**Park Advisory Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

*January 30, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.*

*City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room*

**Members Present:** Ken Kwantes, Larry Thomas, Susan Wrasmann, and Mike Fleishhauer

**Absent:** Sue Arnold and Andrew Meggitt

**Others Present:** Floyd Jernigan, Andrew Smith, Recreation Manager, and Julie Quackenbush

1. **Call to Order**
* Ken Kwantes called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
1. **Approval of Minutes**
* Larry Thomas made a motion to approve the November 16, 2022, minutes. Susan Wrasmann seconded approval. Motion passed with no opposition.
1. **New Business**
* RTP Grant for Bike Park

Mr. Jernigan presented the information to the group on behalf of Rolla City Engineering Director, Darin Pryor. Handouts supplied to the group included a diagram of the proposed bicycle skills park which would be located on the undeveloped land at the northwest corner of Hwy O and Lions Club Drive. Mr. Jernigan told the group this is a new grant offering up to $250,000. We would have to come up with 20%.

The Bicycle Park development is divided into three phases. Phase I focuses on the Bicycle Skills Park and the initial parking facilities. Larry Thomas asked about the skills park. Mr. Jernigan answered that it is an area where the basic skills are taught. The park would start with a simpler format and work up to one with more technically skilled areas.

The park would develop into a fully developed bicycle park to include a beginner pump track, an advanced pump track, and BMX and mountain bike track areas.

Mr. Jernigan said we are planning on asking for just under $200,000, so we would have to come up with $35,000-$40,000.

Larry Thomas made a motion that we generate a letter of support. Susan Wrasmann seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Jernigan said the letter would need to be submitted by Friday.

* SZ Replacement Slide on Play Structure

The slide on the play structure needs to be removed. There are gaps/tears in the weld. This is the small slide for the younger kids in the zero-depth entry end.

We have basically three choices. We can take the slide out of service and put a panel on the opening. We can replace the slide with another, at a cost of $14,000-$20,000. Many companies won’t put their product on another company’s structure. We do have two companies that will submit bids. We can replace the entire play structure at a cost somewhere between $40,000 - $80,000, depending on the design.

Mr. Jernigan said a likely question will be if either option will generate enough money to pay for itself. The short answer is no, not immediately, for either choice. So regarding the choices, a panel would not look good. Ken Kwantes also said he thought it would not be a good approach to close the slide off with a panel. Mr. Kwantes suggested a whole new structure. The old structure is slowly deteriorating. It is just a matter of time before more of it, or all of it, does not work. It is primarily the younger children who use SplashZone the most, so it should be a structure designed for them.

Mr. Jernigan said he agreed the facility needs something new, but he shared concerns about an existing leak we have been dealing with this year. An aquatics contractor made its fourth visit to ascertain the extent of the issue and we are awaiting a report on that.

* + Holloway House update

The house is currently empty after the ABLE Commission and the other tenants moved out at the end of December. An environmental assessment last year noted there were significant problems. An assessment by city staff in 2019 noted the house was not up to code. It would take a minimum of $350,000, and likely more, to make it habitable. Earlier analysis and reviews by the state concluded the building had no architectural or historic significance.

Possible options were discussed. It could remain empty, but it would continue to deteriorate. The city could choose to demolish the building. Any structure that would replace it would have to meet the Land, Water, Conservation Fund stipulations as the park was purchased under an LWCF grant. Regarding the demo, Mr. Kwantes asked if there is any special mitigation. Mr. Jernigan said the cost would be somewhere between $25,000 - $50,000, with asbestos removal being the bulk of the cost.

* + Prop P Support Committee Update and Open House (March 9)

Mr. Jernigan noted that the Prop P Committee meeting is tomorrow at 5 p.m. The Prop P Fact Sheet and Future Possible Projects are included in this packet.

Mr. Jernigan said the Open House will be March 9 from 4:30-6:30. We generally receive positive comments at Open House events.

