

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

4/16/24– 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, Paul Hansen, Bill Anderson, John McEvoy

Members Absent: Venessa Taylor

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

Staff Absent: none

Audience: none

3. March Park Board Minutes

There was a misprint that Mr. Anderson made motions when he was absent from the meeting. Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

4. Correspondence

We have a thank you from Heart of Hope Ministries that were recognized.

5. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of February

Finances are through February. First tax disbursement should occur in May. Golf is up 59% compared to this time last year. Had great weather in February and people got out. Membership are slightly up at 3% and programs are down 2%. Concessions and rentals are up slightly. Wages are up due to minimum wage increase 7% to \$14 per hour. The series of increases will conclude next year, 2025 and cap out at \$15 per hour. Supplies and services are up 13% due to rising costs and inflation. Overall revenue is up \$12,000 and expenses down \$58,000 as managers tighten budgets to take in to account inflation. Department monthly activity on the left and capital projects are on the right in the report. This provides a better monthly look. Capital projects currently are around \$400,000 and will increase significantly when the Saukie Clubhouse construction begins. This revenue is recognized in 2023 however the

expense will be seen in 2024. This is funded by the PARC grant and small amount by the city.

6. Approval of the Bills for the Month of February for \$172,203.41

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

7. Director's Report and other reports

Saukie Construction, Todd and John met with the construction manager for the city on the second rendering of the draft with J's Draft and will go out to bid for about three weeks and then based on the schedule hope to break ground this summer. The Saukie Stone House will be used as a temporary clubhouse. Been working with inspections and public works to make sure it can be used. There is also a preservation group that will go through to see what can be salvaged along with the person that used to teach House on the Prairie workshops as they do have items as well still in there.

Three community conversations were held to meet with the public to talk about what is going on with the Library and Parks and was met with great dialogue with city officials and the public. Met with Friends of Longview Park and will be focusing their efforts on the lagoon and conservatory. Met with Alex Anderson from the Quad Cities Disc Club to discuss the disc golf course layout and working to modify the course and will update to make more sense. Augustana also working on the Longview Park strategic master plan. This will lead to working with more 501c3 groups and OSLAD grant funding applications that will get projects finished. One of the newer items would be to put in a soccer pitch in the northwest area as there is a large immigrant population in that area that would benefit greatly from this amenity.

Met with the City Manager and Public Works Director for more electricity at MLK Jr Park. There used to be a concert and family fun day at the park that has grown significantly and several generators were used for this. The Interior lighting pole will have more electricity and upgraded outlet service around the park. This will make it quieter and safer for children to run around and play and easier to hear the music play.

Lincoln Park bandshell had a new dance floor poured. Working with Eagle Scouts to build and enclosure for the porta pots to reduce vandalism as well as for Denkmann Park.

Able to do presentation to the new Alderman, Kevin Maynard, to discuss how the Parks Department is funded, how alternate funding sources are obtained and how to look at the budget and how items that can be controlled and what needs funding assistance.

Mel McKay pickleball courts will have a bid to go for lighting with remaining grant funds.

RIFAC upgrades are almost done. There is a glass shortage so the last item to complete is in the pool area. All other areas have been completed.

Golf Course opened on March 7th which is a really good head start with \$170,000 already just through the new Fore Up system, not including the Active activity of

memberships, league, classes. This Thursday is the first two man tournament of the season at Highland. League at Saukie starts next week with 64 golfers and 84 golfers for Thursday league. There's a Wednesday night league ran by a third party with over 60 golfers. Monday and Thursday league will be a shotgun start to accommodate the large groups. Ladies Swing and Sip along with Men's and Open golf lessons started last week and were all full. Classes were canceled this evening due to severe weather.

Library Community conversations are a way to work jointly to build the next series of 5-year strategic plan. Library put out a survey before the meetings. Working with staff to get information on what to use in the parks survey before putting out. The timing works well as budget time will be beginning soon too.

The Day of Caring is coming up on April 25th. There are a few projects. One at Longview Park to do cleanup and painting, Mel McKay to spread mulch and general maintenance, Saukie Stone House to do a clean out day. Fred asked about the mold in the kitchen to be addressed. John mentioned that it will be closed off. Porta pots will be used for bathroom facilities temporary while using the Stone House. The larger project will be to fully renovate the Stone House eventually. The current Saukie Clubhouse will be torn down and the new one place where the existing one is. For the Stone House, the threshold will have to be updated and a ramp will be added for ADA accessibility. Hole #1 will be #9 currently to reroute the course for being off the Stone House as the temporary clubhouse. It also encourages interest into the Stone House. The temporary construction trailer is \$10,000 a month so this will save vital funds and increase visibility to the Stone House. John and Todd will be going to Springfield to raise awareness as well and interest in funding the renovation as well.

The First Tee classes are all full in all places in the Quad Cities. There will be a training for Level 1 certification.

RIFAC project is wrapping up. Lifeguard training is underway and all positions for Whitewater Junction have been filled. For preschool, one of the Day of Caring projects will be coming to RIFAC to do activities, games and crafts for educational outreach. There will be a new pathway going in front of RIFAC to lead to the playground for a safer way for kids to walk instead of through the parking lot.

For the golf courses, several trees have been cut down that now it's time to replant with new trees. There's several decent size in the no mow areas that could be dug out. Mentioned to reach out to Living Land and Waters for oak tree seeds and other areas to bring over.

The Campbells Sports Complex has minimal mowing going on with no activity now. All items will be salvaged and repurposed to other locations before listing. Douglas Park spectator area is almost finished. 50 tons of material was moved to intown fields to get them ready for play. Also reset sports lines. Marc has the calendar plants ready to go and will begin May 15th. These are grown all winter from seedlings. Mowing has started. QC Passport signs have been installed at Longview, Lincoln and Sylvan Slough that provide historical facts of those areas along with other spots around the Quad Cities. These have been reinforced so that they last longer with park usage.

This coming Monday, Earth Day is being observed and staff along with volunteers will walk the bike path and levy at Schwiebert Park going either way to pick up trash. The first Party in the Park is going to be held May 22nd at Douglas Park and Foundation will cook hot dogs.

New Business

Special Event Application: Grow it or Sew It

Grow it or Sew it is an event of about 40 vendors and will have a food truck at Longview Park on 6/1 from 10am to 4pm. Staff recommends approval. Mr. Foley motioned, Mr. Anderson seconded. All said yes.

Special Event Application: Quad City Heart Walk

Quad City Heart Walk at Schwiebert Park on 6/8 8am to 11am with amplified sound. Staff recommends approval. Mr. McEvoy motioned, Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes.

Special Event Application: Adams Fuller Wedding

Adams Fuller Wedding at Schwiebert Park on 7/13 3pm to 4:30pm with amplified sound. Staff recommends approval. Mr. Foley motioned, Mr. McEvoy seconded. All said yes.

Special Event Application: Grand Prix Concert

Grand Prix Concert at Schwiebert Park on 8/31 with amplified sound and alcohol sales. Staff recommends approval. Mr. Anderson motioned, Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes.

Special Event Application: Mopars in Sunset

Mopars in the Sunset on 9/8 10am to 3 pm amplified sound, food and coffee. Staff recommends approval. Mr. Hansen motioned, Mr. McEvoy seconded. All said yes.

Backwater Gamblers are looking at improving concessions operations by purchasing a 30-foot concessions trailer that will be mobile. Their intent is to be able to take it out when floods happen. It is a large investment and working with inspections and public works to have appropriate water and electrical hookups and would allow to attract larger competitions that would be greatly beneficial to the local economy.

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn. Mr. Foley seconded. All said yes. The meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager