

# NOTICE OF MEETING



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## *CITY OF BRANSON*

### ADVISORY PARK BOARD

*Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 16, 2015 – 5:15 p.m.*  
Branson RecPlex – 1501 Branson Hills Parkway – Branson, MO

### AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order.
- 2) Approval of May 19, 2015 Minutes.
- 3) Update on Parks & Recreation.
- 4) Park Tour.

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Lisa Westfall, City Clerk, 417-337-8522  
Garrett Anderson, Economic Development Director, 417-337-8589

Park Board Minutes  
May 19, 2015

Members Present: Larry Wilson, Julie Wolfe, Mica Farley, Jamie Whiteis, Brian Bronn, Garrett Vanderpool, and Bob Simmons

Members Absent: Candy Sullinger Gabe Miller, Wes Stoner,

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch and Marsha Fulton

Special Guests: Russ Hendricks, Kellen Hendricks, and Kobe Hendricks from the Boy Scouts.

The meeting was called to order. Julie Wolfe made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes from April 21, 2015. Larry Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

Cindy opened the meeting by welcoming the newest members to the Park Board, Brian Bronn and Garrett Vanderpool.

1. The first item on the agenda was the financial report for the period ending March 31, 2015. Cindy explained, for the benefit of the new members, that the financial report is provided monthly as a way to monitor revenues and expenses as the board is asked to recommend fees periodically to the Board of Aldermen. Cindy explained that she and Jason review the report every month and were pleased with the March report, noting that both concessions and campground are up in revenue for the year. Jason added that while the total revenue for ball programs is slightly up from last year at this same time, we should see a larger increase next month in adult softball as a lot of the fees were paid in April. Cindy explained that the revenue for youth basketball is collected at the end of the year but that the program expenses are incurred the following budget year. Julie Wolfe asked about the large increase in youth soccer revenue. Jason explained that there had been a substantial increase in spring participants this year due to allowing individual registrations and not just team entries.
2. The next item on the agenda was the 10 year Anniversary Pool Party. Cindy explained that Alicia had the idea to incorporate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary into the opening of the pool, and she had a lot of fun ideas planned along with food specials.
3. The next item on the agenda was an update on the Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area improvements. Cindy stated that the cleaning of the barn was now complete and we are moving on to the house. Cindy went on to explain that the plan is to remove the plywood that is currently over the windows and doors and replace it with a poly carbonate product that looks similar to plexi-glass and should greatly enhance the appearance of the Owen's homestead. The plan is to stage the home to look as it appeared when Lyle Owen lived there. Cindy shared that Todd Polk with CFS Engineers has stepped forward to volunteer to install the 14 pieces of the plexi-glass that is needed to cover the windows and doors. Cindy continued that the other area of focus is to clean-up the flower beds. Cindy stated that she had reached out to Cindy Gardner and Rhonda Rimes of the Missouri Conservation Department to get feedback on the movement to restore the flower beds. Cindy commented that Cindy Garner had shared that it appears some of the plants appear to be unique to this area and took samples. Lastly, Jason shared that he had recently met with Greg Cassell from the Conservation Department to talk about cleaning up some of the vegetation and downed trees. Greg also suggested putting in fire lines and fixing the access road for emergency purposes.
4. The next item on the agenda was the update on campground improvements. Cindy explained that they were finished with phase four at the campground and this phase focused on upgrading RV

sites on the front row of the rally section by Scotty's Trout Dock. Cindy then stated campground manager Jim Dikes, was reporting that he had already seen an increase in demand for those sites.

5. The next item on the agenda was the update of summer programs. Jason stated that youth baseball and softball and adult softball were off and running. Additionally, Day Camp would be starting on June 1 and we are already at capacity six of the ten weeks. Jason added that the swim team had already started practicing and that the adult soccer league would be starting soon.
6. The next item on the agenda was the park tour in June. Cindy explained that typically a park tour was taken on an annual basis in June to be able to get out and survey the condition of the parks. Bob stated that Cantwell Park is looking really good and that use of the park seems to have increased recently. Cindy commented she was happy to hear that as we have experienced some recent vandalism in that park, and maybe a larger number of people using the park will deter that type of behavior.
7. The next item on the agenda was a Parks and Recreation Update. Jamie asked how the pickle ball demonstration went. Jason stated that it went well and there were several of our regular walkers who joined in. Cindy stated that her goal is to have the tennis court at Alexander Park resurfaced and lined to accommodate pickle ball. Jamie then asked how the dog park was doing and Cindy responded that the users of the park seem to really enjoy it and that we were getting great reviews.

