

Park Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Rolla City Hall

Members Present: Susan Wrasmann, Andrew Meggitt, and Mike Fleishhauer

Absent: Ken Kwantes and Larry Thomas

Others Present: Floyd Jernigan and Julie Quackenbush

1. Call to Order

- Andrew Meggitt called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Susan Wrasmann made a motion to approve the May 24, 2023, minutes. Mike Fleishhauer seconded approval. All approved with no opposition.

3. Presentations

- Mark Calvert and Rolla Knights attended to discuss a possible partnership with Rolla Parks for usage of the field adjacent to Larry Wilson Memorial Field.

Mark Calvert told the group the soccer community is pretty close knit. He said we have about 1,000 kids playing in the Rolla area. Rolla Knights and RAYSL teams practice and play at Lions Club Soccer Park. For about five weeks in the spring and in the fall, it gets pretty difficult to find soccer fields for practice. Mr. Calvert said we need more space for soccer in Rolla. Not only are soccer teams taking up practice space, but soccer competes with other sports, as well. In the spring, he said they also compete with youth football and baseball/softball. Mr. Calvert is here to propose an agreement between Rolla Knights and Rolla Parks Department, regarding the open area next to Larry Wilson Field. He asked if the Knights organization helps pay for seed and does some of the maintenance on this field, would they be able to use this area as a soccer field? Mr. Calvert said they might have two soccer goals at the Lion's Club Soccer Complex that they could move to this field. There was also discussion that they might purchase two goals for this field because the goals need to be portable.

Mr. Jernigan said he and Mr. Calvert would need to do a MOU that would detail what Rolla Knights would provide for the field. The MOU would also specify designated times in the spring and fall when it would be available to Knights. Mr. Jernigan said he will come back with the MOU for Park Board approval. He clarified that Parks property is paid for by tax dollars, so the fields would be open the rest of the year to other teams to use for practice. Mr. Jernigan asked the group if they saw an issue with this proposal. The group responded unanimously that they did not see an issue and they are all in favor of Mr. Calvert's proposal.

Susan Wrasmann made a motion to approve creation of an MOU proposing an agreement between Rolla Knights Soccer Club and Rolla Parks Department. Mike Fleishhauer seconded

the motion. The MOU will provide Rolla Knights with priority scheduling for practice times to be determined between Knights and Rolla Parks. Knights has offered to provide two soccer goals for the field and provide assistance in care and maintenance of the field, as well as purchase of grass seed.

Mr. Jernigan spoke briefly on the LWCF Grant to update Mark Calvert since this grant would be of interest to the soccer community. He reported that we are one step closer to grant approval for the LWCF. The big project for this grant is to convert one of the soccer fields to turf. There are a few steps to complete. The Cherokee Nation is asking for a cultural survey. A cultural survey was done by DNR in 1983 and the Osage Nation did one in 2022. We do not know at this time if they will accept either of those.

Mark Calvert said the club would like to do a tournament here in Rolla, using turf fields. The more turfed fields we have in Rolla, the closer we get to being able to run tournaments.

- American Legion Post 270 requests to have food trucks at Veterans Memorial Park for the Everyday Heroes fundraiser event.

Christopher Johnson, Barry Dunnigan, and Rachel Guth attended as members of the American Legion Post 270 to ask the Park Board for permission to conduct a fundraiser for Veterans Park in May 2024. Rachel Guth said the event was moved to November 2020 due to COVID, but they want to move it back to May. Christopher Johnson submitted a Special Use Permit that includes a request to have food trucks at the Everyday Heroes event as a fundraiser for Veterans Memorial Park. Christopher Johnson said the money they would be making would be shared with SCRVG, the community, and kids.

Mr. Jernigan said there has never been an issue in veterans using the park. Part of the issue is that our agreement with SCRVG is expiring. Veterans Park projects are pretty much done, so there is not a specific project needing a fundraising event. The group said the money they raise would be for veterans markers, park activities, and functions, so the city wouldn't have to pay for them. Mr. Jernigan said the group would need to show an accounting of the money raised and what is to be done with the money, along with what percentage the group was getting from the proceeds taken in by the food vendors. These pieces would mirror the language that's in the current MOU with the SCRVG.

The other concern is that existing City Ordinance does not allow a for-profit business, such as food vendors, doing business in a city park. We would need to get approval from city administration. Mr. Jernigan said he does not believe there would be a problem with approval, since it involves a fundraiser to give money back for the park. Mr. Jernigan said we would also need an approved food vendor list.

