

Resolution Number 199
John Karel

Whereas, Tower Grove Park has experienced a remarkable transformation since John Karel became Park Director 25 years ago. The Park once again functions as a vital civic asset, strengthening the fabric of its many adjacent neighborhoods, the city as a whole, and the St. Louis region. Over 2.4 million people now visit the Park annually; and

Whereas, Under John's leadership, millions of dollars have been raised to restore the Park's historic and unique structures such as the Music Stand, the Piper Palm House, numerous pavilions, bridges, statues, entrances, and ponds. These structures and landscapes are alive with activity from music concerts to children playing in the wading pool at the Muckerman Fountain. Area residents run, bike, and walk on the miles of trails, picnic at the shelters, and simply enjoy visiting with friends and family in a beautiful and historic setting. Security has been enhanced with additional lighting and stronger ranger surveillance. The Park's trees, shrubs, and flowers are in far better health and condition; and

Whereas, John has encouraged and nourished a whole range of new programs and activities in the Park, including the children's concert series, the Friends Lecture Series, carriage rides, and special gatherings of all kinds; and

Whereas, John has also dramatically strengthened the Park's organizational infrastructure, so that Tower Grove Park can be sustained for generations to come. The Park's governing body, the Board of Commissioners, has been expanded and provides oversight and governance.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to commend John Karel for his remarkable leadership in the stewardship and revitalization of Tower Grove Park, and for building a solid foundation for its future and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 14th day of December, 2012 by:

Honorable Stephen J. Conway Alderman 8th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward

Adopted this the 14th day of December, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen