

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

5/16/23– 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, John McEvoy, Paul Hansen, Venessa Taylor

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: John Gripp, Executive Director; Todd Winter, Assistant Director; Kimberly Kruse, Parks Administrative Office Manager; Nikki Carr, Community Recreation and Facilities Manager

Staff Absent: none

Audience: none

3. Move to Item 11C: Event Discussion

Mr. McEvoy motioned. Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes.

Managers would like to get the board opinion about doing an adult program at Whitewater Junction. It would be a one night event that would allow alcohol sales and a dj. The idea came because larger water parks already serve alcohol regularly. This would take place June 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday from 6pm to 9pm. Mr. Foley motioned. Mr. McEvoy seconded. All said yes.

4. April Park Board Minutes

Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

5. Thank you from the World Relief was recognized.

6. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of March

Finance is working with IT to create a better report. The numbers are through end of March which is prior to all the seasonal facilities being open. Taxes have not been received yet either. RIFAC will start to see a decline as the weather gets warmer and people spend time outdoors. New memberships are coming in daily, so the normal summer decline will be less. Program participation numbers continue to be strong.

The golf courses are off to a great start. Summer camps are filling up fast as the school summer break approaches.

7. Approval of the Bills for the Month of April for \$449,040.38

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

8. Director's Report and other reports

Kim and I went to the software interviews to look at current challenges to best choose a new software for the City. The vendor is getting input from all the departments. MLK met with Public Works and Parks Staff for the Family Fun Day as it is a growing event. There was discussion on additional power at the park to support the growing event. This event is getting larger every year, making it a placemaking event. RIFAC is looking at doing a new surface on the locker room floor as part of the ARPA upgrade. Streamline Architects is looking over plans. This new surface has more traction. Mr. Anderson asked if the fan will be fixed in the men's locker room. Maintenance will look into it. There was a nice ribbon cutting event for the new Highland Springs Clubhouse. Rentals have already begun for variety of events such as baby showers, bridge club and more. Mr. Foley asked about the acoustics since it was very loud. Mr. Winter has ordered panels to help dampen the sound, it should help. Asphalt is done as well as the fence for the golf carts to move to final place so they don't block the clubhouse. Todd and John participated with Public Works to look over the parks to keep up on progress of parts and keep a list of projects that need to be done. Douglas poles and lights are up. They will be wired soon. RIFAC RFP is going out. This will be for the locker rooms and window in the pool. Highland Springs Clubhouse is done. The countertop for the Proshop desk is done. The outside grill station is almost finished. Denkmann Park is completed and is now a whole newly renovated park. Mel McKay soil testing is being done and RFP will be going out soon. Mr. Anderson asked about security at Mel McKay. This is not in place yet but hope to be in the future with cameras. The goal is to add a few every year to eventually get all the parks under surveillance.

There have been several golf outings already. Last Friday were 40 golfers for the couple's league at Saukie. Blackhawk College trades department poured concrete. Last Thursday there were community meetings to get input about the park and its uses. This was held by Augustana students. They are putting together surveys. This is estimated to be completed with a final report in the Spring 2024. A trade agreement was done with WHBF for advertising with golf. WHBF has this agreement with several local businesses. It is a cost-effective way to advertise for those with small budgets.

May 26<sup>th</sup> is the soft opening for Whitewater Junction allowing members to attend.

Highland Springs and Saukie have been deep tined. Maintenance is keeping up with grass and fertilizers. Currently working on putting together financing options for replacing the golf equipment now that the lease is up at the end of the year. There will be an evaluation of what is needed the most.

Staff provided MLK with CPR certification training for their staff. MLK after school programs signed up kids for sports with financial assistance. We will be bringing camp kids out to First Tee this summer. Library will help with the Lincoln Park lantern parade. Several mini sport camps will be held and field trips to Schwiebert Park and swim lessons. Youth Hope will be coming to RIFAC. LEAD is being held at RIFAC with Eugene Field kids. Arrow Head Ranch is bringing people in to use RIFAC as well. Party in the Park at Denkmann Park and ribbon cutting will be June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The sports fields have been painted and dragged. Alderman Robinson took drone shots. Reservoir Fields are nearly complete. The calendar at Longview Park is up and changed daily. Planters are full and look good as well as the landscaping. Mowing continues. Rock Island High School special education group planted flowers in Longview Park. A new shade structure is going up at Longview Park. The old smaller shelter space was old and rotting and had to be replaced.

