6/18/19 – Minutes

1. Call to Order

   President Fred Dasso called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

2. Attendance

   Members Present: Fred Dasso, John McEvoy, Kate Hotle, Moses Robinson

   Members Absent: Bill Anderson, Don Deleu

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

   Staff Absent: none

   Audience: George Henderson III

3. Move to Item 11E & 11F

   Mr. Dasso motioned to move to Item 11E & 11F on the agenda. Mr. McEvoy seconded. All voted yes.

4. RC Cars: George Henderson

   George came in and presented running an RC Car business out of the parks as a pilot program. It is the hope to use Schwiebert Park first and grow the program from there. Mr. Dasso motioned to approve staff recommendation of working with George Henderson and the City Attorney to develop an operational agreement that ensures that all liability, insurance and vendor fees are covered. Staff will determine where this activity can take place and it will be on a trial bases. Mr. Robinson seconded. All voted yes.

5. Francis Clay Memorial

   Staff recommends approval of the plaque for Francis Clay to be installed at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The plaque location and installation will be determined and completed by the city. Mr. McEvoy motioned; Mr. Robinson seconded. All voted yes.
6. Minutes of the May meeting.

Mr. McEvoy approved the May minutes; Mr. Robinson seconded. All voted yes.

7. Correspondence

Thank You’s from Rock Island Academy, United Way, QC Paws, and Christian Care was acknowledged.


Finances at the end of April were still slow as facilities were starting to be up and running. There were still no tax dollars yet. However RIFAC is still holding strong with memberships and programs revenue.

April Financials were reported to the board with a summary explanation of changes and discrepancies. There is a two month lag that will ensure that all revenues and expenditures are reported to give a more accurate look at the department financially.

9. Approval of the Bills for the Month of May: $238,242.75

Mr. Robinson moved to approve the bills for the Month of May in the amount of $238,242.75. Ms. Hotle seconded. All voted yes.

10. Director’s Report and other reports

Evaluation of the Administrative Office Manager was completed. Budget work is in full force. The Director participated in interviews for the Public Works Director. Todd coordinated the motivational speaker, Steve Beck to come to RIFAC to speak to all staff. This was made possible by A D Huesing. Whitewater Junction and summer staff orientations were done. The Director attended First Tee meetings. It was mostly about the John Deere Classic and getting kids there. There was a lot of rain in May affecting many of the numbers for the season. Douglas Park work is in full force. The pump house and other areas are under construction. Friends of Douglas Park received $10,000 from the Kiwanis. Hauberg electrical continues at the carriage house. Sunset Park cleanup will be underway finally now that the flood waters have receded.

The Assistant Director has completed the Action Plan for the Parks. It involves identifying several areas to make improving the parks achievable by attacking simple tasks such as broken benches. Tasks are divided up to get items done and partnerships through Eagle Scouts and Day of Caring have been a tremendous aid to accomplishing this. The concept will be applied to the Enterprise locations as
well. The unplayable days were exceptional this season. 20 days were cart path only and 17 unplayable days. First Tee has started and camps, Rise Up and Big Brother Big Sister have all brought kids to participate. Thursday league is up in numbers for Highland. Saukie is adding more no mow areas. The benefits are some lower costs with the storm runoff and less mowing costs. Highland will be adding some no mow areas as well. Highland is adding some security measures against stolen carts.

Whitewater Junction is off to a slow start with the weather. Security cameras have been installed there and are tied directly into the police for better monitoring. Managers are wearing body cameras as well now and this has helped tremendously with disputes at the pool. RIFAC is looking at way to target the younger audience by getting another personal trainer.

Adventure Camp has started with an average of over 60 kids with the highest of 90 one day. There are a few camps in one to accommodate the different age groups. There were 75 people for the Movie in the Park that had to be moved to RIFAC due to weather. The garage sale had well over 1,500 people in attendance even with being the rain date. There are a few grants out there to get some new garbage cans at Sunset. The Laura’s Legacy concert went well with around 550 people in attendance.

There are two Sports Interns now and are working out well being utilized at many of the facilities to help out with coverage. Pete met with someone from the US Tennis program to save on supplies and help with programming. This could lead to future funding.

The Complex got flooded again when the creek jumped the banks. Marc is working to help with parks cleanup wherever possible.

11. Special Event Request: Home BBQ Smokin Hunger

Mrs. Hotle motioned to approve staff recommendation for the event. Mr. McEvoy seconded. All voted yes.

12. Special Event Request: Celebrate Recovery

Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve staff recommendation for the event. Ms. Hotle seconded. All voted yes.

13. Special Event Request: Bill Bell Jazz & Heritage Festival aka Polyrhythms event

Ms. Hotle motioned to approve staff recommendation for the event. Mr. McEvoy seconded. All voted yes.

14. Special Event Request: Quad City Tweed Ride
Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve staff recommendation for the event. Ms. Hotle seconded. All voted yes.

15. Old Business

The flood walls are coming down at Schwiebert Park. Sunset Park has a massive amount of cleanup for being under water for so long. The old court at Lincoln Park is under review by CED. There are some people coming in to see if something can be built there. The Parks Foundation has Birdies for Charities.

Mr. McEvoy motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Hotle seconded. All voted yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

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Kimberly B Kruse,
Parks & Recreation
Admin Office Manager