

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

7/18/23– 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, Paul Hansen, Venessa Taylor, John McEvoy

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: John Gripp, Executive Director; Todd Winter, Assistant Director; Kimberly Kruse, Parks Administrative Office Manager; Pete Peña, Sports Recreation Manager; Miles Brainard, CED

Staff Absent: none

Audience: Steve Smithers

3. June Park Board Minutes

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

4. Thank you's from Habitat for Humanity and Rock Island Music Association were recognized.

5. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of May

Finances are through the end of May. Park Maintenance is showing a negative balance but tax disbursements will come in June. Programming is up. Whitewater Junction had a great opening. Golf is getting a lot of play. Todd and John will be investigating the water charges for Saukie. RIFAC is going strong and there will be a surge of revenue with the tax dollars next month for the community side of RIFAC. Schwiebert Park revenue is up with events.

Bills are much higher this month due to the Schwiebert Park dock charge and ARPA Douglas Park lighting project. Chemical supplies were paid in May as well. There was also a large payment made for the Highland Springs Clubhouse.

6. Approval of the Bills for the Month of June for \$822,280.15

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

#### Director's Report and other reports

Red, White and Boom planning and the event went well. The BAAD grant for boaters access made it to the second round. Starlight Revue is wrapping up. Camps are going well. The second adult swim night will be happening this week. The first one was a great success. OSLAD grant applications are underway. The Highland Springs Clubhouse is working on rental opportunities. Budget work is underway. ARPA projects are all done except for the RIFAC upgrades and Mel McKay pickleball courts. The RIFAC upgrades have been broken into four separate projects to get more competitive bids. The Mel McKay bids are out for RFP.

Drive Chip and Putt was put on at Highland Springs after some rain delay. There were about 70 kids. There was a Quad Cities Corporate Games (QCCG) golf outing at Highland. A basketball shooting clinic was held at RIFAC. Kickball is next week. Thursday was 148 golfers for the over 60 outing. August 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a wine dinner at Highland to raise money for the Park Foundation. August 19<sup>th</sup> is the fundraiser for the First Tee classroom in memory of Pat Wille.

A sensory swim night was held at Whitewater Junction. This is where music and water were turned off to provide a safe space to prevent overstimulation. Lauren, the Front Office Manager, has been asked to put memberships into graphs to track and see trends. Over 10,000 scans not including guest passes.

Highland Springs well pump blew for the irrigation pond. Repairs are underway. Bunker projects are under repair.

Adventure camp has been extended to accommodate the families that attend schools that start later. Several more sports camps and clinics were held.

Mowing is back in full swing. Burn permits are in for the fall. Reservoir Field is usable again. Horticulture works daily on hang baskets and planters for the District.

## 7. New Business

### OSLAD Grant Application 2023 – Whitewater Junction

A grant to potentially add an amenity to attract younger families. A spray ground type area that would not require a lifeguard. Refurbishment of the bath house would be included as well.

Eagle Scout Project Update: Hodge Park Gaga Pit & Sunset Park Picnic Table Shelters. The scouts have completed all projects. Thank you for your hard work!

Volunteer Party at Whitewater Junction – July 6<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 8pm is the annual thank you party to all the volunteers, staff and sponsors for all the hard work and funds to make the department possible.

### Special Event Application: Hap's Cruisin into the Sunset

Staff recommends approval of the Hap's Cruisin into the Sunset event. They have stepped up with security and work with the police to ensure after event damage control. This is September 17<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2 pm and will have amplified sound. Mr. Foley motioned to approve. Mr. McEvoy seconded. All said yes.

### Special Olympics potential partnership discussion

A goal of the recreation team is to add more adaptive programming. A meeting with the IL Chapter of Special Olympics and Steve Smithers was held to talk about the gap after graduating high school for programming. The first step is for the parks department to file as an agency. There are Special Olympics basketball teams looking for places to practice. Coming next spring, the department will look at more programs and to incorporate this adaptive programming with First Tee golf and other programs. RIFAC and the Park Board would host these but a lot of people and groups are willing to help out. This is a way to get started and most areas outside of the Quad Cities already have a Special Recreation Department. This will open up a lot of grant opportunities.

## 8. Other Business

### Closed Session: 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) Land Discussion

Motion to move into closed session made by Mr. Anderson. Seconded by Mr. Foley. All said yes.

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

## 9. Items Not on the Agenda

None

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

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Kimberly B Kruse,  
Parks & Recreation  
Admin Office Manager