Andrew Meggitt suggested that the group put in writing that a certain percentage of the revenue raised would go back to Parks to be able to satisfy the intent of the ordinance. This request is for 2024, so there is time to get details lined out and finalize details of the event and formal review..

Susan Wrasmann made a motion to tentatively approve the plan. Mike Fleishhauer seconded the motion.

4. Financials

Mr. Jernigan noted a couple points of interest from the spreadsheet. Our personnel expenses are higher. We had to raise our Parks Maintenance Staff pay to \$16/hr. Mr. Jernigan added that it absolutely helped. Park Maintenance has been at full staff throughout the year. It has helped in other Park areas, as well. We are able to be competitive for Lifeguard pay this year. On the revenue side, we had the insurance payment for Ridgeview Park.

Sales tax revenue has been tracking well. City wide has been at about 8%. Likely, part of this increase has been due to inflationary pressures, which also impact the expense side as well with higher costs and delivery delays of parts and materials.

Parks Capital Expense for 2023 has not had much activity. We haven't done much this year; The unbudgeted emergency funds to replace the Morgan Field lights took a toll on projects we were planning to do.

We put in a bid request for a new diesel mower at \$17,000. We purchase diesel mowers because they last longer and have a better fuel utilization per area.

We are replacing the fencing at Town and Country Playground. Currently, there is just fencing on each end of the basketball court. We will replace the existing fabric and add a third leg of fencing along the side of the court, to connect the two fences on each end. This will help curtail basketballs winding up in the bushes and creek.

We will also put a fence behind the soccer goal at Coventry Park at the back end of the field for the same reason. Both of these projects are under \$10,000.

We still have the upgrade bill on Ridgeview Park. We will do PIP surfacing for the play structure instead of nuggets due to the vandalism. We are painting the stegosaurus. The swings have been painted. We are still working on the slide. We have had some issues with the concrete. The PIP will be last. It should be done next month.

We have a PO for the big slide at SplashZone for under \$10,000 in repairs.

Mr. Jernigan reported that we have gotten approval for the pickleball grant. It is for six new courts at Green Acres Park with post-tension concrete surface. It will be \$500,000 to do the courts. It is a 50/50 match. The grant will involve redoing the three existing courts we have in Green Acres Park and add three more courts, with a buffer for wind. We will bid this out. There are four companies who should be able to provide a bid. We will have a pre-bid meeting.

5. Director's Narrative

Open House went well. There were 40 people who attended.

The cricket group came in to speak with Mr. Jernigan. They're looking for a permanent home. They need a runway. We have been working with them on the batting cages to modify them a little so they can practice bowling.

The AARPA Grant is the first one we're going to be working on. They require a lot of extra details from us. Bayless lighting is the big ticket item. We are working with them to review and sign off on it. We will have a pre-bid meeting for this. We hope to get it done by this calendar year, hopefully by November, with work to start weather dependent.

Mike Fleishhauer made a motion for approval for the pickleball court MOU which the city has collaborated on with the grant provider, the Chymiak Family Foundation. Susan Wrasmann seconded the motion.

6. New business – budget review

Mr. Jernigan presented a budget summary showing major capital requests for the coming year and detailing areas in each of the three budgets under the parks umbrella – parks & recreation, parkland reserve, and the cemetery fund.

With the parkland reserve fund, this is triggered by new developments in which either suitable land is donated or a fee is collected in lieu of. The rationale for this is that if you increase the population capacity of an area, you increase pressure on city services, including parks and park amenities and programs.

There has been discussion on revising the zoning codes and potentially the fee-in-lieu collected through land development. The new zoning code changes do not reflect any changes in the current parkland portion of the ordinance, which was just redone in 2018.

But we will continue to use this fund. It is because of the money collected through this fund, that will allow \$25,000 to go to replacing the outdated Barnitz Park playground.

As to other parks capital projects, we are asking to replace a 2009 truck and purchase two additional new mowers that would replace 2015 and 016 models.

The cemetery fund includes dollars for continued work on pre 1900s stones.

Questions were asked about other budget areas, including the Centre. The City Council held a workshop on the Centre. At the workshop, Council was informed that Power Wellness has pushed back their Aug. 2022 estimate they gave of break even of Oct. 1, 2023 four more years. They are asking for more funding for the rest of this year through this four-year period, from both ARPA funds and the city's general fund, including additional dollars to create a weight area in what is currently the gym and to purchase more cardio equipment. Council will review this and all of these areas in the upcoming budget workshop and then in subsequent scheduled City Council meetings to finalize the budget.

Susan Wrasmann made a motion to approve the 2023-24 parks and recreation budget. Mike Fleishhauer seconded the motion.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.