

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.

Rolla City Hall

Members Present: Susan Wrasmann, Larry Thomas, and Mike Fleishhauer

Absent: Ken Kwantes

Others Present: Floyd Jernigan, Andrew Smith, Julie Quackenbush, and City Councilman, Josh Vroman

1. Call to Order

- Larry Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Approval of July minutes

- Susan Wrasmann moved to approve the Nov. 22, 2023, minutes. Mike Fleishhauer seconded approval. All approved, with no opposition.

3. Director's narrative

- Bayless Lights
All Purpose Erectors have been on site working on the light project.
- Pickleball
The project got off to a good start and was moving along well. Site prep was done by the Engineering Department and our Park Maintenance, clearing out the ground, leveling the area, and laying down tons of rock in preparation of the concrete. The contractor was going to begin working on it, but we had some really cold weather and they had to stop. The contractor hopes to get going on it and finish it as soon as possible.
- Rolla Cemetery - Section F discrepancy
There is a discrepancy on the county assessor's website in Section F of the cemetery. Mr. Jernigan contacted Dick Elgin, of Elgin Surveying & Engineering, and met with him today to drop off documentation. Mr. Elgin will use the information to research the parameters. Mr. Jernigan added that the assessor's office knows it's not right.
- Community garden
The second Community Garden Meeting is tomorrow night, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. The group was given the deadline of Jan. 15. They were tasked to create a governing board and bylaws for their gardeners. Mr. Jernigan stressed that the Parks Department will not run the community garden. The gardeners need to step forward. Once they have their board and bylaws set and everything has been agreed upon, they will need approval from City Council.

The garden will be ADA compliant. The City is responsible for compliance issues. City Administration does not want them to use large equipment, so City employees will do that type of maintenance. Gardeners will have to pay for water and some maintenance labor fees. Environmental Services will mow regularly. Environmental Services and Parks will also do some weed eating periodically.

Josh Vroman asked questions regarding the relationship and responsibility of the plot renters. The man who was running it, lost his board members during Covid and has been unable to get anyone to help, so he had been doing it all. Mr. Jernigan said the community garden has not been updated since around 2014 or so. We will have to put in concrete walkways, add two sheds, and put them on pads.

- **Wreaths Across America**

Mr. Jernigan said he, the cemetery crew, and volunteers placed 550 wreaths on the marked veterans' monuments. Wreaths Across America organizers hope to raise money in future years to place wreaths on all 1,227 known burials of veterans.

- **Tree City annual report**

We track plantings, removals, and trimmings done by any City entity. RMU cleared out some brush near the roundabout by Rolla Chamber. Roger Pankey, Environmental Services, produces a wood waste report. The wood waste is generally in the form of wood chips, from clearing out land using wood chippers. The report shows that we have increased wood waste, which results in mulch available. Mulch is available to residents and it goes to the Community Garden.

- **Cemetery revenue**

Cemetery revenue was up in December, in comparison to previous years. Mr. Jernigan noted that we had more cremations than burials in 2023.

4. Financials/discussion

Mr. Jernigan said that services are lower in a couple of categories, in comparison to other years. This is due to insurance not posting in December.

October and November capital expenses were almost nonexistent. Coventry fence costs are reflected in the December expenses. For the most part, Major Parks Improvements for December was rock for the pickleball courts. These expenses are part of the \$250,000 grant money to build the six new pickleball courts in Green Acres Park.

Prop P revenue is down in December. Parks gets revenue from sales tax and real estate tax, which, compared to October and November, was down for the month of December.

Mr. Jernigan noted that a new playground is budgeted this year.

Mike Fleishhauer asked about the bike park grant. Mr. Jernigan said that we are not getting the grant for the pump park, so we will be starting from scratch on that project.

Mr. Jernigan said the cultural study for the LWCF grant was completed and sent off on Friday. Still hoping to be approved for this grant. The grant cycle was supposed to be announced in October, but it wasn't. This one is a big one, with improvements to the ACORN Trail, turfing

the soccer field, making all three bridges ADA compliant, and finishing up the dugouts and lighting for Larry Wilson Field.

The group discussed soccer field development in Rolla. Josh Vroman, City Councilman, noted that having a turfed soccer field is good, but he asked what it would take to get a second turfed soccer field. It would open up opportunities for tournaments here in Rolla. Mr. Jernigan spoke about the relationship we have with Rolla Knights and the plans for development of our existing fields in BerJuan Park.

The next Park Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 5 p.m.

5. Adjournment

Mike Fleishhauer made a motion to adjourn. Susan Wrasmann seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.