

**EXCELSIOR SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 27, 2018**

**THIS IS A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON APRIL 24, 2018**

The Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Department Board meeting held March 27, 2018 was called to order by President Reggie St. John at 1800 hours.

Roll call was taken with eight board members present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President – Reggie St. John; Sherri Branson-Hurt, Treasurer; Patrick Halfhill; Lynette Manley; Jake Simmons; Scott Smith-Vice President; Susan McAuliffe; Don Ledford

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christy Marker

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nate Williams, Director; Chad Clevenger, Parks Superintendent; Denise Bedford, Senior Center Administrator

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON:** Sharon Powell

**VISITORS:** Mayor Brad Eales; Brenda Eales; Gary Sanson

Mayor Eales spoke during visitor forum. Stated last meeting he attended was a big discussion on social media issue. Supports Nate 100% and he has done his due diligence in his job. Social media has become a bully once again.

Susan McAuliffe made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Don Ledford seconded the motion, motion passed, 8 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 8 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Patrick Halfhill, Lynette Manley, Jake Simmons, Reggie St. John, Scott Smith, Susan McAuliffe, Don Ledford Nays – 0

Don Ledford made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2018 Parks and Recreation Board meeting as presented. Susan McAuliffe seconded the motion, motion passed, 8 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 8 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Patrick Halfhill, Lynette Manley, Jake Simmons, Reggie St. John, Scott Smith, Susan McAuliffe, Don Ledford Nays – 0

The Financial Report was discussed. Nate Williams asked the Board if the financial information included in the packet was what they wanted. Consensus of the board was that the information was satisfactory. Scott Smith stated the budget work is paying off as the end of year projection is higher than any previous years at this time. Update on the Department's new truck is that it was delivered, but will not be reflected until next month. Line item will also change, but will not affect the overall budget.

After questions were asked and answered about the Financial Report, Susan McAuliffe made the motion to accept the Financial Report dated February 28, 2018 and prepared March 1, 2018. Sherri Branson-Hurt seconded the motion, motion passed, 8 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken: Ayes – 8 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Patrick Halfhill, Lynette Manley, Jake Simmons, Reggie St. John, Scott Smith, Susan McAuliffe, Don Ledford Nays – 0

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Luna Valley Park had some spray paint and permanent marker vandalism. Police have contacted the Department. Have not heard from Police or family of child that was reported to be the vandal. Department has ordered a new cleaning solution that will hopefully remove everything.

Staff has been working on the new Gazebo #1 at East Valley Park.

The Senior Center is working to get a volunteer base together to deliver hot meals to the homebound participants. Going to contact local churches. Spring Delivery is interested in helping with the high rises downtown.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Will be scheduling a revenue committee meeting within next month or so.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Century Park: The houses are waiting for Public Works to demolish them. Asbestos has been abated. Fire and Police have utilized the homes for some training. The pile of dirt is from the playground area at Century Park. Hopefully it can be used for fill for the basements. The rock that was ordered one month ago and has now been delivered. This will be used for a new retaining wall.

## NEW BUSINESS

The turkey vultures seem to have relocated at this point. They do circle the trees, but do not land. It looks like three out of the five turkey vultures that were hung in the trees are now missing. Sherri Branson-Hurt reported she saw a post on Facebook between Cathy Johnson and Kerry Jones that were discussing locating the birds along the ridge in the woods. As permits are required to handle these birds, this is a federal offense and the Department will be working with Police to file a report. This will be treated as vandalism to the park. We can obtain more birds from the USDA-APHIS if needed. One of those individuals has requested through the Freedom of Information Act copies of the permits from the Department. The Isley Park Woods is designated a natural area to protect the rare flowers that grow on the hillside. In the end it is still City property and we can do what we would like, but the designation is in place to deter development in that area. By removing the turkey vultures it should actually bring more plant and wildlife to the natural area that were not present with the large turkey vultures present. There is no probability of losing the designation of the natural area due to relocating the turkey vultures out of the park area. One argument was that Winefest was the only reason we are relocating them and we are doing it for money, but the Department makes nothing on that event as we do not charge a rental fee. However, DEP studies do show the event brings around \$50,000 to the local area with people staying in hotels, shopping, and dining in Excelsior. Susan McAuliffe walks the trail daily and for the longest time she believed it was raw sewage. There is more than one tree for the roost now that the roost has grown so much. There are no real health risks due to efficient stomachs of the birds, but there is a strong odor. Jake Simmons stated the roost has continued to grow and we had to figure out how to prevent this in the area and spread them out. It was pointed out that several of the residents travel to photograph birds, so why would this be treated different. The birds were not killed by the Parks and Recreation Department, but were obtained legally. Jake Simmons asked if we are going to obtain more birds. If roost begins to settle again, the Department will look to get more from the USDA but they will probably not come from Kansas City. There is no fee associated with obtaining these birds. Several local areas (Liberty and Smithville) have hung effigies and USDA-APHIS has never received any complaints like we have. Board members have been appalled by how Nate has been treated for helping make the community a great place. No opposition attended the meeting.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on February 23, 2018 and the deadline was March 12. Rob Meadows with Bobcorn was the only business to send in a bid for running concessions. The contract would require 5% of revenues being paid to the Department. The contract is for one year, but can be renewed up to three years.

Don Ledford made the motion to approve the Concession Services Agreement with Rob Meadows. Patrick Halfhill seconded the motion. Reggie St. John asked for a roll call vote to be taken. Motion passed, 8 - 0. Ayes – 8 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Patrick Halfhill, Don Ledford, Lynette Manley, Scott Smith, Susan McAuliffe, Jake Simmons, Reggie St. John  
Nays – 0

The Easter Egg Hunt is March 31 at the High School ballfields. Talented Tots has partnered with the Department again this year for the event. We will be offering an Assistance Area this year for any child that might need an aide or wheelchair.

A new BOOST Speed & Agility camp was offered tonight for free. The Department plans to offer another free camp at the end of the school year. We will be partnering with them to offer camps at a cost through the summer.

The Downtown Excelsior Springs Cleanup Day will be on April 21 in conjunction with the stream cleanup. Groups are already volunteering for this project and we anticipate over 100 volunteers this year. Nate plans to work with the Stormwater Coordinator in Public Works to put maps together of areas that need to be targeted during this event. Volunteers will meet at 9:00 AM at the Carolyn Schutte Pocket Park.

The City of Excelsior Springs is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation at Camp Doniphan from 2 to 6 that day for any volunteer from Board members to clean up help.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Jade has been working with the kids in Art at Westview to decorate swag bags for the Piccadilly by drawing their own versions of a splash park. Nate has been working with Bill Fry at Fry and Associates to get prices and splash park structures and will be working to go to the elementary schools to do a lesson with kids and get public input for what the children would like to see at our splash park.

Piccadilly donations are coming in and the bid items this year will be different than previous years with a focus on being a guest to follow the Piccadilly theme.

Susan McAuliffe made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jake Simmons seconded the motion. Motion passed, 8 – 0. A show of hands vote was taken. Ayes – 8 – Sherri Branson-Hurt, Patrick Halfhill, Don Ledford, Lynette Manley, Scott Smith, Susan McAuliffe, Jake Simmons, Reggie St. John  
Nays – 0

The March 27, 2018 Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 1903 hours.