

Park Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2022

Zoom/City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Ken Kwantes, Larry Thomas, Andrew Meggitt, Mike Fleishhauer, and Sue Arnold

Members Present by Zoom: Susan Wrasmann

Absent: None

Others Present: Floyd Jernigan and Julie Rodgers

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Kwantes called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Kwantes asked if there were any additions or corrections to last meeting's minutes. There were none. Larry Thomas made a motion to approve the March 23, 2022, minutes. Sue Arnold seconded approval and the motion passed with no opposition.

3. Financials

- Mr. Thomas asked why June SplashZone personnel expenses are three times what they were last June. Mr. Jernigan said that we are paying lifeguards more per hour, we are having higher attendance – record numbers, night swim is way up, and rentals are up. Mr. Kwantes added that minimum wage has gone up. Mr. Thomas asked what we pay lifeguards. Mr. Jernigan said we pay them anywhere from \$12.50 – \$18.50/hr. We pay more the more years they have worked for us. Our two student managers are at \$18.50/hr. Head guards receive 16.00 – 16.50/hr. Mr. Jernigan added that he feels fortunate that we have the guards we have. Many other pools couldn't open at all this year because they could not get guards. Mr. Thomas said the country club went to members only in their pool, so we might have gotten a few that aren't going there. St. James pool had a late start this year, so we probably had a few come here that would've gone there.
- Insurance is something that swings from low to high, and not always posted at the same time or in the same months. So differences in financials could reflect an expense for insurance.
- Prop P tax has been pretty steady.

4. Director's Narrative

- Mr. Kwantes noted that Mike Fleishhauer has been busy helping Mr. Jernigan and Public Works with the condition of some right-of-way trees, as well as other tree assessment issues. Mr. Jernigan gave kudos to Mike Fleishhauer for being a reference of expertise.

- Mr. Kwantes asked about Missouri Department of Conservation efforts in BerJuan Lake. Mr. Jernigan noted that we have had complaints about BerJuan Lake and the surface growth. MDC treated BerJuan and Schuman Lakes to reduce surface problems and subsurface weed problems. They also stocked both lakes with grass carp.
- Mr. Jernigan pointed out the pavilion concrete flooring that has been completed at Buehler, Green Acres, and Upper Schuman. Lower Schuman is scheduled for this coming Monday. We are very pleased to get these done. While these improvements aren't seen by everyone, they make a difference for people using these facilities. We would like to see the basketball courts at Schuman and BerJuan be done, as well.

5. New Business/Budget Prep

- Mr. Kwantes asked Mr. Jernigan what is in the budget. Mr. Jernigan said we would like to put in a second playground. We will do one in Barnitz, but would like to do one in Wedgewood, as well.
- Mr. Jernigan has been doing inspections of all of the playgrounds. He noted that he has been surprised to see that some of the older ones are in pretty good shape. We are adding more sand and more rubber nuggets in Murry and Ridgeview.
- We are having some parking lots sealed.
- Larry Wilson ADA sidewalk work has begun by Public Works. They are also pouring concrete dugout pads.
- Mr. Jernigan said we have some equipment and two pickups to replace in the upcoming year. They are on the longer replacement schedule.
- We still need an Aquatic Manager. It was funded for this year but we did not acquire one. Mr. Thomas asked why we didn't use a management company. Mr. Jernigan said that we had vetted three companies. One management company easily stood out as our selection, but ultimately we were not approved to go with our selection.
- Mr. Jernigan gave an update on the City Council workshop meeting focusing on the Centre that was held on Monday.
- Sue Arnold asked about the lap swim item that was on the potential future projects for SplashZone. Mr. Jernigan answered that we would like to add this as a deeper water feature at SplashZone. If we were able to add on, we could add GlideFit and water walking, as well as lap swimming.
- Andrew Meggitt asked about the chances of us being able to convert to turf on three fields. Mr. Jernigan spoke of the grant we completed with MRPC that would have allowed for funds for this. Unfortunately, the city was able to get the file uploaded due to a software glitch before the deadline for submission. Mr. Kwantes noted that Springfield's Cooper Complex – soccer, baseball, softball, etc. - is getting turf fields within the next three years. It is an astronomical amount of money. Mr. Jernigan spoke of other groups who also use our fields, such as Rolla High School, Missouri S&T Baseball, and S&T intermurals. He said there is a huge need for turf fields here.
- Mr. Jernigan reported that we received a \$10,000 donation for the Rolla Cemetery from a woman who has family in the cemetery. It is to be used for pre-1900s monument repairs. We finished Potter's Field through work with our volunteer workers. We have been able to

identify missing locations of burials. We plan for more development beyond Sections G and H, but it is not in the budget for this year. We still have inventory.

6. Adjournment

- Andrew Meggitt made a motion to adjourn. Sue Arnold seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. Next regular Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, at 5 p.m. Mr. Thomas will not be able to attend the meeting for this date, so it will be determined at a later date if we need to reschedule or not.