The tax, one-sixteenth of 1 percent, figures to be 6 ¼¢ per $100 spent. This is not a new tax; it is a continuation of what is already in place. We have been getting an average of $320,00 annually, which is what is used for major park structures, such as playgrounds, bathrooms, parking lots, court improvements, and pavilion and park renovation and upgrades.

Larry Thomas asked if we can change the wording on the ballot from “impose” a sales tax to “continue” the tax. All agreed it should say continue. However, there are rules and regulations regarding the language of the ballot. If it is not possible to change the ballot language, the group asked if it could be spelled out in the explanation of this item on the ballot. Mr. Jernigan will make inquiries to see what, if anything, can be done.

* + Recreation Preview – Manager Andrew Smith

Andrew introduced himself and gave a little bit of his background. He is from Rolla and his parents still live here.

While he was in college at Missouri State, he worked at the Rec Center there as a student employee with building manager duties. He received his Master’s degree and then worked for the City of Nixa as the Health and Wellness/Special Events Recreation Specialist.

He shared some of the programs he has been planning for this year. The Easter Bone Hunt at the Dog Park will return. He is working with the Pickleball Club to do a tournament and league. The city will again offer a Men’s and a Co-ed Softball League. The annual youth Summer Camp in Ber Juan Park will return. There will also be a Flag Football League in the fall. We will do the Canine Plunge again this year after the final weekend of the season at SplashZone. He hopes to do a Corn Hole Tournament, if we can find a good location.

Larry Thomas said that a group did a tournament at the country club and did very well.

Andrew is working with USSSA trying to get tournaments scheduled. They want to do an overnight tournament. Larry Thomas said there might be some concern about the light spillage. Ken Kwantes suggested to stay with the interior fields, Morgan and Kimmel, they are farther away from residential housing.

The group was in support of the tournament. Mr. Kwantes and Mr. Jernigan explained the ordinance regarding being in parks after hours. In part, Mr. Kwantes said it is to deter people from camping in our parks. Mr. Jernigan said Rolla Police Department officers have been very helpful in curtailing loitering and vandalism after dark. Mr. Jernigan said staff members have cleared out areas when homeless camps were discovered. Mr. Kwantes noted there were locations throughout the city that remained a concern.

1. **Financials**
	* Financials for October, November, and December are included in the packet. Mr. Jernigan pointed out revenue from burials and lot sales for the Cemetery typically fluctuates.

Mike Fleishhauer asked about the small cremation mausoleum. Mr. Jernigan explained that we had a monument put in recently that was a standing stone with two cremations inside it. He said calls to ascertain the details of the burials and to follow protocols relative to the process outlined by city ordinance and the cemetery rules should clear up any questions. Staff will continue to stress that cremation monuments have to be located with staff help prior to placement so that safety requirements are satisfied and that the permitting and interment order process are followed.

Another item of typical variance in the financials is in the insurance category. Mr. Jernigan explained that this depends on when the expense is applied and can vary by month.

1. **Director’s Narrative**
* Mr. Kwantes asked about the attendance for the Christmas Train event in December. Mr. Jernigan said that there were 840 in attendance as the event grew from its initial success. Fine Linen Theatre was again a key part of the event. Their performers sang holiday songs and were dressed up as characters from the movie “Frozen.” It was a huge hit with kids. They also let people take pictures with them before and after their performances. Once again, all the volunteers who contributed were significant in making the event happen. “We couldn’t have done it without them.” Overall, it went very well. It was Andrew’s first time for the event, so he said it was a learning experience.

Mr. Kwantes asked about changes for next year. One opportunity for improvement was the electric hookup for the lights. Using LED lights would make it easier to string the longer strands.

* Prop P Open House will take place March 9. Susan Wrasmann commented that we don’t want to schedule the Open House too far out from election day. Larry Thomas asked if there were other tax issues on the ballot. RPS officials have stated they will have a bond issue and a tax levy increase on the April ballot.
1. **Adjournment**
* Susan Wrasmann made a motion to adjourn. Mike Fleishhauer seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.