

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

6/21/22– Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance+

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

Members Absent: none

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

Staff Absent: none

Audience: Andrea Carolina via Google Meet

3. Motion to move 11b. Mr. Anderson motioned. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

Andrea explained the process as presented in the memo. Staff recommends approval. Mr. McEvoy motioned. Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted yes.

4. April Park Board Minutes

Mr. McEvoy motioned to approve the minutes as amended; Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted yes.

5. Thank you's from Habitat for Humanity, Hampton PTA and Junior Achievement were recognized.

6. Monthly Report from Finance Department as of May

Season is gearing up. A small portion of the tax dollars have been received. Numbers look upside down but seasonal facilities are just beginning to open during this time. The season is off to a strong start. Budget work is underway. Minimum wage continues to impact substantially. ARPA submission requests were made to hopefully fund some much needed projects. Neighboring cities are investing in their parks systems.

7. Approval of the Bills for the Month of April \$189,868.31 and May \$96,639.00

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

## 8. Director's Report and other reports

John is happy to be back in the parks department. The City Manager position was a great challenge and was good to see how all the departments fit into the city. Budget process is underway. Evaluations are being processed. RIFAC shutdown prep is being discussed and figuring out projects. Whitewater Junction will be available during this time to members. Red, White and Boom prep is underway. A VIP space will be available for viewing the fireworks. Douglas Park is doing amazing and has several programs. CED is moving forward with the demolition of the Firehouse. It is unsafe and not feasible to renovate. Summer events are underway.

Highland Springs groundbreaking went great and had an excellent turnout and press. A bulldozer was out to do the grading. Biweekly meetings are held to keep up to date on progress. Communication has been excellent with Estes. Currently working with First Tee for more fundraisers. Dates are being held to encourage youth to participate. July is parks and recreation month nationwide and the mayor will be making a proclamation. Longview Park circular bench is being pressure washed as well as repaired and repainted.

RIFAC shutdown will be the last week of July. This will consist of cleaning the walls of scuff marks, dust, and things this weekend to prep. Whitewater Junction is off to a really good start and hitting record breaking days with the weather.

Staffing is full finally for golf maintenance, horticulture and lifeguards for the first time in a while. Management and HR have been aggressive in getting the word out. This has helped to fill our short areas that have been a struggle.

Summer camps are split by age groups to help with better engagement. There have been over 100 kids on average daily. Starlight Revue is underway and doing well. Beetles Tribute concert is this weekend. Movie in the Park is this weekend as well. Living Lands and Waters event was last week and a huge success. Pride at Schwiebert Park went very well. Saukie commercial turned out well. Tournaments have large turnouts. Sports Camps are going on currently. This is a range from baseball, tennis, rugby, soccer, football and more.

Marc and David have been busy with the plants and fields. Painting, mowing and plenty of mulching going on. New signs are going up at Sunset Park and Skafidas.

## 9. New Business

The Blackhawk College HCCTP group have been very helpful with getting concrete pour projects done. They help the department and it helps them with their training to graduate the program. They have poured bench pads and the concrete pad for Saukie for the dumpster. They need support politically to stay funded.

Special Event Application for Floatzilla – Staff recommends approval as written. Mr. McEvoy motioned. Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted yes.

Special Event Application for Celebrate Recovery – Staff recommends approval as written. Mr. McEvoy motioned. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

Special Event Application for Jazz Festival – Staff recommends approval as written. Mr. Foley motioned. Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted yes.

Special Event Application for Haps Cruise into Sunset – Staff recommends denial as written and more discussion is necessary. This event has outgrown the park with the large amount of vehicles and attendees. It causes damage to the turf and needs more police and security during and after the event. Staff recommends possibly the Watch Tower lot for a new location and would provide space to grow. Motion to not approve as written by Mr. McEvoy. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

#### 10. Other Business

Carriage House work continues. This project is funded by HUD and FOHCC.

#### 11. Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Taylor extended a thank you for training the WSI class for free to staff. She also mentioned that the last park board meeting was missed due to being in class. Also asked about having better signage in the pool. There was an incident of an adult who could not swim and how they do not have to do the swim test but need some sort of safeguard in place. There is an effort to offer adult swim classes but enrollment is low.

Mr. Anderson asked if there was an event schedule posted anywhere for the Douglas Park events and rental usage. It would be good for people to know to attend events. The fields look great.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Anderson. Mr. Foley seconded. All voted yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

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Kimberly B Kruse,  
Parks & Recreation  
Admin Office Manager