

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
PARK BOARD MEETING  
RIFAC Room 3  
Rock Island IL 61201

1/18/22– Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Fred Dasso called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Fred Dasso, Bill Anderson, Mike Foley, Venessa Taylor, John McEvoy

Members Absent: Judith Gilbert

Staff Present: John Gripp, Executive Director; Todd Winter, Assistant Director; Kimberly Kruse, Parks Administrative Office Manager; Daniel Gleason, Special Events and Grants Manager

Staff Absent: none

Audience: none

3. November Park Board Minutes

Mr. McEvoy motion to approve the minutes as written; Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

4. Thank you's from Seton Catholic and RI/Milan Boosters were recognized.

5. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of November

Finances through November have been promising. RIFAC continues to be low due to the Johnson Controls expenditures. Highland Springs looks like it is doing extremely well due to the full funding of the Clubhouse loan.

6. Approval of the Bills for the Month of November for \$51,096.83 and December for \$63,570.96.

Mr. Dasso: Aye Mr. Foley: Aye Mr. McEvoy: Aye Ms. Taylor: Aye  
Ms. Gilbert: Absent Mr. Anderson: Aye

7. Director's Report and other reports

John Gripp is the Interim City Manager however attended the Park Board meeting to give the Director report for this time.

Budget was presented to council. The Council awarded an additional \$60,000 to the budget to help off set minimum wages increases. They are sympathetic and aware of the challenges that this brings. The City had a great year in 2021. Interviews were done for the Finance Director. The position has been offered and accepted by Linda Barnes. City work continues for the Strategic Plan. There were no raises for 2021 but still had employees turn in evaluations and work on goals. There is a nationwide search underway for the City Manager position.

The Annual report was handed out and show the executive highlights of the department. At the February, staff will go over the action steps. Kent Towler has retired after 34 years. Jamie Riner has been promoted to his position. He is handling the challenges of the winter and RIFAC well. There is a meeting coming up to go over the Highland Springs Clubhouse and to see the indoor renderings. There has been a \$50,000 private donation and a \$5,000 from Plumbers and Pipefitters. Fundraising efforts are going well. Indoor golf lessons are underway.

Johnson Controls are in the process of replacing HVAC and steam leak in the dryer's area at RIFAC. There is a residential dryer in place for now until repaired. New boilers are in place and are much smaller than the old ones. The old one has to be taken apart and loaded out in parts. Memberships are starting to level out for signups versus cancellations. There have been almost 8,000 visits to RIFAC. Lifeguard training is done with a Davenport Instructor with the potential for some crossover. There is a major shortage of employees. There will be a meeting with the Orcas so they can practice at the pool. This will potentially provide some more lifeguards as well.

Chris and Tanner are working on winter projects. There has been quite a bit of tree work done in December as well as bunker work. Now it is more indoor work such as wheel grindings, painting and getting supplies through Bi-State. The old mule was sold for almost \$1,000 on the government auction site. Wood is currently for sale at Saukie.

Two new personal trainers have been hired for RIFAC. Christmas lights are up at Schwiebert Park. The basketball program starts this Saturday. Indoor golf and soccer camps are underway.

David and Marc are working on dugouts at the Complex. Heritage got the bricks done at Douglas Park. ADA bleachers are also done at Douglas Park. Greenhouse plants are up and going. The greenhouse is also now available for tours. New railings at Schwiebert Park are being put in to replace the cattle panels and are near completion. Seasonal burns were done in November.

## 8. New Business

### Backwater Gamblers Ski Tournaments

Motion by Mr. McEvoy to allow the request to close the park to the public to use on tournament days and waive the rental fee due to their dedication and funds put into the park location. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. All voted yes.

## Proposed Park Board Meeting Dates

Mr. McEvoy motioned to approved the dates. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. All voted yes.

## RIFAC Dumbbell Replacement

Staff recommends the Midwest Meatheads bid for replacement of dumbbells for \$9,420.00. Motioned by Mr. McEvoy. Seconded by Mr. Foley. All voted yes.

## Executive Summary

Todd presented the year end highlights. The theme this time was "Return to the Parks". This is summary is available upon request.

## 9. Other Business

Highland Clubhouse meeting is set with Estes Construction next week to get the bid process ready.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. McEvoy. Ms. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

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Kimberly B Kruse,  
Parks & Recreation  
Admin Office Manager