

Park Board Minutes
August 21, 2018

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Bob Simmons, Jamie Whiteis, Gabe Miller, Garrett Vanderpool, Andrew Brown and Julie Wolfe
Members Absent: Wes Stoner, Danielle Dingman
Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Marsha Fulton

The meeting was called to order.

Jamie Whiteis made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated July 17th. Gabe Miller 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 stating that overall it was pretty positive, pointing to how well the campground has done. Gabe added that the campground made up almost the entire increase for total facilities on the financial report. Cindy agreed, stating that the increased traffic, coupled with the fee increase, was making for a banner year. Garrett stated that the campground may have started off the year slow but it was sure making up for it. Jason concluded this item by adding that just today he had been to the campground and there were twenty-six Rv's coming in for the Shriner Convention and festivities.

2. The next item on the agenda was the update on capital improvement projects. Cindy reminded the board that all capital improvements are now scored by the departments as well as the Capital Improvements Committee, as part of priority based budgeting (PBB), with a goal to better determine priorities for the city. Cindy then passed around a spreadsheet with the 2019 capital improvement requests submitted by all the different city departments, which included their final PBB scores and quartile ranking. Cindy stated that the ten items that were requested from the Parks Department were listed, ranging from quartile 1 to quartile 4. Cindy reviewed the list with the board and discussed where the Park's Department requests ranked. Bob then explained to the board that there was over \$1,000,000 in capital requests just for the general fund and only \$500,000 to spend. Bob went on to say that while scoring all the items was a tremendous amount of work for the Capital Improvement Committee, it did ensure that the final decisions were made without personal opinions and tied back into the Community 2030 Plan. Cindy thanked Bob for explaining the process and agreed that it took a tremendous amount of work for all involved to compile and rank the requests. Cindy went on to state that the majority of the capital improvements that the Park's Department requested were more related to maintenance and would be considered best practices and if not completed, would cause the facilities to decline. Cindy stated that the Finance Department has suggested that requests like pool painting, HVAC units and roof replacements might be best addressed as part of an internal service fund that could be separate from the capital improvement funds. Bob agreed that he liked the idea of the internal service fund and that the Park's Department really needs a dedicated funding source, but acknowledged that any non-mandated tax would be very hard to get passed. Bob went on to say that something to do with storm water, which is mandated might be the best chance. Garrett

inquired as to what Springfield did for a funding source. Cindy stated that they had a tax for a very long time but that it had sunsetted. Andrew asked if they had ever looked into a "PPEL", a property and equipment levy. Cindy remarked that she was not familiar with that and would pass it along. Cindy reported that she felt like the committee would recommend three of their projects and would be thrilled if we received those. Candy agreed and stated that they appreciated all the work involved and asked that Cindy echo their thanks to all involved.

3. The next item on the agenda was the demonstration of the new on-line software, CivicRec. Jason walked the board through the software demonstration, showing how the public could reserve and pay for a facility or program on-line. At the conclusion of the demonstration, Gabe had a few suggestions related to branding and the ease of the transition from the website to the service catalog. Cindy then asked the board their opinion as to when programs should be open for registration, year around or a few weeks prior to the start of each program. Garrett and Gabe both indicated that they would be in favor of year around registration. Bob stated that he thought it was wonderful and it might help increase the number of participants. Julie asked how the non-computer savvy individuals would register. Jason explained that they would still be able to register at the front desk if that was how they preferred. Cindy concluded that the department felt that it will be a great change for the community and looked forward to going live in November, noting that she planned to then move forward with on-line reservations at the campground for the next season.

4. The next item on the agenda was an update on department grant opportunities and status. Cindy opened this item by reminding the board that they had received a TRIM grant two years ago for tree trimming and removal at North Beach Park, and they are currently waiting to hear about another grant application. Additionally, Cindy shared that they were the recipients of a DNR grant for over \$6,000 that would provide new picnic tables and benches for several parks, including the new inclusive playground, to better allow parents to have good lines of site to the children while they are playing. Candy inquired as to how they become aware of grant opportunities. Cindy explained that the City Administrator had been putting a major focus on grants and that with some grants, like the DNR grant, once you apply then you receive e-mails about grant opportunities.

5. The next item on the agenda was the update on upcoming fall programs and special events. Cindy shared with the board that they are currently registering for youth soccer and volleyball and adult softball, basketball and volleyball. Cindy stated that the big event that they were gearing up for was the Boonanza. Cindy then added that they are making some changes this year that will hopefully better accommodate the large crowds. Cindy concluded this item by reminding the board they were always looking for volunteers if any of them were interested.

6. The next item on the agenda was the review of the recreation update. Cindy asked the board if there were any questions regarding the update dated 7/31/18 that was included in their packet. No one had any questions or comments so they moved on to the final item.

Member's Report

1. Julie commented that they had taken their grandsons down to Don Gardner recently to golf and they had a lot of fun.

2. Andrew asked if the department offered activities besides sports, such intellectual or artistic programs. Candy remarked that there are many art programs offered at the Community Center as well as through the Branson Arts Council and the Southern Missouri Arts Connection. Cindy continued by saying that those we often partner with those groups on activities so we do not wish to duplicate anything that the arts councils may be offering. Andrew then inquired about the archery program that is being offered. Jason explained that we follow the curriculum from the Missouri Conservation NASP program. He explained that the curriculum is currently being used in many area schools, and has provided an opportunity for youth and adults to become involved in a new activity and learn a new skill.

Meeting Adjourned 6:45pm.