

Park Board Minutes  
June 19, 2018

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Bob Simmons, Jamie Whiteis, Wes Stoner, Gabe Miller, Garrett Vanderpool, and Andrew Brown

Members Absent: Julie Wolfe, Danielle Dingman and Perry Phillips

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Marsha Fulton

The meeting was called to order. Cindy Shook opened the meeting by introducing the newest Park Board member, Andrew Brown. Cindy went on to tell the board that Perry Phillips had decided to step down from the board, and they would be looking to add another member.

Jamie Whiteis made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated May 15<sup>th</sup>. Wes Stoner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the financial report. Cindy opened this item by explaining that the increases in administration expenses were primarily related to payroll and the additional expense for MPRA. She detailed that in 2017 the MPRA conference was held in Branson, which significantly reduced the cost for staff to attend, but this year it had been back at Lake of the Ozarks. Cindy then went on to explain that a significant part of the increases in expenses at the RecPlex are due to a large increase in electricity. Through May, the electricity for the RecPlex was up by \$6,000 over 2017. Cindy stated that all these areas were being addressed and steps were being taken to try to help, including Jason adjusting all of the thermostats throughout the building. Cindy then went on to discuss the decrease in concessions revenue, explaining that early tournament cancellations had caused the revenue decline. Jason added that the opportunity to have more stock on hand attributed to the increase in expenditures for concessions. Cindy noted that, as with all the programs and products, they had researched the pricing for the concessions and that while some prices did increase, others remained the same as last season because they did not feel that the market justified an increase. Cindy went on to explain that they were keeping a close watch on staffing for concessions. Jason shared that there had been a larger emphasis on cash handling and training for concessions and that had caused an early increase in payroll expenditures as well. Cindy then discussed day camp, explaining that they were keeping an eye on staffing in this area as well, as it was currently at 85% capacity. Cindy explained that they felt part of the decline was due to the popularity of summer school, which is free to participants and includes breakfast and lunch. Jason added that on weeks when camp was full, 75 campers, they ran twelve counselors in comparison to only 10 counselors for the previous week. Andrew Brown inquired as to if they had looked at doing a co-op with the summer schools. Jason explained that they had a very good relationship with the local schools and were allowed to get information for programming, including day camp, out through the schools to the area families. Cindy then directed the board's attention to the pool, pointing out that not only were the revenues up but the expenditures were down. Next up for discussion was the Branson Lakeside RV Park. Jason stated that according to the numbers provided by Jim Dikes, Campground Manager, May of 2018 was the largest May on record. Cindy reminded the board that at this same time the previous year they had been dealing with the fall out after two

floods. Gabe agreed, stating that the weather had been significantly better. Garrett inquired if there was any thought to setting back money to help offset future flood costs or other needs. Cindy explained that there was a 10% reserve set by code and that allowed for planning and budgeting for big ticket items such as HVAC replacements, roofs, and unforeseen things such as floods. Wes inquired if there had ever been an energy audit that could help with some of the energy use areas. Cindy confirmed that there had been one in the past. She shared that this was how Roger Hunzeker was able to get the grant that provided for the LED lights in the parking lot. Bob confirmed that the energy audit had been helpful, adding that it had paid for itself through savings to the City after implementing some of the findings. Cindy added that it would require some upfront costs, but it was definitely a path worth exploring. Andrew added that many times there were ways to lower expenses with what you already had.

2. The next item on the agenda was the update on the recreation software implementation. Cindy opened this item by confirming that they were actually making progress on being able to take registrations online. Jason shared that they were currently in the analyze phase, and they would be working on building all the descriptions for facilities and programs while shooting for a November 9<sup>th</sup> launch date. Garrett stated that they needed to make sure that it was extremely user friendly. Jason agreed, and noted that going forward there would be training and homework to make sure implementation goes as smoothly as possible to ensure a great product for the end users.

3. The next item on the agenda was the update on the community garden initiative. Cindy reminded the board that Murphy Park had added a community garden a few years ago and now the Community Center had raised beds, and the day camp had a garden at the RecPlex. Jason reported that Hansen's Tree Service had donated soil for the garden and the kids were really enjoying helping and learning about the garden.

4. The next item on the agenda was an update of the Don Gardner Golf Course. Cindy opened this item by reminding the board that over the last few years this was an area they had been closely monitoring. Cindy stated that over the last five years the golf course had lost over \$109,000 dollars. Cindy explained that they had made some significant changes, such as maintaining the course differently and making the change to Bermuda grass greens instead of bent grass in an effort to reduce the ongoing expenses. Additionally, Cindy shared that the last floods did significant damage to the course, especially the greens, that they were still trying to recover from. Andrew inquired as to how much free use of the course was happening due to the lack of fencing. Cindy responded that a self-pay system is in place and has freed up staffing hours, which in turn has kept down the overhead. She also noted that this course was no different than other courses, which do not have fencing and face a similar potential issue. Cindy then went on to say that they had gone all in trying to see if they could bring back the course through additional seeding, fertilization, and other treatments. Jason added that now they were dealing with the PH of the water being too acidic and not conducive for the turf. Cindy mentioned she really became aware of the issues during the recent free golf clinic she taught. Candy stated that she felt that Cindy had done a good job in making the board aware of the issues a few years ago and inquired as to what Cindy would recommend at this point. Cindy explained that while she wasn't ready to make a recommendation yet, she would ask the board to

be consider alternative uses for the park area. Candy shared that she had recently been at Stockstill during the week and it had been packed, proving the concept of green space was a good idea. Garrett inquired about pumping water from the treatment plant onto the greens. Jason stated that they had looked into that and that Mike Ray, Director of Utilities, had confirmed that it did not have the capacity for what would be needed for ongoing irrigation.

5. The next item on the agenda was the presentation of park maintenance staff safety recognition. Cindy shared that the maintenance staff had recently been honored and treated to a catered lunch for going six months without any incidents. Jason added that literally anything that involved city employees from a twisted ankle to a car accident would have counted against them. Cindy concluded that this was a nice recognition for the maintenance department and that she was proud of their hard, safe work.

6. The review of the recreation update and newsletters was the final item on the agenda. Candy opened this item by stating what an awesome job the department was doing. She went on to say that it was important to see and know how much everyone did. Cindy agreed, and added that the schools were allowing them to use the new fields which had been a great addition and opportunity.

### Member's Report

1. Andrew Brown suggested possibly partnering with other municipalities and looking into a partnership with the new bowling alley, Andy B's, that was coming into town. He then inquired about using C of O students, stating he thought they would be more than happy to volunteer. Cindy explained that they currently do a lot of that, including working with the schools and having C of O Character Camp paint the gym and mulch trails and playgrounds each year.
2. Garrett Vanderpool stated that in honor of the Soccer World Cup, it was nice to see soccer revenue double over last year. Jason stated that it was the fastest growing program currently being offered.
3. Wes Stoner shared that Bridge of Faith Church, located in Rockaway Beach, was partnering with the Branson Schools to provide free meals to kids who could not attend summer school due to lack of transportation.
4. Candy Sullinger reiterated how excited she had been to see Stockstill being used in so many different ways. She stated that it felt like it could have been a Saturday in a big city.