

Park Board Minutes
August 18, 2004

Member's present: Candy Sullinger, Mitch Holmes, Jeff Justus, Joe McDowell, Mark Sill, Wes Stoner, Kent Vanderpool and Tim Finestead.

Member's absent: Bev Martin and Julie Wolfe.

Staff present: Cindy Shook, Deanna Schlegel, Larry VanGilder, Shari Risley and Frank Schoneboom.

After a correction to the July minutes to indicate the need for signage marking fields #1 and #2 and not naming of the fields at Alexander Park, Joe McDowell made a motion to approve the July minutes. The motion was seconded by Mitch Holmes. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The financial report dated June 30, 2004, was presented by Finance Director Deanna Schlegel. Deanna asked if anyone had any questions about the financial and Cindy said she noticed a new Recreation Center line item had been added. Deanna replied there were some expenditures that could not be identified other than to the new center that made it necessary to add the item. Deanna noted golf revenue was up and campground revenue continued to hold steady with last year. Joe asked if campground expenses were down a little, Deanna agreed they were down some. She said you would see a gradual decrease to campground expenses next year, and Cindy said that many of the maintenance requirements did not change even with half the campground. Deanna said expenses were up at Stockstill and Cindy said that is due to the addition of the new skate park and soccer field facilities. Deanna added that, overall, expenses were down about \$100,000 due to Capital Projects. Mitch asked if it looked like the golf course would continue to lose \$50,000 forever? Cindy replied that she has spent time analyzing the golf course expenditures due to the amount of subsidy that is required. She added that we cannot reduce the chemical and fertilizer expenditures necessary to maintain the course. The other main expense is the labor to maintain the course, which can be divided into two categories. The primary labor is from the contracted greens keeper, along with supplemental help from Public Works. She stated that the allocations from Public Works are usually looked at on a yearly basis. In addition, since the Par 3 golf course is in reality a "5-hole" course, it will only bear so much in greens fees. Joe asked about the increase in expense at Sunset Park and Cindy answered that it is due to the capital expenditure of the disc golf course. She reported that Steven Poe had been involved greatly in the design and construction up until now and due to illness in his family was unable to continue, but would get a list of contact persons in Springfield for her. Cindy said facilities maintenance had placed the tee signs for the course and they looked great. Candy Sullinger asked if there were any more questions and thanked Deanna for her report.

1. The second agenda item was an update on the recreation center complex. Cindy told the members that she and Larry VanGilder had just viewed the site this afternoon and she passed around some photos showing the work in progress. She said the "deep end" of the pool is being formed up and the pool is progressing ahead of schedule. Cindy said that setting the steel had been pushed out about a week and about 50% of the under-slab of the building is complete. She said the sub-grade for the soccer field was complete and one more week should see the blasting completed for removal of the rock. Joe asked what the status was with the issue of the over-blasting that Cindy had related in the July meeting and Cindy said that it was not resolved at this

time. The tie-in of Branson Hills Parkway Road has begun, all rock is being moved from the site and the road project bid will be awarded later this month. Candy thanked Cindy for her report.

2. Cindy gave the board a demonstration of the park's new website. Cindy told the board that a professional designer who was an acquaintance of hers had volunteered to donate the time to design the website. In addition, photographer Mitchell Mease had assisted by providing photos. Cindy reviewed the web page with various links to parks, community center, youth and adult programs, including pictures and narratives written by staff members. The site will have a link to view progress of the new recreation center complex and will be updated regularly. The site will have fee schedules, registration forms to download for programs, and rental applications for the community center. Candy asked when we would be on-line with the new page and Cindy said probably by the end of the week. The site also includes information for special events, trails and walking paths, along with a site-map for the parks, which was done by Curtis Copeland in the Engineering Department.

4. Cindy reviewed the FYI items, including the recreation department update. Cindy asked if the members had heard the radio commercials on KRZK advertising the beginning construction of the new recreation center in Branson Hills? The second part of the commercial advertises current programs. The members discussed the benefits of on-line registration through the website and Cindy said perhaps it had not been promoted enough and might need to be reconsidered. Wes asked about ways to monitor traffic to the website? Cindy said she thought there would be a way to know how many hits the sites gets. Wes asked if links could be exchanged with other organizations and Cindy said Frank had been overseeing the website renovation for the City of Branson and had commented on the need to have links to Branson Landing and other sites. Frank said that one of the things he would like to see would be links through the website to applicable sites in the Branson community.

Cindy gave a brief update on the master trail plan. Cindy stated that project had stalled somewhat, as they are trying to vacate Cahill Drive to the new owners and have had some delay in obtaining the easement from Skaggs. Skaggs has agreed to possibly help construct the trail. Another setback to the project has been the loss of both the assistant city engineer, who was overseeing this project, and an inspector in the Engineering Department. On the positive side, it was recommended to City Council that another \$100,000 be allocated to the project, bringing the total to \$200,000.

Member's Report

1. Mark Sill said that at the last meeting it was mentioned there were concerns from tennis players about the master trail running behind the Stockstill tennis courts. Mark stated that he went down and asked some tennis players about the issue and that they were excited about getting the trails started. Mark said that he had been told that the east end of the far court showed some sinking on the back corner. Cindy said that some cracks had been filled but was not aware of a problem with that area but would check that out.

2. Jeff Justus requested follow-up to questions brought up by members be made prior to the next meeting. Cindy stated that she would be happy to accommodate as long as she is made aware that an answer is requested prior to the next Park Board meeting. Jeff reported that he had had several inquiries as to when the next "Full Moon Walk" would be and that he would be happy to lead that. Jeff stated that November or December would be great, even though it might be a bit chilly. Cindy said that she would check on the exact dates and get back to him. Wes Stoner asked if, as a follow-up to Jeff's request, Cindy had e-mail addresses for everyone and that it