

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

11/19/24– 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, John McEvoy, Paul Hansen, Bill Anderson, Venessa Taylor

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. October Park Board Minutes

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

4. Correspondence

We have thank you's from RI Golf Team, Seton, It Takes a Village that was recognized.

5. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of September

Finances are thru the end of September. Still more tax support to come. Recreation continues to be strong in quality and cost recovery. Whitewater Junction will break even. RIFAC has a positive budget even with depreciation. Schwiebert is reporting well with more current transfers in the recording schedule. October bills and September contained large payouts from ARPA funds which do not lie within the Parks budget directly and are funded as well as labor day expenses. There were also large payouts from an OSLAD funded project that has matching revenue. Golf equipment was funded out of a Finance loan over two years. The benefits are to get new golf equipment in rotation which leads to reduced maintenance costs over time. Mr. Foley asked how revenues are recovered from the cross country and school events at the golf course. Mr. Winter noted that there is a flat rate rental fee that is charged to the schools.

6. Approval of the Bills for the Month of October for \$590,711.08

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

7. Director's Report and other reports

Todd, John, and Pete met to talk about programming and partnerships. Birdies for Charity was attended. Substantial checks for Parks Foundation and Friends of Douglas Park were received. Budget work is finishing up and excited to say that the city will be providing funds to make up the difference this year. Would like to put out an RFP to update our Master Plan as it is now reaching end of cycle and in need of a new one. The auto pool opener at RIFAC has been completed. Attended Rock Island Unplugged. The main topic was about road conditions. There is a new tax that will have more collection to be able to put back into street projects. Sunset dredging is completed. The contractor will clean the road. There is contingency plans for any damage. The BAAD Grant for Lake Potter has a concrete pour at the north dock. Work will be finished for ADA in 2025.

Golf Courses are closed as of this Sunday. There were 32,000 rounds of golf at Highland Springs and crossed the \$1 million mark. Saukie had over 25,000 rounds. The new ForeUp software has provide a 30% booking rate for online which is roughly average. This number is expected to increase as users get more comfortable. There were 33 shotgun outings. The Dewey/Wille memorial golf outing raised \$6,000 to go towards the Highland Springs shade structure. There were 300 participants through the First Tee program. 5 cross country meets were held. The Highland Springs shade structure concrete is poured. This project will get finished in the spring. Tomorrow, Saukie will have movement in construction for hopefully concrete work and more. An open house at Highland Springs was held to renew memberships and buy remaining merch. Went around and worked with other golf courses that use ForeUp to get insight on user optimization.

RIFAC will have member appreciation week. There are several giveaways and activities along with snacks and so on.

September had several bunkers repaired. Larry Denton was hired to come and dig old dirt and clays and install drain tile. Golf Maintenance then fills them in. Hole 15 at Saukie was reshaped. Will fix draining in other areas as well. Women's League donated money to get a new tee box on Hole #7 at Saukie.

Assets are in the process of being removed at the Complex. All items of value will be taken off property. The Northwest corner at Douglas is cleaned up for easier mowing. Lots of winter prep of closing restrooms and winterizing equipment.

Winter programming is starting for recreation. RIFAC is starting to pick up. A person from Project Now came in to provide dementia training. This will be brought back to train frontline staff. Was put in touch with one of their service specialists to talk about options for homeless. In a separate meeting, the police chief and city attorney are coming to speak about the best way to handle homeless in the parks. The risk manager

is coming in to go over and streamline incident report forms and analyze steps process. Meeting with the Y to go over collaborations and library partnerships. Adding options to rent out fishing poles, and other outdoor use items, an outdoor book reading club at the parks and so on. Starting to put together the annual reports. Mr. Dasso commented to pass along a thank you to Todd for all his leadership and staff selection and attitudes.

8. New Business

Motion to approve Chalk Art Fest made by Mr. Foley. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. All said yes.

Going to be working on community outreach to gain as much data as possible for the new Master Plan.

Motion to approve the 2025 park board dates made by Mr. Hansen. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. All said yes.

9. Other Business

Venessa noticed that there are no Saturday swim lessons due to low enrollment and asked about how to get those back up. It was noted that private lessons have increased significantly.

Mr. Foley moved to adjourn. Mr. Anderson seconded. All said yes. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager