

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

9/19/23– Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

Members Present: Fred Dasso, Mike Foley, Paul Hansen, Venessa Taylor, John McEvoy

Members Absent: Bill Anderson

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

Staff Absent: none

Audience: none

3. August Park Board Minutes

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

4. Thank you from The Arc of the Quad Cities and Rally for Breast Cancer were recognized.

5. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of July

The final payment for the Highland Springs Clubhouse was made. Finances are looking good. John and Todd are working on the budget more. Met with City Manager and Finance to go over the budget. Maintenance expenses are being covered for Schwiebert and Municipal areas as agreed upon several years ago through General Fund.

6. Approval of the Bills for the Month of August for \$424,343.01

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

Director's Report and other reports

Budget work continues. NRPA released the average recovery rate for a parks department is 21%. We recover 62% of our budget. We exceed by triple in the areas that we can control. Three scenarios have been laid out for to show three different tiers of funding and outcomes. At the end of the budget year, excess have been given to parks and library department to help balance. However, it would be preferred if this happened at the beginning of the year to help with financials so proper planning can take place. Minimum wage and inflation continue to rise. There has been an ask for one time purchases so hoping to get some approved. Currently the budget is roughly negative \$600,000 with depreciation taken out. This is a reduction of over \$200,000 from last year. Without additional tax support, there will be a severe reduction in services.

Golf equipment RFP is going out. Friends of Longview Park is active again. There are currently about 50 to 60 people, many of who belong to Friends of Hauberg. Friends of Douglas Park have secured synthetic turf for the batting cage. Met with an Eagle Scout at sunset for covered picnic tables. Highland Spring hosted a wine tasting dinner for Parks & Recreation Foundation. A volunteer and staff party was held at Whitewater Junction with excellent attendance. ARPA updates: Douglas is complete. Working on the RIFAC Timeline. Highland Springs is complete. Denkmann Park is complete. Mel McKay pickleball courts is underway.

60+ golf outing with over 60 teams. Chris and Tanner meetings to wrap up projects. Next Saturday is the Augustana cross country meet at Saukie. The Pat Wille tournament went well and raised money for First Tee. Moline hosted a big six at Highland Springs. Several events planned to utilize the new clubhouse. Inquiries are coming to rent the facility. Golf maintenance is still trying to get aerification done between weather challenges and mechanical issues.

A buddy ball league for special needs basketball is being put together. An initiative to provide more all-inclusive spaces will bring basketball and more. Adaptive programming is a priority for the Department and will continue to grow as there is a sizable need in our community.

Motion to move to 11A by Mr. Foley. Mr. McEvoy seconded. All voted yes.

Nikki and Montana attended the meeting to provide an aquatic wrap up for the season. This report is available upon request. Montana did a slide show presentation. Mr. Dasso asked about having a potential new amenity to Whitewater Junction. It was discussed to add an amenity to the CIP list. The Department is also applying for OSLAD assistance for this. Mr. McEvoy asked about the impact of other pools being closed. This definitely provided an increase in attendance to the water park however additional programming was added as well and will provide additional revenue that will be a great revenue generator while the other pools are open in future seasons.

RIFAC is gearing up construction plans with Streamline Architect. RIFAC is also starting to get busy as the weather starts to cool down. Memberships are up. Construction will be designed to be as minimal interruption to members as possible.

Field work is getting really busy with setting up benches and field maintenance. Horticulture is working on the shade structure at Longview. The daily plant calendar is getting changed out. Mr. Foley asked about the Complex. Mr. Gripp is already working on moving services intown. There will be a community education outreach to explain the sports programming strategic plan.

7. New Business

Special Event Application: Phoenix BFL Championship

Staff recommends approval of the Phoenix BFL Championship with amplified sound. Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve. Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes.

Special Event Application: Faith Fellowship Trunk or Treat

Staff recommends approval of the Faith Fellowship Trunk or Treat with amplified sound. Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve. Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes.

Highland Springs Clubhouse Rentals

A promotional flyer and packet is being worked on to provide rental options of the clubhouse.

Friends of Longview Fountain Photo

Friends of Longview Park have cleaned up the space where the fountain and benches are.

Hodge Park Community Recreation Trail Grant

We have been awarded a grant that will provide a permeable path all around the park and markers. There has also been an ADA grant applied for that would provide access to the back area, shelter and sport facilities.

8. Other Business

Upper Longview Park Update-Tennis/Volleyball Area

This will be brought in front of council but the courts and fencing will be removed from the top of Longview Park. It has been beyond repair and no longer usable. Grants are being explored to identify a funding source to replace the amenity in a different location within the park.

9. Items Not on the Agenda

Venessa had a concern as to whether or not Montana is leaving. John mentioned that Montana does plan on doing further education eventually but a plan is in place for when that time comes.

Mr. Dasso mentioned a couple incidents with babies in golf carts at Saukie. Once staff has been notified, it does get addressed. Todd mentioned that there is a policy in place that children must be at least 4 to ride along.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager