

# Park Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes

*March 27, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conf. Rm - Rolla City Hall*

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

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Floyd Jernigan, Andrew Smith, Julie Quackenbush, Linda Frederick from Ozark Rivers Audubon Nature Center, SCRVG Members Christopher Johnson, Glenn Gibson, Rachel Guth, and Andy Davis, Jay Remotti from Rolla Downtown Farmers Market, and Members of the Rolla Community Garden

### 1. Call to order

- Ken Kwantes called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m.

### 2. Approval of January minutes

- Larry Thomas moved to approve the Jan. 24, 2024, minutes. Mike Fleishhauer seconded approval. All approved, with no opposition.

### 3. New business

- Callery Pear Tree “Buyback” Program  
Linda Frederick, Ozark Rivers Audubon Nature Center, presented information from the Missouri Invasive Plant Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation, regarding the Callery Pear Buyback program. The local event will be held at Audubon Trails Nature Center on April 23, from 3 – 6 p.m. The local media contact is Master Naturalist, Pam Barnabee. She will be on the Morning Mayor Show. The online registration and sign-up can be found on the MoInvasives.org website.
- MOU Farmers Market  
Jay Remotti, Rolla Farmer’s Market contact, addressed the group regarding plans for this year’s market. They were able to secure their own liability insurance, which was a major step for the group. Vendors will still need to complete the Phelps County Health Department’s questionnaire and food safety test.  
Mr. Remotti said that there has been a lot of interest from people who are looking at alternative places to shop. Farmer’s Market opens for the season on April 6, the first Saturday in April, and will run through October, from 8:00 a.m. - noon. The market has a smaller winter market that runs from November through the end of March, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Farmer’s Market website is rollamarket.org which contains a link to become a vendor.

Mr. Remotti noted to Mr. Jernigan that there are a few GFI outlets in the parking lot that need to be fixed. Mr. Jernigan said that we are aware of the issue and will be working on that before the market opens.

- **MOU SCRVG/Veterans Park**

South Central Regional Veteran's Group will hold this year's Everyday Heroes at the Park event on Saturday, May 18, 2024, in Veterans Memorial Park, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. It is a family fun event with bounce houses, fire trucks, helicopters, craft vendors, food trucks, a cornhole tournament, and a car and motorcycle cruise-in. Christopher Johnson said that most participants are emergency responders. At this time, there is only one food vendor. Food vendors will need to have a business license and a health department certificate.

Mr. Jernigan noted that the group will need to specify what projects the money raised will fund. Glenn Gibson noted that there are a couple of projects they would likely use these proceeds for. They need to purchase rocks for the newest pavilion and they also plan to place QR codes at the monument poles along the walkway.

Mr. Kwantes extended his thanks to the Veterans Group for the work they have done to turn this park into one of the gem parks in Rolla.

Chris Johnson also reported that the Veterans Group will do another celebration in July. Since the Korean War Veterans were the ones who started the park, the current Veterans Group thought it fitting to do the final park dedication on Armistice Day, on Saturday, July 27, in the park. The celebration will begin at exactly 10:57 a.m., and plans include a Missouri Veteran Speaker and a performance from the Army Band and Color Guard for the event.

- **MOU Community Garden**

Darin Pryor addressed the garden group first by saying that his team has been waiting on the weather to cooperate before they can finish the concrete work. Work will move ahead as weather permits.

The gardeners have provided their bylaws and all other documentation that was initially required.

Mr. Jernigan reiterated to the group that, through calculating annual expenses for the community garden, the group will need to pay \$1500 by July for the first year. Some members had questions regarding charges and asked Mr. Jernigan about possibly making changes to some of the terms previously agreed upon in the bylaws. Mr. Jernigan and Mr. Pryor told the group that if they are to have changes, they will need to go through Matt, the group spokesperson. He will need to write a letter stating the items that differ in the bylaws they already signed.

Susan Wrasmann made a motion to adopt the Rolla Community Garden bylaws as written. Mike Fleishhauer seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

#### **4. Director's narrative**

- **Lot by Green Acres Park**

Rolla Parks purchased the lot behind the Green Acres Ballfield. It is not a huge lot, so it would not be useful for a lot of things. It is useful to us because we will be able to create 31 extra

parking spots on the parcel of land which is right next to Green Acres Ballfield. Improvements to this lot will be done using Parkland Reserve.

- Tennis Court Repair

McConnell, the company working on the pickleball courts, has also agreed to do some minor repairs to the tennis courts in BerJuan Park, while they are here in Rolla. Since they will already be in town, the cost will be less than if they were coming to Rolla solely to make repairs to the tennis courts. We hope that these repairs will suffice for a good while. For a complete tennis court surface replacement, McConnell gave us an estimate of \$750,000.

- 2023 Park Tax

Mr. Jernigan explained the reason for including the 2023 Park Tax flyer. In 2015, Parks got a sales tax, of which 1/16<sup>th</sup> of a cent of it was to expire in 2023. We went to the voters in April of 2023 to ask that this portion of the tax be renewed because it was used to maintain and enhance capital improvements to the City's traditional park system. Voters overwhelmingly approved the renewal (continuance) of the 1/16<sup>th</sup> cent portion of that park sales tax. Unfortunately, after the vote passed in 2023, the formal notification was not issued to the Missouri Department of Revenue. Without receiving notification, the Department of Revenue never issued letters of notice to Rolla city businesses to implement the tax. We had to take this request to City Council to ask for approval, that the Missouri Department of Revenue be notified. Upon approval of Rolla City Council, these letters will be issued this summer.

- Park Improvements

Mr. Jernigan said that we might have to punt new playground equipment we had hoped to get for Barnitz and Wedgewood Parks. These two parks have the oldest playground features in the park system. Unfortunately, because of the 1/16<sup>th</sup> cent park sales tax omission from this past year's revenue, we will probably have to take them out of the budget.

Larry Thomas asked about the vandalism at BerJuan Park. Mr. Jernigan said vandals had painted on the play equipment and the pour-and-play surface at the all-inclusive playground. Mr. Jernigan said the guys were able to remove the paint from the play equipment, but we have to get with Hutcheson on how to remove it from the safety surface without damaging the surface.

- Spring/Summer Recreation Manager Write-up

Andrew Smith, Recreation Manager, gave a quick rundown on programs. He said the Indoor Pickleball League concluded on March 19. We were able to run it at the Rolla Church of Christ Family Life Center, where 20 people participated in the program. They all seemed to enjoy the league and be interested in the next one, which will be outdoors, once the outdoor courts are completed.

We offered an Adult Cornhole League. We even extended the deadline due to low registration. Final deadline is Friday, March 29, but registration is still low.

Adult Softball League registration opened on Monday. We increased each session to eight weeks, plus a tournament, so we will do two eight-week sessions instead of three six-week sessions this year.

USTA National Tennis Month is coming up in May. We will have similar events as last year, plus a Red Ball Tournament and a Block Party style event. All tournament revenues, above expenses, will go toward the Rolla Animal Shelter.

We will help host a USTA Juniors Tennis Tournament which will follow the Rolla High School's Summer Tennis Camp.

We will hold Summer Adventure Camp again this summer, from June 3 – Aug. 9. We already have a few participants registered.

Easter Bone Hunt is April 6 this year. Marie has primarily taken the lead with this event.

Proceeds from this year's Easter Bone Hunt will go toward buying a new play feature for the dog park. So far, Schmidt Associates, PCB, US Foods, and Sakelaris Ford have donated \$350 in sponsorships and giveaway items.

We have already scheduled some ball tournaments and rentals, which are listed on the sheet.

## **5. Financials/discussion**

Mr. Jernigan included financials in the packet. No one had any specific questions regarding submitted financials.

Mr. Jernigan said that everything for the LWCF grant, including the cultural study, was all submitted and we are hoping to be approved for this grant. The grant cycle was supposed to be announced in October, but it still has not been announced. This grant is a big one, with proposed 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 the next Park Board Meeting. Larry Thomas is unable to attend Wednesday, June 26, so the next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 5 p.m.

## **6. Adjournment**

Mike Fleishhauer made a motion to adjourn. Susan Wrasmann seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.