## 9. New Business

### Special Event Application: Impostors Music Festival

Staff recommends approval of the Impostors Music Festival to be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at Schwiebert Park and will have alcohol by Stern Beverage/Bridges and amplified sound. Motion made by Mr. Anderson. Seconded by Mr. McEvoy. All said yes.

### Lincoln Park – Augustana Tennis Court Rendering

Staff met with the head grounds maintenance at Augustana. The plan is to install six courts with ADA entries and a parking lot expansion along with fencing all around and bleachers. The old restroom that was damaged several years ago will be torn down. The restroom location will be moved to the northwest side of the tennis courts. The courts will be open to the public outside of Augustana's use. Alleman and parks will be able to use for programming as well.

### Sports Maintenance Budgeted Equipment Purchase

Staff recommends the Park Board approve the purchase of the Z970r ZTrack mower and TH 6x4 maintenance cart in the amount of \$20,512.03. Motion made by Mr. McEvoy. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. All said yes.

### BAAD Grant Opportunity

Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced funding for the FY23 Boat Access Area Development Grant Program (BAAD). This program provides funding assistance to local units of government for the acquisition and/or construction/renovation of approved public boat and canoe access areas in Illinois waterways. The priority of the grant program is to increase accessibility to public access zones to certain Illinois waterways.

The Parks & Recreation Department will be applying for funding through the BAAD grant to embark on a complete and total refurbishment and resurfacing of the boating access north road leading to Lake Potter in Sunset Park, which gives direct boat and fishing access to the main channel of the Mississippi River.

BAAD grants are 100% reimbursement funding assistance on approved development project costs. Higher priority is given in project evaluation for local agency financial contribution to the project, up to 30% of project cost for maximum credit. Financial Match will be made from the labor from Engineering fees from city employees as well as CPA review costs.

There was no public comment and the Park Board is in support of the project.

#### PARC Grant Opportunity

The PARC grant is a State of Illinois grant administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. PARC grants may be used for park and recreation construction projects, including the acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning, and installation of capital facilities. The priority of the grant program is the renovation and construction of indoor recreation facilities that are typically not eligible for other IDNR grants such as OSLAD.

The Parks & Recreation Department will be applying for funding through the PARC grant to demolish the existing clubhouse at Saukie Golf Course and construct a new clubhouse facility. The new facility will provide a more attractive space for golfers to utilize as well as offer year-round recreational programming capability. This new facility will provide long-term sustainability to Saukie Golf Course and address ADA deficiencies.

PARC grants cover 75% of capital project cost and up to 90% for Disadvantaged Communities. PARC is a reimbursable grant. Department funding would come from private donations in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Foundation.

The PARC grant offers a unique opportunity to accomplish this vital project. PARC grants are typically only funded every 3-5 years.

There was no public comment and the Park Board is in support of the project.

#### Tanning Bed

In the Ballard King study, it was mentioned that when the time came that the tanning bed was no longer repairable, that is should be discontinued as a service. This is due to being a health concern as well as the packages do not cover the cost and maintenance of the equipment. Staff recommends that the tanning bed service be discontinued and that the room is converted into a kitchen area for the preschool. This will save on cost of catering and ensure in person quality of food. Credits will be given to those that have tanning passes. Motion made by Mr. Hansen. Seconded by Mr. McEvoy. All said yes.

#### 10. Other Business

Parks & Recreation Questionnaires were received from the City Council. The information has been compiled and the next step will be one on one meetings with council members. Mr. Gripp provided the compiled questionnaires to the Park Board.

#### 11. Items Not on the Agenda

None

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

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Kimberly B Kruse,  
Parks & Recreation  
Admin Office Manager