

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

10/17/23– 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, Bill Anderson

Members Absent: none

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

Staff Absent: none

Audience: none

3. Move to 6B. Motion made by Mr. Anderson. Seconded by Mr. Foley. All said yes.

Todd had to leave early. There was a big cross country meet Saturday. There was rain all day Friday. It brought a large attendance. Passholders have been notified of a rate increase for 2024. The driving range grass is closed and mats have been put down. The course will remain open for a couple more weeks. There are already rental inquiries and bookings for the new Highland Clubhouse. Revenue is up for both course through September. The season is wrapping up.

Meeting with all recreation managers are set to evaluate fees and compare with other facilities. A presentation will be put together for end of year summary of the season. First Tee is getting involved with Youth On Course which provides reimbursement for youth to get them playing more. Alleman started a junior high team to get more interest and have been practicing at the golf range.

Basketball jamboree is tonight. There are two leagues, one for fall and one for winter. Special Olympics met for the parent orientation. This is ran by volunteers and head most of the coordination under the parks umbrella. A grant has been received to cover rentals. There is also adaptive programming being planned for Douglas Park. The goal is to provide more opportunities for the special needs community.

4. September Park Board Minutes

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

5. Thank you from Revive Rock Island Fall Market Fest: Fused by AC & Co Jewelry Vendor were recognized.
6. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of August

Golf is up about 15%. Expenses include capital expense for the clubhouse project. Wages and supplies are up as prices and min wage increase. However, memberships, rentals and concessions are all up and great. Whitewater Junction is looking good at the end of August. One more tax installment is to come. An update from City Hall, the City Manager had meetings with individual council members. There has been a lot of work done on the 2024 budget. There has been a lack of adequate tax support for several years as cost of living and supplies have gone up, while the tax support has not kept up with inflation. There will be a little more property tax though allocated our way for 2024 due to the County EAV.

7. Approval of the Bills for the Month of September for \$181,230.48

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

Director's Report and other reports

The city has a new City Attorney, Leslie Day. Tom Flaherty is the new Economic Development Manager. He is a big supporter of parks. Talked about senior housing and good conversations and ideas. Met with Public Works for the monthly meeting to go over park locations and winterizing along with lists of tasks. For the Labor Day Parade, staff all participated and threw shirts and candy. Toured the new YWCA. Looking to partner as much as possible such as providing aquatic programming. It will have a four-lane pool and water park amenities.

Met with Tom Sparkman. The Friends of Longview Park has been revived and looking over potential projects. They are hosting a park cleanup this Saturday. They are also putting together fundraiser opportunities for the greenhouse and lagoon. Positive feedback on tearing out the tennis court and volleyball space. Augustana tennis courts are a little larger than planned but coming along. Whitewater Junction wrap up meeting was held with maintenance. Working on grant opportunities and Rock Island is listed as an at risk community so it allows for more funding. The Saukie Golf Course clubhouse was submitted and would potentially have 90% funding if the grant is awarded.

ARPA projects – Mel McKay is underway. The contractor bumped into the parking lot and is going to fix the lot. It is the hope to have this completed by the end of the year. RIFAC construction will start at the end of the month. There are several exciting upgrades.

A lot of fall programming going on. Field maintenance got grass to grow where the old firehouse was. The plant calendar has been taken down for the season. Irrigation

blown out. Longview Park restroom has been vandalized but a porta pot was placed outside of it in the meantime.

8. New Business

Special Event Application: US Coast Guard Mission Mighty Mississippi Recruiting Event

Staff recommends approval of the US Coast Guard Mission Mighty Mississippi Recruiting Event with amplified sound. Mr. Anderson motioned to approve. Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes.

Pubic Meeting: Sports Programming Strategic Plan

There will be a meeting next Tuesday at 5:30pm at RIFAC. John and Todd will give a presentation and Miles will talk about the economic impact. The feedback so far has been positive. It is a way to get back to core sports programming of the pre k to 4th grade demographics. A news release will be released announcing the repurposing of the Complex.

9. Other Business

Starting in two weeks, the dilapidated tennis courts and volleyball area will be removed. That area will be returned to green space next year.

Nigh time drone footage was shown of all the progress at Douglas Park.

10. Items Not on the Agenda

None

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager