

Park Board Minutes
June 18, 2019

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Gabe Miller, Scott McCaulley, David Parish, Bob Simmons, Julie Wolfe, Andrew Brown, Jamie Whiteis, and Garrett Vanderpool

Members Absent: Danielle Dingman

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Marsha Fulton

The meeting was called to order.

Cindy introduced the newest Park Board member, David Parish. David then gave the board a brief personal background and his job history. The board extended a warm welcome.

Scott McCaulley made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated April 16, 2019. Julie Wolfe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the financial report for May 2019. Cindy started by giving David a quick explanation of the report. Cindy stated that it has been a little bit of a slow start to the summer season. She noted that our tournaments, pool and concessions had been negatively impacted by the weather, but the department was hopeful that they would rebound in the coming weeks. On a positive note, Cindy reported that Day Camp is off to a good start and she attributes that to online registration, additional out trips and increased programming. Additionally, she shared that the campground rebounded after the first couple of rows had to be closed for about a week due to high water. Scott inquired about the youth basketball cost center. Cindy that due to the timing of the program, the majority of the revenues fall in one year and the expenses in the next year, giving an appearance that things are out of line. She explained that towards the end of the year, when the revenue for 2019 comes in, the cost center will even out. Cindy reminded the board that they had implemented a pay raise to seasonal staff this year, in order to stay competitive in hiring seasonal help, causing some cost centers to increase in expenses. Bob noted that concessions were down in revenue, but down even more in expenses. Jason added that Adam was doing a fantastic job with ordering and trying to keep the appropriate amounts of product on hand to reduce any loss or waste. Cindy then pointed out that we are using a new app for scheduling workers called When to Work, and it has helped in not only staffing but also with trying to keep costs down.

2. The next item on the agenda was an update on Stockstill Park. Cindy shared that Stockstill recently reopened after being closed for about one month due to flood damage. Cindy stated that damage was again done to the walking path and additional concrete was poured to repair these areas. Cindy went on to say that she felt that future consideration will have to be given to

removing the small children's playground. This playground was left after the 2017 flood due to its popularity, but she believes a chance may need to be made due to the frequency and severity of flooding at the park. Cindy reported that the total cost to repair the playground was nearly \$5,000 in labor and materials. Scott stated that he had been down there a couple of times since it had reopened and it was interesting to see how the area was used, including the repurposing of the old baseball fields. Bob added that it was a shame that the high spot of the park was the parking lots. Andrew stated that on a Facebook post there had been some negative comments and questions regarding the park. Cindy stated that he is always welcome to refer them to the Park's Department to allow for clarification. Jason added that he had been down to the park the previous Sunday with his girls and they had really enjoyed it. Cindy stated that park staff was working on replacing the roof on the bathroom and that repairs were also planned for the tennis building. Cindy added that unfortunately there has been several incidents of vandalism in the park and that she had been working with the Police Department to add cameras in some areas. Garrett stated that a customer from his business had recently sold some cameras to the City and wondered if they were for the Parks Department. Cindy stated that Bob had always been a big advocate for cameras and they are researching the options further, but these specific cameras were not for the Parks Department. In addition, they are working to trim and clean out the overgrown large culvert so that sight lines from the parking lot to the tennis courts can be improved. Bob added that he had been impressed with Chief Matthews and how aware he was of issues, and he wondered if the new safety tax could possibly provide funding for cameras in the future.

3. The next item on the agenda was an update on pickleball. Cindy shared with the board that pickleball was continuing to gain interest and popularity. She stated that the Branson Pickleball Club, led by Autumn Price, was truly instrumental helping it to grow. Cindy told the board that with the assistance of the Pickleball Club, they recently lined two pickleball courts at Stockstill tennis courts to provide more opportunities for play. Jason stated that there is a really awesome group of players that play at Stockstill and they were very welcoming to players at all levels. Cindy shared with the board that a pickleball tournament was hosted at the RecPlex on June 8-9 that served as a fund raiser to provide dedicated pickleball courts in the parks. She added that she is excited to work with a group that wants to partner with our department to add more facilities to better serve our community. Bob stated that in Florida they have large community buildings with lots of different groups playing pickleball. Garrett stated that it seemed to be a sport that is bridging a gap for multiple generations. Jason concluded this item by stating that Cindy had worked extremely hard to build a relationship and assist the pickleball group, and hopefully it will all pay off with the continued growth of the program.

4. The next item on the agenda was an update on the new partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Jason opened this item by reminding the board of the fishing initiative that they had been working on with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Jason stated that he, Adam, and Sarah had recently participated in training with the MDC, and would be conducting a pilot clinic with the kids attending our Day Camp. He said that he hoped

this program would be successful, and would be something that could expand to the public as well. Jason stated that as part of the Discover Nature Fishing Program, MDC donated 40 fishing poles, gear and teaching resources for the catch and release program. Jason stated that MDC also had stocked the ponds with hybrid bluegill and that they were allowing them about four weeks of growth before opening the ponds to the public for fishing.

5. The next item on the agenda was the update on disc golf at Eiserman Park. Cindy explained to the board that they were currently working with professional disc golfer Jeff Renner and his dad, Ray Renner, on redesigning the course. Cindy stated that she had received positive feedback on the new design from City of Branson Alderman Kevin McConnell, who had recently played over the weekend. Cindy stated they hoped to run an event on August 3 to recognize National Disc Golf Day.

6. The next item on the agenda was a potential new partnership on a mural at Murphy Park. Cindy stated that at one point years ago a mural was painted on the wall by an art group and there is now new interest from members of Southern Missouri Arts Connection (SMAC) in painting a new mural. Cindy stated that when the mural is complete, a clear coat of graffiti resistant paint will be added. Scott asked if they thought it would be done by the end of summer. Cindy stated that she wasn't sure and would provide the board an update.

7. The next item on the agenda was the presentation of the new park maintenance staff structure. Cindy shared with the board that on August 2nd, long time City of Branson employee Martie Dunn will be retiring after 36 years. Cindy went on to state that while Martie would be greatly missed, it did allow the department to restructure and add two Supervisor I positions over janitorial and maintenance that will allow more focus in those areas.

8. The next item on the agenda was the recreation update. With no comments for this item the board moved on to member's reports.

Member's Report

1. Scott McCaulley shared that his mother-in-law asked to pass on that she is a big fan of the dog park and that it was very user friendly.

2. Andrew inquired about hiking trails, stating that he had spoken with a couple inquiring about it. Cindy shared that there were maps on the website and available at the front desk. Additionally, she shared that the department intern had installed trail markers at Lakeside Forest earlier this year to assist with wayfinding and emergency services. Garrett added that the app, All Trails, was a great one for hikers and that they might suggest that too.

3. Bob shared that he had a recent discussion with some people from the Kirbyville School, and they seemed to open to working with the RecPlex to allow usage of their baseball field in the future.

Scott make a motion to adjourn. Gabe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned 6:25pm