

## Greene County Commission

### Daily Briefing

**WEDNESDAY, March 30, 2016**

9:00 AM

County Commission Conference Room

933 N. Robberson

Attendees: Commissioners Cirtin, Bengsch and Bentley; Chris Coulter, Bob Belote, Jerry Mitchell, Jeff Scott and Marilyn Elsass.

### Items for Consideration and Action by the Commission

(None)

### Informational Items

#### 1. Parks Department—Bob Belote

- *Mr. Belote presented the Commission with the Park Bench outlining a variety of facilities the Parks Board supports and as well as presenting a copy of the annual budget.*
- *Bob highlighted priorities for the coming year as well as critical needs for personnel and some unfunded needs.*
- *Sales Tax accomplishments update since 2001.*
- *The Parks system began in 1913—103 years ago.*
- *Update on National Accreditation noting the National Conference will take place in the fall noting that Springfield is included in the 2% best locals in all the parks system.*
- *The Zoo is accredited and has been functioning for 25 years.*
- *The department looks at long term acquisition—the Parks Department has 10 historic parks and the department is working on the older neighborhoods.*
- *Update on Ozark Greenways—celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Ozark Greenways is calling 2016 the Year of the Trail.*
  - *June 4, 2016 is National Trails Day at South Creek and Wilson's Creek.*
  - *Update on South Dry Sac Trail/Fulbright Trail—looking at extending the trail.*
  - *Working on grant money to fund a "Trail of Honor" at the National Cemetery.*
  - *Mentioned their involvement with the Trail of Tears.*

*Commissioner Bengsch asked about the Equestrian and the role they play with persons with disabilities. The Commissioner has been told that 20 minutes of this program is equal to six months of traditional therapy. Commissioner Cirtin asked about advertising this facility. Mr. Belote states they will be hosting an event this summer. The local Equestrian program is doing extremely well and they have a 5 to 6 year old facility at the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center. If it continues at the growth rate they have seen, they will not have enough staff to handle operations.*

- *Mr. Belote said the department has had several inquiries regarding being able to serve alcohol at some events at the "Parks". The Parks does not own and/or operate any facility that allows alcohol. This may be a question that needs further discussion but he is not in favor of allowing all Parks facilities being able to add alcohol to the venue. They may want to look at allowing this in certain facilities or events, but not across the board.*
- *Update on sports tourism. i.e. Meador Park is recreational but is not able to host some State sponsored events there due to the need for repair/updates. The Parks need to be able to attract State Championship events which will boost the local economy. They are researching an impact study to review economics based on traffic to see if Springfield-Greene County Parks would be considered a competitive venue if the Parks are maintained properly.*
- *The Parks Department needs to reinvest in the Golf facilities as well being able to use the facilities for other events. I.e. Using buildings for receptions etc.*

- *Friends of the Zoo update. This is 40% of the Parks income.*
- *Davis property has been a welcomed addition and appreciates the fund raisers, rentals, archery program at the national level in putting the grounds to good use.*
- *The Parks will work with the County on the Kansas Expressway expansion for possible additional programs.*
- *Update on staff—no additional staff have been added.*

*Commissioner Bengsch asked about the sales tax for Law Enforcement regarding projects that are not being funded by the Sunset Law.*

- *Update of the Missouri University Extension lease renewal at the Botanical Center located in the Nathanael Greene Park. They are working at making the lease current/up to date.*
- *Update on the festival at Wilson's Creek as well as the Japanese Fall Festival. The Japanese Fall Festival has set a record.*
- *Mr. Belote states the department needs additional parking and roadway.*
- *Health and Wellness Program update.*

*Commissioner Cirtin complimented Mr. Belote and the Parks Department on the facilities and what an important aspect these are to the community.*

*Commissioner Bengsch mentioned the home school baseball team. Mr. Belote states the Parks have 35 gymnasiums in the community which includes those in the local schools.*

## 2. Other Items

*Commissioner Cirtin:*

- *Commissioner Cirtin presented a letter of support from the City Clerk's office regarding the April 5 election. The Commissioners reviewed the request.*

*Chris Coulter:*

- *Chris mentioned the current article regarding the local homeless citizens and noting the rumor that the homeless may be ousted. Referrals are made to the Sheriff's office.*
- *Greene County Mayor's meeting Thursday evening in Battlefield.*