

# Park Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

Zoom/City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Members Present:** Larry Thomas, Sue Arnold, and Andrew Meggitt

**Members Present by Zoom:** Susan Wrasmann

**Absent:** Ken Kwantes and Mike Fleishhauer

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

### 1. Call to Order

- Andrew Meggitt called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- Larry Thomas made a motion to approve the Sept. 28 and Oct. 24, 2022, minutes. Sue Arnold seconded approval. All were in favor; the motion passed with no opposition.

### 3. New Business

- Recreation Manager, Andrew Smith

Mr. Jernigan introduced our new Recreation Manager, Andrew Smith. He comes here from Nixa Parks & Recreation, but he is from Rolla and his parents still live here.

He is new to the department, but has been tasked with jumping right in to run the Christmas Train event.

- ARPA Community Revitalization Grant

Update on the other grant. We received approval from City Council to file an application for the LWCF Grant. Unfortunately, with this one, we won't know until late 2023 if we were awarded the grant.

We have applied for another grant. ARPA grants are a maximum of \$500,000, with a minimum 50% match. Meramec Regional Planning Commission is working with staff on this application.

With the ARPA grant, it is retroactive to March 2021, so we can use grant money for projects such as Larry Wilson Field, widening out the sidewalks, and the BerJuan All Inclusive Playground that are already completed.

Mr. Jernigan said we will need another letter of support for this one, like we had for the LWCF Grant. We will ask for letters of support from the Health Dept., ABLE, the senior group, and local schools.

It has to be put together by the end of November. The good thing is that we will know by January 2023 if we are awarded the grant.

Larry Thomas made a motion to authorize staff to apply for grant. Sue Arnold seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

- Prop P reauthorization support from Commission  
 Prop P passed in 2015 with focus on maintaining and improving existing facilities. The current tax is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent, to be reduced to  $\frac{3}{16}$  of one percent beginning Oct. 2023.  
 Mr. Jernigan proposed a few questions to the Park Commission. Should we ask voters to reauthorize the continuation of the municipal sales tax of  $\frac{1}{16}$  of one percent? The  $\frac{1}{16}$  portion has been critical, paying for our big ticket items. Without the  $\frac{1}{16}$ , it would put at risk future projects like the replacement of the existing tennis court surface with a new structure, replacement of the ballfield lighting systems from 1967, and continued replacement of the aging playgrounds.  
 Sue Arnold, Andrew Meggitt, and Larry Thomas were in favor of continuing the  $\frac{1}{16}$  of one percent, stating that it will be easy to show the improvements to the parks that have been done in the last several years.  
 Mr. Jernigan also raised the length of the continuation – either to be an eight or 10-year extension. Mr. Jernigan said he believes people are primarily supportive of the parks. Larry Thomas said that two years should not make a difference.  
 We would have to go to City Council in late December or early January for authorization. Sue Arnold made a motion to propose to City Council that we ask the voters of the City of Rolla to extend the  $\frac{1}{16}$  of the one percent of the Prop P tax for 10 years. Larry Thomas seconded the motion. All members were in favor, so the motion passed unanimously.  
 Mr. Jernigan spoke to the group regarding efforts on how to accomplish this. City of Rolla employees can't advocate for tax proposals, but can provide education. There are basically three ways we can get the information to the citizens of Rolla: the City of Rolla can inform through educational efforts, through an open house, and via media; a group of people can form a citizen's committee through the state treasurer, filed through the state; or there can be a combination of the two in which the City would educate and a citizen's committee would do the campaigning.  
 Andrew Meggitt asked about measures taken back in 2015 for Prop P. Mr. Jernigan shared a few ways the 2015 campaign was carried out. Larry Thomas asked about steps necessary to create a committee. He asked how Lonna Sowers put together a proposal for a downtown fountain. Mr. Jernigan said Lonna has been working on grants and donations. He said there is a filing fee to form a citizen's committee.  
 Andrew Meggitt asked about our existing playground equipment and the expected lifespan. Seven play structures have been replaced and/or added since Prop P's passage. Eight more are in varying stages of need. The existing ones have lasted 30 years.  
 The group talked about which parks might get new equipment. Mr. Jernigan cited inspections that show Wedgewood and Barnitz would likely be the next in line, barring unforeseen circumstances.

#### **4. Financials**

- Financials for July, August, and September are included in the packet. Mr. Jernigan asked the group if there were any questions.

#### **5. Director's Narrative**

- The November Director's narrative is included in the packet.
- Renewal of the Tree City application is in progress.

- Renewal of the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge project is in progress.
- Council approved the Musco bid for new lighting at Morgan field. Work should begin next month to replace the aging system that was impacted by the fall storms.
- Installation of Buehler Park playground is in its final phase. A ribbon cutting aided by the Chamber of Commerce will take place upon completion.
- The annual Christmas Train event is coming up in the first half of December.

## **6. Adjournment**

- Larry Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Sue Arnold seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.