, Wes stated that he had volunteered for the State Archery Tournament held recently at the Branson Convention Center and remarked they may need more locations next year. Cindy responded that the department had provided them bleachers for the event Taylor had volunteered and we would like to be part of it next year.

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm

UNAUDITED

Parks & Recreation Program Cost Analysis 41.7% OF 5 MONTH as of MAY 31, 2017 FY 2017, PERIOD 5

Program	Program Revenues	Program Revenues	Program Expenditures	Program Expenditures	Operating Rev (Exp)	Operating Rev (Exp)
	2017 YTD	2016 YTD	2017 YTD	2016 YTD	2017 YTD	2016 YTD
Administration	-	-	138,950	139,431	(138,950)	(139,431)
Capital	-	-	132,775	-	(132,775)	-
Community Center Recreation Complex	13,375	17,497	26,209	24,816	(12,834)	(7,319)
RecPlex	153,382	167,311	229,634	206,489	(76,252)	(39,179)
Concessions	47,255	46,808	33,623	41,598	13,632	5,210
Tournaments	3,360	3,300	3,818	-	(458)	3,300
Dog Park	3,009	2,833	2,361	1,220	648	1,613
Day Camp	16,250	15,690	7,972	5,964	8,278	9,726
Pool	20,957	17,141	33,909	22,741	(12,952)	(5,600)
Swim Team	9,682	5,410	5,560	4,905	4,122	505
Golf Course	14,699	21,214	13,886	28,815	813	(7,601)
Campgrounds	135,109	185,346	108,477	113,073	26,632	72,273
Special Events/Programs	750	-	4,991	3,391	(4,241)	(3,391)
Cheerleading	-	-	456	289	(456)	(289)
Total Facilities	417,828	482,550	742,622	592,732	(324,794)	(110,182)
Adult Basketball	630	1,550	7,983	8,747	(7,353)	(7,197)
Adult Volleyball	2,325	950	4,755	4,262	(2,430)	(3,312)
Adult Softball	230	7,990	3,644	13,578	(3,414)	(5,588)
Tennis	3,645	1,005	3,091	12	554	993
Youth Baseball	33,130	32,485	11,400	17,048	21,730	15,437
Youth Basketball	707	495	24,376	24,041	(23,669)	(23,546)
Youth Soccer	15,405	14,865	9,898	11,262	5,507	3,603
Youth Volleyball	175	475	3,734	3,384	(3,559)	(2,909)
Adult Football/Soccer	1,275	1,500	914	1,019	361	481
Total Ball Programs	57,522	61,315	69,795	83,352	(12,273)	(22,037)
Total Parks	8,487	-	219,326	214,343	(210,839)	(214,343)
Total	483,837	543,865	1,031,743	890,427	(547,905)	(346,563)
Other Revenues:						
Cigarette Tax	27,814	37,379	-	-	27,814	37,379
Other Revenues	60,235	159,493	-	-	60,235	159,493
Transfer/Landscape	-	0	-	-	-	-
Transfer/General	279,583	279,583	-	-	279,583	279,583
Total	851,470	1,020,319	1,031,743	890,427	(180,273)	129,892

Administration Expense is
13%
of the Total Expense

UNAUDITED



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DATE: May 30, 2017

TO: Stan Dobbins, Interim City Administrator
Mayor and Board of Alderman

FROM: Cindy Shook, Parks & Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Summary of Park Flooding

I wanted to provide you an update on damage to the parks from the recent flooding on May 27. The Branson Lakeside RV Park experienced flash flooding and was evacuated. Water rose very quickly and covered the lower rows of the campground. While the water did not reach upper RV sites, the office and all RV's were evacuated as a safety precaution due to the threat of rising waters. Currently, the RV Park is closed while we work on clean-up efforts. The damage was not extensive and we hope to reopen the upper sites this weekend.

Regarding Stockstill Park, there is once again extensive damage to the park. We were in the final stages of clean-up from the April 29 flood and planned to reopen on June 2. The park has once again been hit hard with extensive damage to the fields, playground and walking paths, some of which had just been repaired. Luckily the new fencing was only partially completed or it would have been destroyed as well. In total, we have spent nearly \$80,000 in flood repairs from the April 29 flood to Stockstill Park that has now been wiped out with this flash flood.

At this point, it seems prudent to step back and reevaluate the park long-term. I believe it is time to make a change in the park due to repetitive flooding. It is no longer financially feasible or responsible to keep repairing the park. Through the years, Stockstill Park has experienced repetitive damage due to flooding. Located next to Roark Creek, the park has been a frequent recipient of flooding that has resulted in significant damages to the park in the months/years of May 2002, March 2008, April 2008, June 2008, September 2008, October 2009, April 2011, July 2015, December 2015, April 2017 and May 2017 with an estimated total damage of over \$600,000.

When flooding occurs, many elements of the park are severely impacted. Most significantly is damage to the ball fields, the fencing, the asphalt walking paths and the playgrounds. The two ball fields are very expensive to repair as they typically require significant amounts of specially mixed infield dirt to be hauled in and re-graded to restore the fields. A majority of the chain link fencing surrounding the ball fields have been replaced multiple times. The asphalt walking paths have been damaged and new asphalt required. Over 2,100 cubic yards of playground mulch totaling nearly \$25,000 has been replaced to restore use of the playground. In just the last three flood events, over 1,500 man hours have been utilized in clean-up efforts at the park.

I believe it is time to make a change and consider removing the softball fields and playground and replacing those elements with green space to create passive recreation opportunities that will not incur the same expense in future flooding. Currently the park is closed and I would suggest closing for the season to allow time for discussion and contemplation about a new vision for the park. I have been in touch with the baseball and softball tournament



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directors to let them know that Stockstill Park will not be available. This same thing happened in July 2015 when Stockstill Park experienced flooding. Alexander Park and other high school fields will be used to accommodate the events. The adult softball leagues have been moved to August when the RecPlex fields are freed up.

Concerning the playground, we were already working on a plan to remove the playground and replace it with a new playground across the creek by the skate park as this area does not flood. The current playground was installed in 1994 and is 23 years old. Many of the features on the current playground are out of date, and lack the interactive and sensory details that we would like to include in a new playground.

We are currently working with Game Time Recreation on a grant opportunity that would provide matching funds for a new fully inclusive playground. This fully inclusive playground would be the first of its kind in the area, and would allow us to provide recreational space to an entirely new demographic. While many playgrounds are ADA accessible, this fully inclusive playground would have elements that also encourage emotional, cognitive, social, and sensory development for those with special or specific needs beyond physical handicaps. This proposed playground could have a small playground area specifically for ages 2-5, with a larger playground area designed for ages 5-12. Combined, these 2 play areas could accommodate up to 85 children at any given time.

Other parks that have been affected include North Beach Park, Sunset Park and the golf course. We are concerned about the golf course as we had just reopened after being temporarily closed due to damage to the greens from being submerged. The greens had been aerated and seeded, but now that work will likely need to be repeated. In addition, the irrigation pump was submerged and is not working. The pump will be removed and evaluated to determine what the issues are.

Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback. I look forward to a discussion about the future of Stockstill Park.