

ADVISORY PARK BOARD

Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 5:15 p.m.
Branson RecPlex – 1501 Branson Hills Parkway – Branson, MO

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order.
- 2) Approval of November 19, 2019 Minutes.
- 3) Presentation of Financial Report.
- 4) Presentation of 2020 Activity Guide.
- 5) Year End Campground Information.
- 6) Introduction of Tree Keeper Program.
- 7) Update on Winter Projects.
- 8) Update on Recent Special Events.
- 9) Member’s Report.
- 10) Adjourn.

Where Values are the Difference

JANUARY: VISION

Planning for the future and encouraging growth

Park Board Minutes
November 19, 2019

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Jamie Whiteis, Julie Wolfe, Clark Harris, Scott McCaulley, David Parish, Garrett Vanderpool and Scott Wuest

Members Absent: Bob Simmons and Andrew Brown,

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Amy Jackson and Marsha Fulton

Guests: Kristina Hagey and Tara Alphonso

The meeting was called to order by Candy Sullinger. Jamie Whiteis made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated October 15, 2019. Scott McCaulley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Cindy opened the meeting by introducing the guests, Kristina Hagey, Chairperson for the Branson Sports Task Force, and Terra Alphonso, Director of Sports Marketing and Development for Branson Lakes Area CVB.

Kristina Hagey thanked the Board for allowing her to speak as a guest, and then provided the Park Board with a brief history of the various studies and initiatives that have taken place in the last ten years to build more sport facilities in Branson. Kristina shared that her daughter is a softball player that she grew up playing in the Branson Park and Recreation leagues, before joining a more competitive traveling team. She is now being recruited as a college softball player. Kristina stated that this experience had led her to get involved with the Sports Funding and Development Advisory Task Force, which is now focusing their efforts behind passing a park and storm water tax to fund improvements in the community. In order to gain community feedback and input, they will be hosting upcoming town hall meetings on December 2nd in Ward 1 at the Radisson Hotel, on December 3rd in Ward 2 at the Branson RecPlex and on December 5th in Ward 3 at the Pointe Royale Club House. Kristina went on to explain that the feedback they receive from the meetings will determine how they proceed. She explained that they were hoping for the initiative to be well received and be able to then take the results to the City of Branson Board of Alderman meeting in December. At that meeting, the Sports Task Force would be asking the Board to allow the tax initiative to be placed on the April ballot. Kristina explained that they were looking at either a ¼ or ½ cent tax for just parks and storm water. The tax would allow for a sustainment plan and could be used for staffing to infrastructure needs. Kristina concluded by thanking the board for listening and stated she would e-mail the town hall meeting flyer to the board. Candy thanked her for the information.

Business:

1. The first item from the agenda was a presentation by new Landscape Specialist, Amy Jackson. Amy introduced herself to the board and gave them an overview of her education and

work experience. Amy shared that as of September 16, she had joined the Park's Department in the new position of Landscape Specialist after transferring from the Planning Department. She stated that her main priorities are ... Tree maintenance plan, tree inventory, etc. Amy then went on to share information about the new Tree Keepers program that she is rolling out to the community as a volunteer opportunity. The main purpose of the Tree Keeper program is to encourage public involvement in the enhancement of our community as it relates to tree planting, care and maintenance. Amy passed out a flyer that provides details about volunteer opportunities, which also includes an adopt-a-flowerbed and an adopt-a-trail initiative. Amy shared that she was also looking at the possibility of recognizing members of the community for more than just landscaping that go above and beyond as it relates to Examples include installing a raid garden in an area that ponds, stalling pervious surface that would allow better drainage, planting native Missouri plants. Jason then added that Amy is a great resource for the maintenance staff as well, explaining that she has the ability to educate the staff on plant species and proper care. Cindy added that this was a great opportunity to be able to start a position from scratch and be able to build off of it, sometimes requiring that many hats be worn. Amy then added that she was also hoping to build on the Arbor Day program hoping to involve the local schools more. David asked if the tree keeper flier was on the website. Cindy confirmed that she had put it on the website, adding that it was located under volunteer opportunities.