#### Member's Reports

1. Mica Farley shared with the board that she felt that the spring soccer program had gone really well, despite of all the rain, and especially praised the communication between the department and participants.
2. Mica Farley then shared that she recently had been to a park in Nixa and observed several benches and she thought that the Parks Department should look into placing more benches at Stockstill Park and possibly other parks. Cindy stated that coincidentally they had just been donated 12 benches and 30 matching trash cans from Tanger Mall that will soon be placed in various parks. Cindy then shared that she had recently been in communication with a citizen who lives near Murphy Park, who was interested in putting in a community garden in the Murphy Park area. Cindy explained that after receiving the request, she had been able to send out an e-mail inquiry to various parks department across the state to see if they have policies and procedures as to community gardens in city parks. Russ Hendricks shared that the Bridge of Faith church in Rockaway Beach had put in a community garden and Pastor Johnathon would be a good source for information. Mica stated that she had found a large amount of information online regarding community gardens too. Cindy added that to be successful, this type of project had to be driven by the community. She said she would keep the board updated.
4. Julie Wolfe asked about the status on the new no smoking in the parks signage. Cindy explained that they were in the process of placing the signs in the parks and had put up 12 signs at various locations at the RecPlex.
5. Bob Simmons shared that he observed during his recent trip to Mt. Dora, Florida that pickle ball was extremely popular and that they had recently added more courts during their recent revitalization.

Meeting adjourned 6:15pm

## **Branson Parks & Recreation Update (6/16/15)**

Park and campground staff recently completed AED and hands only CPR training with Battalion Chief Mike Novak. Fire Marshall Dennis Brunner gave a demonstration on fire extinguisher operation to the campground staff.

Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints from the Arkansas-Bentonville Mission are assisting the park's department with various projects this summer. So far the group has assisted with the redecking of a fishing dock at the campground. The decking materials were partially funded by a sustainability grant. In addition, the group painted the pavilion at Alexander Park.

Staff from the Park's Department attended the Leadership and Frontline Training conducted through the Legacy Organization on April 13-14.

Clean-up work continues at the Owen's homestead in preparation for the September 25-26 Pioneer Days. Volunteers from CFS Engineers removed plywood at the Owen's Homestead to install a poly carbonate material (like plexiglass) over the windows and doors. In addition, clean-up work has started on the flower beds. Missouri Department of Conservation Community Forester Cindy Garner and Natural History Biologist Rhonda Rimer recently met staff at the park to take plant samples to better identify plant material as we move to-ward restoring the flower beds. According to the Conservation Dept., some of the plants only occur on this site and nowhere else in Missouri.

Stockstill Park is getting a mini facelift just in time for summer. Several of the trees in the park and along the walking path were trimmed. New mulch has been hauled in around the pavilion. Landscaping around the scorekeepers stand was removed and replaced with river rock. New benches that were donated from Tanger Mall are being added to the park. The parking lot is being restriped by the Public Work's staff.

The trees along the north side of the walking path at Sunset Park were recently trimmed with the help of the Public work's staff.

Final field renovations are being completed at Alexander Park in anticipation of the USSSA Ozark Classic NIT Softball Tournament. This tournament, scheduled for June 18-21, will be the largest tournament we have ever hosted with nearly 120 teams expected to participate. Due to a shortage of fields, Alexander Park was renovated to use for this event. Games will also be played at the Branson RecPlex, Stockstill Park and the Branson High School.

The USSSA 10U AA Missouri State Baseball Tournament is being held in Branson June 18-21 with 32 teams from around the state are competing in this event.

Summer programs are in full swim. The popular Day Camp program is at capacity with 75 youth attending each week. Last week they visited the Titanic and Rutledge Wilson Farm and this week trips include Branson Zipline and Mini Golf.

The Branson Waves Swim Team is in full gear with practices each morning 6:45am-9:00am at the AquaPlex. Nearly 110 swimmers are currently participating in the summer swim program. So far they have completed in swim meets at Siloam Springs, AR and Webb City.

A junior golf clinic was held June 9-10 at Ledgestone Country Club and Don Gardner Par 3 Golf Course. Cindy Shook led the clinic with over 50 boys and girls participating. The goal of the clinic is to provide basic instruction on the fundamentals of golf and give them an opportunity to play.

Tennis clinics are being offered for youth Stockstill Park this week with Maggie Givens providing the instruction.

Swim lessons began with week at the pool. A new evening swim lesson class was added this year and both sessions have filled up.