

Park Board Minutes  
April 16, 2019

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Gabe Miller, Scott McCaulley, Bob Simmons, Julie Wolfe, Andrew Brown, and Danielle Dingman

Members Absent: Wes Stoner, Garrett Vanderpool and Jamie Whiteis

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Marsha Fulton and Adam Houseman

The meeting was called to order.

Cindy introduced the newest employee to the Parks Department, Park's Business Supervisor Adam Houseman. Adam then gave the board a brief personal background and his job history. The board all welcomed Adam to the department.

Julie made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Andrew Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the financial report for February, 2019. Jason started by noting that the campground saw 80% occupancy for weekends in March, which combined with the fee increase, had resulted in a very good first two months of the year. Gabe asked if there had been implementation and utilization of new applications with the new software update. Jason responded yes, that just that day, the campground manager had utilized the software to look more critically into our rally business. Gabe then inquired if there had been any push back in regards to the new deposit of the first night fee. Cindy stated that there really hadn't been much to date and that overall people seemed very pleased to be able to make a reservation online.

2. The next item on the agenda was an update on the Eiserman Park improvements. Cindy stated that she is excited about a lot of things that are in the works for the park but unfortunately, she was not successful in her attempt to secure a grant to install a walking path at Eiserman Park. She indicated that she is currently working with professional disc golf player Jeff Renner and his disc golf club to create an exciting new layout at Eiserman Park. The new signage is currently being designed, which will require some of the current baskets to be moved, and she hopes to be ready in June. In addition, Jason then shared with the board an exciting new partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation to offer their Discover Nature Fishing Program. As part of the revitalization of Eiserman Park, the Parks Department will soon begin offering catch and release fishing in the ponds at the park. Any children ages 15 and under will be allowed to fish the ponds during designated hours. Equipment will also be available for use during business hours. As part of our partnership with MDC, the department will also be offering a pilot course on fishing to the Summer Day Camp, culminating with a fishing day at Eiserman Park. Parks staff will provide lessons and instruction using equipment, curriculum and teaching aides provided by MDC. Jason added that it would be geared to 15 and under, as those ages do not require fishing license. Scott noted that it was really a natural tie in, almost a no brainer. Jason noted that MDC employee Ben Parnell was very excited not only about the program but also about the location, being right in the middle of town but also so close to the lakes. Gabe added

that they may want to reach out to the Branson High School Fishing team and inquire about their willingness to assist with the teaching of the kids. Andrew suggested possibly offering a fly tying class at the Community Center to allow the older generation to teach the younger generation. Bob added that recently when he had been at the community center he had not had one negative comment about the golf course being gone. He stated that he had a few “that’s interesting” but nothing actually negative.

3. The next item on the agenda was an update on a pickleball initiative. Cindy shared with the board that pickleball has really been gaining in popularity and momentum in the community. Cindy went on to explain that Autumn Price, who had formally been a tennis instructor for the department, had recently led an initiative to provide more opportunities for open play at Stockstill Park Tennis Courts four times a week. Additionally, Autumn and the other pickleball players were working with the department to host a fund raising tournament as a way to provide dedicated pickleball courts, possibly at Parnell Park. Cindy stated that she appreciated that the group was working in partnership with the Park’s Department and that Autumn had been a great asset to work with.

4. The next item on the agenda was an update on Liberty Plaza events. Jason briefly discussed the various possibilities on slate for Liberty Plaza, including an event on June 1 that the Branson Arts Council is hosting that will include live music, arts and crafts and barbeque. Other items include the Christian Church utilizing the facility, a fall concert featuring the Petersons and a movie partnership with the Downtown Branson Betterment Association. Bob added that the parking lot had been designed for the use of tents and wondered if that was being used. Jason agreed that the ability to use tents was still there, but up to this point, tents had not been utilized based on the types of events that had taken place thus far.

5. The next item on the agenda was the recreation update. With no comments or questions on the recreation update the board moved onto the next item on the agenda.

6. The next item on the agenda was an update on capital projects. Cindy shared with the board that both the sanding and refinishing of the gym floor and the sandblasting and painting of the pool were now complete. Cindy explained that she is also hoping to sand and refinish the wood aerobic room floor located upstairs at the CoxHealth Fitness Center. Jason added that the gym floor had been an eleven day process, with five days dedicated to sanding. Cindy then took the board members on a brief walk through of the gymnasium and the swimming pool.

#### Member’s Report

1. Scott McCaulley shared that Perry Phillips, former Park Board member, was recently elected to the Reeds Spring School Board.

2. Cindy reminded the board that there would be an open appointment coming up on the Park Board as Wes Stoner had decided not to reapply. Cindy encouraged the board to reach out to anyone they thought would be a good addition to the board.

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

Meeting Adjourned 6:30pm