

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

1/19/21– 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, John McEvoy, Moses Robinson, Don Deleu

Members Absent: Kate Hotle

Staff Present: John Gripp, Parks Director; Todd Winter, Assistant Director; Marcus DeMarlie, Chief Horticulturist

Staff Absent: Kimberly Kruse, Parks Administrative Office Manager

Audience: none

3. Move to Item 11A: Marcus DeMarlie, Chief Horticulturist presentation

Mr. Anderson moved to go to Item 11A. Mr. Deleu seconded. All voted yes.

Marc handed out information about the burn program. In the spring, two acres of Sylvan Slough was burned for the first time in seven years. Attempting to renovate the park to it's initial intended use. Teamed up with Blackhawk State Park to assist each other to keep safety first with the burns. Rock Island County Forest Preserve helped with getting started for education and begin the burns. Burns themselves do not take long but it is necessary for bringing back native plants and have healthy growth. More time goes into the prep of alerting the community, safety concerns and winds. In the fall, burned about an acre at Lincoln Park and got the leaf litter and some by the wedding bowl but still too much frost. There was a lot of smoke but stayed above the houses.

Only one complaint came through on Facebook and it was addressed and educated about getting permits. Overall a very positive feedback in the community.

Pictures were available for reference.

Working on an Earth Day giveaway with seeds and education on pollinators. The scope of the event is dependent on Covid-19 restrictions.

It was very beneficial to be at a point to be able to do burns. Plants, calendar boxes, tables are all underway. The city greatly benefits from Marc's work.

4. December Park Board Minutes

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

5. Thank you from 31st Avenue Court was acknowledged for the Saukie dumpster. Installed since the citizens along the alley can't get a dump truck on the road.

6. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of November

All things consider, wrapped up pretty well. Still working on getting the 2020 numbers in. The revenue for the Johnson project sits in Admin and the expenditure is in RIFAC. The golf courses did really well despite the hurdles. Programming is back up as of yesterday.

Financials were reported to the board with a summary explanation of changes and discrepancies. There is a two month lag that will ensure that all revenues and expenditures are reported to give a more accurate look at the department financially.

7. Approval of the Bills for the Month of December for \$130,816.08.

Mr. Dasso: Aye Mr. Deleu: Aye Mr. McEvoy: Aye Mr. Robinson: Aye Ms. Hotle: Absent
Mr. Anderson: Aye

8. Director's Report and other reports

Met with First Tee rep to walk through the Highland Springs clubhouse and to develop a cost estimate for the new clubhouse. Todd met with the committee to further walk through the current facility. There is a necessity to have an Illinois presence and it also opens doors for grant funding for programs and overall proximity. A high majority of the First Tee board are for the project. Programming is back up. Heating issue with RIFAC, a temporary solution has been put in place since an overhaul of the system will be done later this year with the Johnson project. Work continues on the youth scholarships and financial assistance. We are going to be meeting with the MLK Center, Big Brother Big Sisters and other agencies to assist using as a referral to make the qualifying process easier. Working on the multi-use lighting bids for Douglas Park for Phase I. Will be working on the poles and lighting bids. Phase II will hopefully happen later this year. RIFAC is seeing an increase in use with the New Year's folks as well as people feeling more comfortable coming back. Staff is doing an excellent job of enforcing the guidelines and keeping the facility clean. David and his staff are working on the restrooms and the brick work and the ADA requirements at Douglas. Weber Sign is ready to go when it warms up enough. The final work will be completed as well on the Kiwanis Path.

Meeting with Spring Forward to pitch the plan for kids to use funds for scholarships. Other meetings will be scheduled with other agencies. Indoor programming had First Tee and Adult Golf Lessons going with an excellent turnout. Goal setting and hiring

underway for golf courses. Letters of requests to send out to passholders and regular golfers for potential donors. Golf courses made a profit with a great weather year and a significant reduction in expenses with the beginning of the pandemic. It brought people out to the golf courses again and revitalized the industry.

Ryan and Todd met to go over future goals for Whitewater Junction for repairs, fees and updates potential. Lifeguard training and preliminary prep for WWJ staff is underway already. Swim classes are back underway. Fred asked if the features are holding up. The exterior of the slides will be painted to spruce up and eventually updates in years to come. WWJ was built to figure in the ability to expand down the road. RIFAC aquatics aqua aerobics are starting up again.

The biggest impact was to sports programming with the changes in tier 2. Parents can now watch their children in limited amount.

Allowing people to pause their membership if they feel they are not comfortable coming back yet as masks will be required in the facility.

Golf Maintenance is ahead of schedule. Work to clear out more Ash trees are in the works as well. Chris has completed bunker work on hole 3. Just waiting on grass to grow and starting some on Hole 11 at Highland Springs. This fall, several stumps were ground down and will need more funds and time to get the rest.

Nikki and Dan planned a Grinch program around Christmas time. People could pay to have staff go around and put a grinch sign in the yard and eggs. Had over 200 houses sign up which was way more response than expected. A similar idea is being put together for Valentine's Day. A virtual Santa messages were done for kids as well. Indoor fitness classes started this week and it was a nice site to see activity in the building again. Schwiebert had a wonderful lighting display down throughout the park that looked really nice as a coop with CED and will be able to use year after year with the exception of the wreaths which will be replaced out each year. Kevin Horton and Dan Gleason did a nice Christmas concert that raised some funds for the scholarship fund. Carrie has worked hard to keep citizens up to date. It's been challenging but done an amazing job. Pete had a soccer group come called Soccer Shots to do a soccer skills program and put together a basketball camp. Basketball has started.

Marc and David are putting together staff procedures. Garage doors installed at Longview. All the seasonal jobs are posted. Mowing contract bid being updated and will go out in February.

9. New Business

Special Event Application: Easter Bunny Bash

Staff recommends approval of the Hollie Wittenmyer Easter Bunny Bash on April 3rd at Longview Park. Free community event for kids that is beneficial to do in conjunction with our events. Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Robinson. All voted yes.

Mower Approval

In order to stay efficient and less funds for maintenance, trade out mowers every three years. Staff recommends approval of a zero turn John Deere mower from River Valley Turf for \$6,100. Motion by Mr. McEvoy, seconded by Mr. Anderson. All voted yes.

Top dresser Approval

Spreader that will spread sand and fertilizers that will be shared between Highland Springs and Saukie. Aeration was not done this fall due to not having the equipment. Low bid was from Burress. The funds for this item do reside in the budget which is balanced. Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Deleu. All voted yes.

10. Old Business

COVID-19 are in Tier 1, Phase 4 litigations. No sauna or steam rooms or whirlpool.

Sunset Park has a large pile of storm debris and leaf bags. This was from Public Works as they did not have a place to put it but there is a contract in place to get it removed in the next few weeks. The contractor is a mulching company to get it all ground down.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager