

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.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Larry Thomas made a motion to approve the November 16, 2022, minutes. Susan Wrasmann seconded approval. Motion passed with no opposition.

3. New Business

- RTP Grant for Bike Park – City Engineer Darin Pryor
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 \$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 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 a BMX/mountain bike track.
Mr. Jernigan said we are planning on asking for \$200,000, so we would have to come up with \$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. 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 the Mayor will ask if it will generate enough money to pay for either choice. The short answer is no, not immediately, for either choice. So regarding the choices, a panel would not look good. Ken Kwantes also said no on closing the slide off with a panel. Mr. Kwantes suggested a whole new structure. The old structure is 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. This was the worst year since 2015 for leaks. Westport came today with a dive company. We might want to see what Westport says about the leak. In the last five years, we have done major work on the sides and bottom of the pool, we took out the sand, replaced the grates, and replaced the chemtroller. Pools are costly to maintain.

- Holloway House Summary Review Information

Mr. Jernigan included a Holloway House Analysis in the packet. He noted he is merely bringing it in front of the group for informational purposes only. Mr. Butz tasked him with this project. The house is currently empty. ABLE Commission moved out. There is asbestos and lead paint in the house and it is not up to code. It would take a minimum of \$350,000, but probably much more, to make it inhabitable. There is nothing architectural about it. It is not on the Historic Roster.

We could leave it setting empty, but it would not be good or safe to do so. We would like to demo the building and replace it with a park facility. We could put pickleball courts there or possibly build a Parks Office there, but it needs to be turned into usable space. 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 2, 9)

Mr. Jernigan noted that the Prop P Committee Meeting is tomorrow at 5 p.m. The Prop P Fact Sheet and Ten-Year Proposed sheet are included in this packet.

Mr. Jernigan said the Open House will be March 2 or 9. The committee will give us direction on what we should do. We, as City of Rolla employees, can't tell people how to vote, but we can educate. We generally receive positive comments at Open House events.

The tax is only 6 ¼¢ per \$100 spent. This is not a new tax; it is just a continuation of what is already in place. We have been getting an average of \$320,00 annually, which is what we need for major park structures, such as playgrounds, bathrooms, and parking lots.

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. There are rules and regulations regarding the language of the ballot. If it is not possible to change the ballot language, we will ask to have that spelled out in the explanation of this item on the ballot.

- Recreation Preview – Manager Andrew Smith

Andrew introduced himself and gave a little bit of his background. He told the group that, while he last worked for the City of Nixa Parks & Recreation Department, he is actually from Rolla and his parents still live here.

While he was in college at Missouri State, he worked at the Rec Center as a Student Employee 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. He will run the Easter Bone Hunt at the Dog Park. He is working with the Pickleball Club to do a tournament and league. He will run a Men's and a Co-ed Softball League. He will run the youth Summer Camp in BerJuan Park. He plans to run a Flag Football League in the fall. We will do the Canine Plunge again this year after the final weekend of 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 people in the surrounding neighborhood who might complain about the lights. Ken Kwantes told Andrew to stay with Morgan and Kimmel Fields. They are furthest away from the neighborhoods and from Presbyterian Manor.

The group was in support of the tournament. Mr. Kwantes and Mr. Jernigan explained the ordinance regarding being in parks after dark or after midnight. In part, Mr. Kwantes said it is to deter people from camping out in our parks. Mr. Jernigan said the police have been helping to bring that down. City Council is also supportive of rules to keep that from occurring. Mr. Jernigan said we have cleared out areas where they were camping. Mr. Kwantes said they still use areas under the overpasses on the highway and there are still underground places at the old Seeger Toyota site.

4. Financials

- Financials for October, November, and December are included in the packet. Mr. Jernigan asked the group if there were any questions. He noted revenue for the Cemetery was significantly different. Last year we had a larger number of burials.

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. We had no record of it or who might be in it. The family had ordered it to be placed in their family block.

Rolla City Ordinance says that burials have to go through us and they are supposed to pay the burial fee for a cremation, even if it is placed in a mausoleum. This is the first time there has been a mausoleum headstone. In this case, there are actually the cremains of two people in the mausoleum, but they are in just one urn. We are just charging for one burial, since they are sharing a cremation urn. Larry Thomas asked if the monument company should have called us. Mr. Jernigan answered yes, the monument company should have called to let us know they were placing a monument in the cemetery. They normally do call to let us know they are placing a monument in the cemetery.

Another item of mention is in the insurance category. Mr. Jernigan explained that this will vary depending on when Steffanie applies the expense.

Mr. Jernigan pointed out that there is a difference in the Maintenance category. We had a big year in 2021, so there is a big drop in expense to 2022.

5. Director's Narrative

- Mr. Kwantes asked about the attendance for the Christmas Train event in December. He asked about the report of 840 people. Mr. Jernigan said that there were that many people. We had more interest this year. Fine Linen Theatre made some changes in this year's performance. It was geared toward Christmas and towards children. They sang songs and were dressed up in 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. Overall, it went very well. It was Andrew's first time for the event, so it was a learning experience. Mr. Kwantes asked Andrew if he would make any changes. Andrew said we would like to have a better situation with the electric hookups for the lights. It was mentioned that using LED lights would make it easier to string the longer light strands.
- Prop P Open House will take place March 2 or 9. Susan Wrasmann commented that we don't want to schedule the Open House too far out from election day. Larry Thomas asked if the school is also on the ballot. Mr. Jernigan replied that the school is also on the ballot. Our job is to help people become more aware that we are on the ballot and to help educate them to gain support.

6. 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.