2. The next item on the agenda was the presentation of the October financial report. Cindy opened this item by sharing with the board that Stacy McAllister, the Assistant Finance Director, had given the department some very positive feedback in reference to the report. Cindy then pointed out that the campground was doing very well despite a couple of high water events. Cindy added the City had just received a payment in the amount of \$2,621.00 from FEMA for the 2015 flood that is reflected in other revenues. Jason then went on to point out that at the RecPlex revenue was up, largely due to gate admissions, while expenses were down, a trend that was wonderful to see. Cindy added revenue is up at the Dog Park as well as the tennis cost center, which reflect revenue from pickleball.

3. The next item on the agenda was an update on the capital improvement projects. Cindy reminded the board that the presentation to the Board had been in August and she was very pleased to announce that the Park's Department had five projects approved for 2020.

- Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Roark Creek Trail, which reflects 1900 linear feet of trail expansion. Jason provided a map of the proposed new trail, which extends past the Ledbetter property to the Johnson Property.
- Cantwell Park retaining wall. Cindy shared that this project will include the replacement of the retaining wall that support the basketball court.
- Sandblasting and painting of the campground shower house. Cindy explained that much like the pool sandblasting that was completed earlier this year, it is necessary to sandblast the shower house to maintain the appearance.
- Replacement of the trash truck. Cindy shared that they would be replacing the trash truck with a flatbed truck with a dump bed that will better overall better usage for the department.

4. The next item on the agenda was the presentation of the park map that breaks down residential density in relationship to city park locations. Cindy reminded the board that Clark had suggested at the last meeting that they look into getting a population map of Branson to compare to where current parks were located. Cindy stated that Curtis Copeland had been great to work with and to be able to provide the map for the board to review. Scott McCauley asked if the tax that Kristina Hagey had discussed were to pass if it could be used to purchase property for additional parks. Jamie confirmed that the tax could be used to purchase land, adding that he too was on the Branson Sports Task Force. Scott McCauley then stated that the ability to provide parks could be what could push the tax over the top. Clark then asked if in the past there had ever been a master parks plan done. Cindy indicated that a master plan had not been completed since the RecPlex was built and although it had been submitted as a capital project in the past, it was currently unfunded. Clark indicated that he thought this could be very helpful moving forward.

5. The next item on the agenda was the update on upcoming special events. Cindy shared with the board the numerous upcoming special events, including a state qualifying archery tournament, the 2nd annual Benefit the Badge pickleball tournament and Breakfast with Santa. In addition, the Adopt-A-Senior program at the Community Center was well underway. Cindy went on to share that they would be looking for partners to help deliver gifts, in case anyone on the board was interested.

6. The next item on the agenda was the cancellation of the December Park Board meeting. Candy explained that in previous years they were unable to get a quorum for December so if no one had any objections they would be cancelling the December meeting. With no objections or additional comments the board moved to cancel the December meeting.

Member's Report

1. Clark stated that the posted hours on the bathrooms was helpful for runners to be to know what bathrooms were available for use

2. Julie Wolfe stated that she was down at Stockstill several times a week and she wondered if there was any way to notify schools when there had been flooding, which may impact their field trips. Cindy explained that while there were press releases and other media coverage on the impact of flooding on the park, but unfortunately not everyone knows ahead of time. Cindy added that many schools just show up in a bus at the park, without reserving anything, so there is not an opportunity for communication ahead of time.

3. Scott Wuest stated that he had just learned about the adopt-a-senior program and he was wondering if it was something that the Chamber may be able to help getting the word out on to all their members. She responded that was a good idea and she would follow up.

