

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
PARK BOARD MEETING
RIFAC, Room 5
Rock Island IL 61201

3/21/23– Minutes

updated

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

Members Present: Fred Dasso, Bill Anderson (virtual), Mike Foley, John McEvoy, Paul Hansen

Members Absent: Venessa Taylor

Staff Present: John Gripp, Executive Director; Todd Winter, Assistant Director; Kimberly Kruse, Parks Administrative Office Manager; Carrie Roelf, Marketing Manager

Staff Absent: none

Audience: none

3. Motion to move to 11A by Mr. McEvoy. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. All voted yes.

Carrie Roelf, Marketing Manager

Presentation available on request. Carrie presented about where she started and the progression of her 20 year career with parks starting in programming and growing from there and now focuses on marketing.

4. February Park Board Minutes

Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve the minutes as updated of Venessa was remote; Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

5. Thank you from the Rock Island County Children's Advocacy Center, QWQPT PBS and Read S'more were recognized.

6. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of January

Finances are through the end of January. They are preaudit. Park board maintenance will show a deficit until the first taxes are recognized in April. Recreation has a profit of \$9k due to programming revenue. Whitewater Junction is negative as there are maintenance and utility expenses ongoing during the off season. Highland Springs has a \$4k revenue with the proshop. Saukie winter greens are going well with having the

honor box. RIFAC is doing great with a very busy beginning to the year. Schwiebert is negative with regular utilities and maintenance. There is work with the City Manager being done to present better reporting. The audit process makes it difficult to see an accurate picture especially since most of our facilities do not open till April. It will be helpful to items split (such as depreciation and capital projects) and then forecast rather than monthly so splitting out taxes over 12 months as well. There is also a request to have a budget based reporting versus accounting. The notes need updated to be relevant. There was also an ask about the audit processes for some facilities that close before the end of the year. 60% of our funds are supported by revenues that parks generate. 30% is all that is tax supported. To put in comparison the national average for a parks department/district is 39% operations revenue and 61% is tax supported. The Parks Department is underfunded but operate at a higher level thanks to partnerships, sponsorships and other methods that allow to bridge that funding gap to a certain degree. There is a questionnaire out to city council asking for direction and will be following up on. This data will be compiled and a meeting with City Manager and then the park board and council of the findings. Rock Island has a several parks inventory for our population. One of the questions on the questionnaire will be asking if we should go to a park district.

7. Approval of the Bills for the Month of February for \$355,185.71

Mr. Dasso: Aye Mr. Foley: Aye Mr. McEvoy: Aye Ms. Taylor: Abs Mr. Hansen: Aye Mr. Anderson: Aye

8. Director's Report and other reports

Golf course lease equipment is out and working on a renewal with Finance. The prebid meeting being held for mowing contracts. First Tee meeting was held at the new Highland Springs clubhouse. They are very excited with the new building. Todd, Nikki and John met with the RIFAC architects for the ARPA funds projects for locker room renovations. The Firehouse has an RFP out to renovate per direction of the city council. This will evaluate the cost of renovation and a recommendation will be given to the city council. This was an initiative of due process before the building is torn down. *In 2005-2015, the firehouse was listed in CIP request projects but remained unfunded.* In 2016, the Watchtower Plaza wiped out all the General *should be Gaming* Funds which has not allowed for any CIP projects to be approved. The Firehouse has been on the list a long time and always overlooked and now at the point of no return and decay. Special Event and Grants coordinator evaluation was completed. Douglas Park lighting project will begin for the fields. Highland Springs clubhouse just has some finishing touches. Denkmann Park upgrade are underway and will be a complete renovation of the space. OSLAD Grant was awarded for \$300,000 for the Mel McKay pickleball courts.

The new Highland Springs clubhouse is down to the wire. It has cable and internet now. The first few weeks, golfers will be checking in at concessions due to the proshop counter not done yet. The concrete may be done this week depending on weather. The asphalt was done April 10th where the old clubhouse was. Both golf course will potentially open next week depending on weather.

Bids have been received back for equipment. The quotes are not prices that will work so working on what can be afforded. A request for demo equipment was given to try out and go from there. Individual pieces may be traded out instead over time.

The complex is being set up. Soccer Jamboree is this Saturday. The bleachers are put back up. Reservoir Field work is being done after being used as a staging area for the water plant construction. The green house is full of plants. The Calendar boxes are ready to go. They had to be replenished after losing most of them in transport damage. The shade structure at Longview as arrived and will be put in place of the old structure. Marc is doing mulching and equipment maintenance.

9. New Business

Grant Discussion – Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

This is an 80/20 math that would be installing an exterior path around Hodge Park. It must be a natural surface and \$2,000 towards a CPA. Labor can be used as a match. There are already some naturalized areas and will add to this along with some benches.

Staff recommends approval of the mowing contracts as listed in the park board packet. Finer Finish and Kymble Komplete Kare. Mr. McEvoy motioned. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

The Highland Springs Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be Thursday, April 20th from 2pm to 4pm.

10. Other Business

None

11. Items Not on the Agenda

None

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Foley. Mr. Hansen. All voted yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager