

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
SplashZone

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

Absent: Ken Kwantes and Larry Thomas

Others Present: Floyd Jernigan, Stan Busch, Andrew Smith, and Julie Quackenbush

1. Call to Order

- Andrew Meggitt called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. Approval of July minutes

- Susan Wrasmann moved to approve the July 26, 2023, minutes. Mike Fleishhauer seconded approval. All approved, with no opposition.

3. New business

- Pickleball RFP review – Director and Public Works Director, Darin Pryor.
Mr. Jernigan included six bid proposals in the Advisory Commission packets, but only two of them are able to be considered. Only two of the bids were received by the deadline for bid submission, MacConnell & Associates and Precision Construction & Contracting. Four of them came in after the bid opening.
Mr. Jernigan spoke of the concerns of the pickleball players. They prefer the courts to be two rows of three across, instead of six courts in a row. Darin Pryor said that either format can be built. The six in a row configuration is the least amount of work. The group discussed the pros and cons of the two different configurations. Darin offered to have his guys stake out both configurations so Advisory Commission Members can see the two different layouts in the location.
Mr. Jernigan told the group that MacConnell has built 90% of the pickleball courts in Missouri. Mike Fleishhauer made a motion to go with the MacConnell bid. Andrew Meggitt seconded the motion. No one opposed and all were in favor.

4. Director's narrative

- Community Garden
Mr. Jernigan received a phone call from a physically handicapped person regarding the difficulty she has had in trying to navigate the community garden. We are not ADA.
Mr. Jernigan and Darin Pryor looked over the community garden. The community garden has not been updated since around 2014 or so. The plots and the area looks bad. We will have to put in concrete walkways, add two sheds, and put them on pads. About a third of the plots

are well cared for. The rest are not. The man running it lost his board during Covid and he is doing it all. He can't get anyone to help. Mr. Jernigan and Darin Pryor spoke with Mr. Butz about this issue. The group discussed the one-time cost for a plot. They also discussed the possibility of charging a monthly fee for items that have a monthly fee attached, such as placing a porta-potty out at the garden. Another expense is the monthly water usage at the gardens.

Darin Pryor said we will need to decide on a monthly fee. We're going to have a meeting with this group to lay out what they're responsible for and what we're responsible for. Darin Pryor said they need to form a board, an agreement, and a set of bylaws.

- **Tennis court light system controls**

Mr. Jernigan said a Missouri S&T student approached him about an on-demand and free light system at the tennis courts. Mr. Jernigan said the electric cost to run lights for the tennis courts is approximately \$4 - \$5/hr. The cost to install an on-demand system would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000 - \$10,000.

The group discussed offering lights for free and the problems that would occur if we decided to change back to a fee-for-lights system. There was also discussion regarding the popularity of tennis and if it was enough to warrant paying \$10,000 for an on-demand light system.

Darin Pryor discussed some of the costs associated with setting up an on-demand system.

Stan Busch suggested we turn the lights on for free for a few nights a week and see if we can gauge what the usage is for those nights. If there are people who are taking advantage of the free lights, we continue and possibly add other nights. If there is no one there to use them, we do not continue on those nights and possibly discontinue altogether if it is being wasted.

Andrew Meggitt made a motion to run the lights four nights per week. Susan Wrasmann seconded the motion. All were in favor, so with none opposed, the motion was approved.

5. Financials/discussion

Mr. Jernigan asked Andrew Smith to talk briefly about what is currently going on in Recreation these days. Andrew Smith said we had enough teams to do a Fall Co-ed Softball League, but we did not get enough teams to run a Fall Men's Softball League. We have six teams for Co-ed and will run it on Thursday nights.

Mr. Jernigan noted that the Bayless light bids are due next Wednesday.

SplashZone had a pretty good year. We had a leak we have been battling off and on since 2012. Attendance was hurt by weather. The two slides affected attendance, as well. We replaced the small slide on the play structure in the zero depth end. One of the big slides was out of commission for a big part of the summer and then it was an expensive repair to get it back in use.

Mr. Jernigan told the group the budget was in the narrative. Everything that we put in for had passed. SplashZone lost more than the Centre.

Mr. Jernigan asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. Having none, discussion moved to closing statements.

Mr. Jernigan mentioned that he, Stan, Roger, Thomas, Lonnie, and Jesse had worked in the cemetery this past week. He said we were able to set back upright 40 – 50 monuments in the

cemetery. We reset stones that had been down for decades, primarily in Section 7. There are only about six that are left down at this point. This does not include the broken headstones. Mr. Jernigan has been working with Veteran's groups for locating Veterans in the cemetery. Not certain, but we may have located four more Union and four Confederate Soldiers who are buried here.

Also finishing up a survey of Veterans. SCRVG and American Legion groups have been very helpful in working to get a stone for those who don't have one. Some of the stones are disappearing down into the ground, so these groups have tentatively agreed to help raise them back up. Mr. Jernigan is researching them alphabetically to find them. There are four purple heart and about 70 Civil War people buried in our cemetery. There are 725 Veterans of the 16,025 graves in the cemetery.

Stan added that Andrew is working with MS&T who is having a disc golf tournament. It is the biggest one Rolla has had.

The Rolla High School Girls Softball Tournament is coming up in a little over a week.

Ridgeview Park repairs from the fire are now totally complete. All of the colors that were chosen are good. All is done and we are trying to set a date for the ribbon cutting.

Replaced the fence at Town & Country Park.

Mr. Jernigan said Mark Calvert and Rolla Knights signed the MOU for the new soccer field and we are just waiting to sort out details.

Kittie Robertson Soccer Field has been painted out.

6. Adjournment

Susan Wrasmann made a motion to adjourn. Mike Fleishhauer seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.