

Park Board Minutes
November 17, 2009

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Joe McDowell, Kenny Garrison, Julie Wolfe, Gabe Miller and Kent Vanderpool

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Preston Peper, Marsha Fulton, Lori Helle, and Jamie Rouch

Julie Wolfe made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes from September 15, 2009. Joe McDowell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. Candy Sullinger called the meeting to order. Cindy Shook introduced Lori Helle, City of Branson Finance Director, and Jamie Rouch, Assistant Finance Director. Jamie reviewed the report and stated that 2009 was a better year financially than last year, adding that Cindy and her department had done a good job keeping the expenses down while at the same time revenue was up. Cindy stated that the fee increases at the campground and golf course made a difference and we are excited, in particular, about the campground revenues. Lori Helle commented how the transfer from the General Fund was at a higher level this year to create a reserve, adding that General Fund requirement is 20%, however in the past we were not at the 20%.

2. Next on the agenda was the campground update. Cindy stated that due to the flooding that was experienced in October at the campground, RV's had to be evacuated and they were held off the front two rows for 10 days. This resulted in a financial loss of over \$11,000. In addition, Cindy stated that campers planning on staying for an extended period (multiple weeks) cancelled their remaining unpaid days/weeks and left plus many campers that had immediate reservations called and cancelled. Cindy went on to describe that the Corp of Engineers was releasing water during that time which kept the water level on the rise. Kent asked if FEMA reimbursed for loss of revenue? Cindy said that they did not as there is no actual damage, just loss of revenue.

3. The next agenda item was the Stockstill Park update. Cindy reported that the park flooded again on October 30 and a cleanup day was held on November 6. She added that this flood wasn't nearly as bad as some of the past floods and the park is nearly restored at this time. Unfortunately, Roger Hunzeker had been doing a lot of grading in the park to help with drainage issues and that work had to be redone. Joe McDowell had questions regarding the money for Stockstill and how it was reimbursed by FEMA. Cindy stated that FEMA reimbursed at 85% on the flooding from 2008 and that was income reflected on the financial report. However, there would be no funding relief for this year's flood, due to the fact that it was not declared.

4. The next on the agenda was capital improvements. The discussion on this item was postponed until the December as two park board members needed to leave for a meeting.

5. The next on the agenda was a discussion item regarding how youth teams are formulated. Cindy told the board that teams are either drafted with the individual entries or an entire team is allowed to enter and then placed in a team or competitive division. Cindy stated that most of the board is aware that the process to put together youth teams is an ongoing source of conflict and frustration

and she went on to give several examples. Cindy stated that her department's number one goal is that every child that wants to be placed on a team and participate in youth sports may do so. It is also our goal to create parity among the leagues to minimize lopsided games. When the RecPlex was built in 2005, it gave the department an opportunity to create both recreational and team or competitive divisions in youth baseball and basketball. Cindy reported that the system is working fairly well and has eliminated some of the problems. Issues arose recently in the fall recreational soccer league when some coaches demanded to be allowed to enter their entire teams into the league. There is not a team option for soccer as the skill level and number of participants does not support it. Cindy went on to describe how a compromise was worked out as a trial during the season as the team entries were allowed to enter but required to move up a division after one half of the season if there were lopsided games. Preston commented that while in theory moving up the teams after half the season appears to be a good idea, it does create problems due to the different field sizes and different ball sizes. Preston thought that it would have been better to move the teams up right from the start so that there is not that adjustment. Kenny Garrison commented that a group of girls that play in the 3rd & 4th grade league that are all 3rd graders could not compete with a team of 5th and 6th grade girls. Cindy said that the problem is trying to keep an entire team together many times creates an unfair competitive advantage when playing against a drafted team. Cindy stated that she supports a rule that when team entries are not available, those coaches who insist on bringing an entire team into the league rather than comply with the draft system be moved up a division. Gabe Miller stated that as long as the RecPlex was up front and set reasonable expectations, that we should stick to our guns as that is what parents and coaches appreciate. Kenny Garrison stated that the department had the board's support.

Meeting adjourned 6:15 pm