

**St. Charles County Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Broemmelsiek Meeting Room
February 9, 2022**

Members Present: Yvonne Deyo, Nathan Goff, Larry Henderson, Ruth Mellor, Bill Wallace, and Robert Wohler

Absent: Will Klein, Terry Hollander, Shelley Machens & Eric Montgomery.

Department Staff Present: Ryan Graham and Mary Glascock

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by Chairperson Ruth Mellor.

A motion was made by Robert Wohler to approve the October 13, 2021 minutes as written. Larry Henderson provided a 2nd. All in favor 6/0 Minutes approved.

Board Communications:

Department report –

2021 recap:

- Park attendance decreased slightly from 2020 numbers, going from 4,552,044 to 4,344,672. This decrease could have been due to Riverside Landing being closed all year. Veterans, Quail, Broemmelsiek, Klondike and Missouri Bluffs were top 5 in attendance.
- Park revenue generated by reservations, camping, programs, etc. were up 53% over 2020 figures. Top earning parks were Quail, Lindenwood, Klondike, Broemmelsiek and Kinetic Park.
- All of this was achieved while the department was oftentimes short staffed. We hired 19 new/permanent full-time people this past year. This is just under 1/3 our total work force. Staff worked hard to ensure our parks remained open and as beautiful as ever.
- We established a Natural Resources Aquatic division, to help us maintain, improve, protect and utilize our aquatic resources within the county. I am excited to see all the developments this new effort will produce.

New park development:

- We renamed and rebranded the Youth Activity Park to Kinetic Park
- We developed and rolled out at the first of this year a new logo and slogan to give us an easily identifiable and distinct brand.
- We acquired new property. 12 acre donation on HWY K in O'Fallon and 199 acres purchase off West Meyer and Hwy Z in Wentzville. Park acreage up to 4,151
- We completed the new Skills Course at Kinetic Park, going from idea to finished product in under 5 months.

- We completed two major playground developments going from concept to opened in 8 months. We purchased and installed Flock safety cameras in nearly every park. This has doubled the amount of calls the Police Department has received from 2020 to 2021, but also helped decrease the number of reported incidents going from 112 in 2020 to 69 in 2021.
- New Shelters and restrooms at Quail, New Melle and Mo Bluffs.
- New Ropes Course at MO Bluffs.
- New Downhill Bike trails at Matson
- Expanded College Meadows Disc Golf Course to 18 holes.
- First rentals of Landhaus in February.
- Programs were up. New events occurred. We hosted our first national event with the world cup qualifier which was a great success.
- All of this done, despite our staffing challenges and other obstacles we faced. We faced flash flooding at ICC, severe thunderstorms that caused damage in our parks, and of course we saw the devastation that tornados caused our neighbors in the Defiance area. We rose to the challenges, we adapted, we repaired, and we assisted in the efforts to recover from the tornados.

Looking ahead for 2022:

- There are still challenges to address compensation, recruitment and hiring of both full time and part-time staff. I am working with HR to solve these problems.
- Our department's 25 year anniversary!!!
- New challenges, new projects, same level of excellence.
- New park opening in July 2022. Oglesby Park.
- Riverside Landing will be open this Spring.
- County's first Blueway opening from Lakeside 370 to Riverside Landing.
- New access at Flatwoods.
- New Shelter/event space at Matson Hill Park
- More downhill trails at Matson Hill Park
- Mo Bluffs park Group camp, trails and disc golf open
- New dock and development at Klondike Boat Ramp.
- New Playground, Splashpad and parking area at Kinetic Park
- New Feature exhibit at Heritage Museum – Revolutionary War in the West- opening in May.
- Further development of New Melle Lakes
- Hosting Red Bull World Qualifier again
- New reservation system
- More Programs, new opportunities.

Board Member Discussion:

Robert Wohler stated that Joe Cronin had mentioned a pump track or archery going in at new park. Ryan replied that we have not discussed any park amenities at this time. We are in the process of designing the park.

Bob also complimented the department on the greenway concept along Hwy f.

Bill Wallace inquired about the cabin upgrades at Klondike. The cabin upgrades have been postponed at this time.

Yvonne Deyo asked where the access and exits for the Blueway would be. There will be an access point at Lakeside 370 that will allow you to go to Riverside. Also, an access at Indian Camp Creek allowing you to go to Mette and onto Flatwoods

Park Foundation Report –the October meeting focused on a draft of a Strategic Plan for 2022-2027. Members reviewed and made suggestions for a second draft to be reviewed at the December 15th meeting

The Strategic Plan review in December focused on key elements to include increasing board membership, raising the profile of the Park Foundation to increase donations and establishing giving levels policy and recognition.

Board Member elections were held and the current officers will remain in place. Chairman - Ruth Mellor, Vice-Chair – Bob Pecoraro, Secretary – Debra Erickson and Treasurer – Charlie Sapp.

Next Foundation meeting is February 16 at the O’Fallon YMCA at 3 pm.

Old Business: n/a

New Business: n/a

Agenda items for April 2022 meeting – Presentation by Shane Creasy, NR Aquatics Supervisor

A motion was made by Bill Wallace to adjourn meeting. A second was provided by Robert Wohler. All in favor 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.