Garrett made a motion to adjourn. Julie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned 6:55pm

UNAUDITED

Parks & Recreation Program Cost Analysis 91% OF 11 MONTH as of November 30, 2019 FY 2019, PERIOD 11

Program	Program Revenues	Program Revenues	Program Expenditures	Program Expenditures	Operating Rev (Exp)	Operating Rev (Exp)
	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	2019 YTD	2018 YTD
Administration	-	-	377,154	359,604	(377,154)	(359,604)
Capital	-	-	5,800	66,772	(5,800)	(66,772)
Community Center	27,941	28,287	76,765	68,195	(48,825)	(39,909)
Recreation Complex					-	-
RecPlex	284,550	249,087	512,540	528,290	(227,990)	(279,203)
Concessions	186,097	188,709	136,157	136,833	49,940	51,876
Tournaments	60,784	49,388	1,621	13	59,163	49,374
Dog Park	6,860	5,749	3,042	4,527	3,818	1,222
Day Camp	63,335	60,878	65,224	66,340	(1,889)	(5,462)
Pool	116,756	118,667	144,864	130,790	(28,108)	(12,123)
Swim Team	10,786	18,668	16,681	23,291	(5,895)	(4,623)
Golf Course	-	15,108	444	36,377	(444)	(21,269)
Campgrounds	863,526	775,930	306,899	311,653	556,627	464,278
Special Events/Programs	12,385	12,028	9,276	13,004	3,109	(977)
Cheerleading	-	-	-	11	-	(11)
Total Facilities/Other	1,633,019	1,522,497	1,656,467	1,745,700	(23,448)	(223,203)
Adult Basketball	8,745	7,385	17,720	16,417	(8,975)	(9,032)
Adult Volleyball	4,475	5,050	9,122	9,471	(4,647)	(4,421)
Adult Softball	2,425	2,919	1,327	3,389	1,098	(470)
Tennis	4,808	2,135	2,233	2,810	2,575	(675)
Youth Baseball	36,775	37,615	34,291	35,589	2,484	2,026
Youth Basketball	29,345	32,505	30,755	29,353	(1,410)	3,152
Youth Soccer	41,048	45,858	32,396	32,399	8,651	13,458
Youth Volleyball	6,690	6,960	9,262	9,035	(2,572)	(2,075)
Adult Football/Soccer	-	-	-	2,065	-	(2,065)
Total Ball Programs	134,310	140,426	137,106	140,528	(2,796)	(102)
Parks	9,868	-	502,451	433,977	(492,583)	(433,977)
Liberty Plaza	-	-	10,188	11,374	(10,188)	(11,374)
Total	1,777,197	1,662,924	2,306,211	2,331,579	(529,014)	(668,656)
Other Revenues:						
Cigarette Tax	70,690	66,031	-	-	70,690	66,031
Other Revenues	10,744	69,723	-	-	10,744	69,723
Transfer/Landscape	-	0	-	-	-	-
Transfer/General	816,238	742,500	-	-	816,238	742,500
Total	2,674,869	2,541,177	2,306,211	2,331,579	368,658	209,598

Administration Expense is
16%
of the Total Expense

UNAUDITED



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: January 17, 2020
Contact: Amy Jackson, Landscape Specialist
Office 417-337-8568
ajackson@bransonmo.gov

Parks Department to Offer New TreeKeepers Program

BRANSON, Mo – The Branson Parks & Recreation Department is proud to announce a new program known as TreeKeepers for citizens who are interested in becoming more knowledgeable about urban tree planting and tree care and to help beautify the Branson community.

This program will offer volunteers an opportunity to take part in hands-on and classroom presentations led by experienced staff, as well as assisting the Parks Department with tree planting, watering, pruning and other basic tree care. TreeKeepers will also play a vital role in reforestation efforts and community education on the benefits of trees.

To learn more about the TreeKeepers program, please attend an informal drop-in orientation that is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2020, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Branson Community Center, located at 201 Compton Dr.

This program will consist of meeting for 2 hours each month (March through December) to assist with tree projects in various City parks and trails. Volunteers will also be encouraged to attend a training seminar on Thursday, February 27, 2020, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This scheduled training will include presentations by several distinguished arborists including retired Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Forester Duane Parker, former MDC Urban Forester and Ecologist Perry Eckhart and MDC Resource Forester, Stephen Short.

For more information on this program or other Parks volunteer programs, contact Landscape Specialist Amy Jackson at 417-337-8568 or visit our website at <http://www.bransonparksandrecreation.com/673/Volunteer-Opportunities> and click on the flyer.

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