

Park Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

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

Absent: Sue Arnold and Ken Kwantes

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

1. Call to Order

- Andrew Meggitt called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Larry Thomas made a motion to approve the January 30, 2023, minutes. Susan Wrasmann seconded approval. Motion passed with no opposition.

3. New Business

- Committee to Continue Prop P update

Mr. Jernigan introduced Lonna Sowers to the group, noting that Lonna is the “face of RDBA.” Lonna has graciously offered to help with Prop P, working on the committee and helping to bring awareness of the tax to Rolla citizens, through various media.

She said Prop P has a Facebook page and an event page which are all free. The committee did two sets of ads for the Phelps County Focus: an on-line banner ad to run from March 28 – April 3; and two 2” x 6” print ads.

Lonna does media submission. She shot two videos of a young child at the all-inclusive park in BerJuan Park. They are posted on Facebook and the Focus is publishing it, as well.

Lonna interviewed Randy and Laura Stoll for pickleball. She is trying to show people a variety of aspects that Parks touches. We are trying to educate people. We have sheets with the facts and figures of Prop P, showing the tax is only 6.25 cents on \$100. The sheets list what our Parks have to offer the community: SplashZone, maintenance of 270 acres with 34 parks, ballfields, disc-golf course, and a 40-acre cemetery maintaining 16,000 burials.

Lonna has heard a lot of negative feedback regarding the school taxes on the ballot. Hopefully that won’t also be a negative for the Parks tax.

Mr. Jernigan said we did a presentation on cable as part of City Council on Monday. Open House for Prop P was attended by six City Council Members, which is the most we have ever gotten for an open house. Parks only received \$45,000 in ARPA money, due to lower attendance at SplashZone. To contrast, The Centre received \$850,000 and an additional \$350,000, as approved by City Council. Parks did not ask for ARPA money to use in other areas because we did not shut down.

We are on the back side of the ballot. The marijuana tax and the school taxes are on the front.

Prop P Committee has had a couple of meetings. Aimee Campbell and Mark Caballero were not on the committee, but have supported it with feedback and limited help. Lonna, Rachel, and Alissa have worked to keep it posted on social media.

- **Farmers Market MOU**

The Farmers Market officially begins April 1, the first Saturday in April. Mr. Jernigan included this year's Memorandum of Understanding between the Rolla Downtown Farmers Market and the Parks Department.

There are eight currently active for the winter market. Laura Tarvin has been working on the MOU paperwork for spring vendors. They are currently a 501C3 organization, but they are working toward getting their own insurance. It should take effect next year. A picture of the Rolla City lots they use, is included in the packet.

They have 37 vendors confirmed for this year, a couple of which are food producers. They had 65 vendors last year. We require them to undergo a food safety handling course through the Health Department. We currently have about half of the Hold Harmless Agreements. We hope to get the rest by next week.

Susan Wrasmann moved to approve the updated MOU. Mike Fleishhauer seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposition.

4. Financials

- Mr. Jernigan noted that Prop P Tax revenue is missing from Park Financials spreadsheet.

Overall, expenses are down and revenues are up. We haven't hired back seasonals. We turn on water and open bathrooms on April 1.

Expenses should be more this year because minimum wage has gone up again. We are still looking for umpires for softball league. We are doing pretty well on lifeguards and rec aides. We were short by several employees last year. Maintenance side still looking for people.

Revenue is up mainly because Eugene Northern Community Hall rentals are up.

We are going up on our rates across the board. Cemetery rates are staying the same, but will probably go up next year.

5. Director's Narrative

- Working with a group from MS&T regarding nutrient mitigation in Schuman Lake. Mr. Jernigan included a copy of the abstract in the packet. The research team will consist of two principal investigators, graduate students, and undergrad students, who will perform sampling of water. We also do a Special Use – canoe – Permit for this group. They are applying for a grant, so this is preliminary for that.

We talked about putting in aerators in Schuman, like we did at BerJuan Lake. It limits or reduces fish kill. Both are runoff lakes which receive fertilizer, etc., from nearby fields. Mr. Jernigan said this should be the best bet for the overgrowth. Mike Fleishhauer said to watch that the floating mats don't get left there and to watch for bank fishermen.

- May is Tennis Month, but it is a particularly busy month for Mr. Jernigan and Andrew Smith. They both met with USTA to talk about new ways to bring in people and programs to our courts. USTA representatives expressed they would help with activities for Tennis Month.
- Mr. Jernigan met with MS&T group regarding a Monarch butterfly and pollinator garden in Schuman Park. The key will be that the group is able to provide us with a report to show continued efforts for the Mayor's Monarch garden, since these students are seniors.
- Dealing with WestPort for the pool leak, hoping it will come out well. We dipped into reserves for unbudgeted Morgan Field lights, so we are just replacing slide on the children's play structure at SplashZone, rather than replacing the entire pool feature.
- Ridgeview Playground was vandalized, set on fire by juveniles, causing around \$40,000 in damages. The 14-year olds blamed the 10-year old girl for the fire. TDD made us choose rubber nuggets originally, but we would have gone with the pour-n-play surface. Waiting on final reports; took pics, and turned into insurance. We are waiting on insurance adjusters to make a determination on how much we will be reimbursed for repairs

6. Commission Comments

- Larry Thomas said he was recently questioned by Kent Bagnall regarding the train in Schuman Park. Mr. Bagnall expressed that he would like to see a caboose be added with the train. The caboose the city currently owns is not a Frisco, like the engine at Schuman. After discussion, Mr. Jernigan said he felt like it is not a good use of City/Parks money. We have so many other needs in the parks where money needs to be spent.
- Andrew Meggitt asked about the current standings on the other grants we submitted. He asked how they are looking and if they seem to be in our favor. Mr. Jernigan replied that we are hopeful. We will have an announcement soon.
Mr. Jernigan added that we applied for a small grant in conjunction with May Tennis Month. It is a very small grant but would be helpful for any expenses incurred for the activities we have planned.
Mr. Jernigan commented on a couple of changes we will have to make on the large grant that includes improvements to the soccer field. We had to take out the lighting, so the improvements will be turf and scoreboards.
- There was some discussion regarding the Rolla Cemetery. We received a \$10,000 donation to do repairs. We will do a border on Potters Field/Section 4A, which is largely lots for people who lost a child and moved away, African Americans, railroad accidents, and low income people. We do not know exact locations of those who are in this section, but we have list of names. There was GIS done in the section to help locate graves.
Larry Thomas asked about how things ended up with the mausoleum issue we had a few months ago. Mr. Jernigan said we contacted the headstone company to reiterate protocol they must follow so we know who is being buried in the cemetery. Mr. Jernigan also contacted the lot owner to let them know the steps they need to take. All went smoothly.

7. Adjournment

- Next meeting is Wednesday, May 24, at 5 p.m. It was suggested we meet in one of the Rolla City Pavilions, the train, or possibly the Rolla Cemetery.

- Larry Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Mike Fleishauer seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.