

Park Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Larry Thomas, Sue Arnold, and Mike Fleishhauer

Members Present by Phone: Susan Wrasmann

Absent: Ken Kwantes and Andrew Meggitt

Others Present: Mayor Lou Magdits, Floyd Jernigan, Simon Yoakum, Marie Crowley, Darin Pryor, City Engineer, Aimee Campbell, Rolla Chamber Tourism Director, Stevie Kearse, Rolla Chamber Director, Dan Fuhrmann, Route 66 Bike Shop, Lonna Sowers, RDBA, Dale Martin, RREC Director, and Julie Rodgers

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Mike Fleischhauer made a motion to approve the May 26, 2021, minutes. Sue Arnold seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentations

- Mayoral proclamation National Parks Month. Mayor Magdits presented the proclamation and thanked the members of the Park Advisory Committee for their effort. He complimented the quality of the Park system.
- **Big BAM (Bike Across Missouri) Request for Utilizing Park Space for Summer 2022 Event** (overnight camping, concert space, water, sewer) Aimee Campbell, Rolla Tourism Director. Ms. Campbell said Rolla is one of the cities being considered for this event which would happen June 16, 2022. Ms. Campbell said members of the local BAM Committee include Aimee Campbell, Lonna Sowers, Dan Fuhrmann, Marie Crowley, and Steve Hargis. The committee set out to select a location for the event. After a few other considerations, the committee picked BerJuan Park. The Chamber of Commerce will incur costs of expenses of BAM as listed. The event would bring in local food trucks and Parks could open concession stands in the park to sell drinks. The Chamber will pay for any permits, etc. There was some discussion regarding the word "camping," which simply means pitching tents and nothing more, she said. The group selected BerJuan Park because the bikers will need amenities: water, restrooms, and showers' and it was close to downtown. The organization will provide temporary restrooms and showers which they will put in BerJuan Park.

Mr. Fleishhauer asked if this is a private event or if it is a public event. Ms. Campbell said it is a public event, but it is dependent on the community. She said, "We welcome and encourage the public to come see this. This event is about showcasing our city. The organizers want walkability. We can provide that. There will be some things in the park that participants can do. OAT will have performances going on during this time, so bikers would be able to attend those. USA Tours will provide rides to take participants downtown to restaurants."

Mr. Thomas asked Mayor Magdits about the order of approval for an event such as this. Mayor Magdits said it is first presented to the Park Board. They would act as a supporting advocate. The Park Director must support it, who then must be a supporting advocate to present it to the City Council.

Ms. Wrasmann said she thinks this is a great idea for the city.

Mr. Thomas said he has a concern about having a live band in the park, just in terms of playing loud music for residents nearby. "We would like to encourage participants to visit the downtown businesses." Ms. Campbell said, "We can put live music at the band shell, which would bring participants downtown so they would be close to restaurants and other downtown businesses."

There was some concern raised about the outdoor pool, but a former BAM participant said the median age for BAM is 55, so the pool would probably not be an issue.

Mayor Magdits wanted to discuss the negatives for this event. He cited two negatives, one being the "loitering" ordinance. The other is that it would set a precedent for an overnight stay in the park. A third could be alcohol in the parks, but Ms. Campbell said, "We can simply say alcohol is prohibited in the park."

Ms. Campbell said this event should not be categorized as loitering. "There is a purpose for these people to be in the park and we plan to provide activities for participants. We will offer transportation to downtown Rolla so they can visit attractions and restaurants there."

Mr. Thomas said he agreed that an event such as this would be a boost to the city. He said the Park Advisory Commission has been tasked to recommend or to not recommend this event.

Park Staff members were asked to offer their thoughts on this event. Mr. Yoakum said he believes it is a great idea. Ms. Crowley agreed with his statement.

Mr. Fleishhauer made a motion to approve the request for Big BAM to utilize park space for their 2022 summer event. Ms. Wrasmann seconded the motion.

There was a motion on the floor to recommend to City Council that the commission approves this.

- **Proposed Acorn Trail extension through Rolla Cemetery**

Public Works Director Steve Hargis was unable to attend the meeting. City Engineer Darrin Pryor presented the map of the proposed continuance of the Acorn Trail through Rolla Cemetery.

Mr. Pryor presented the map with two proposed routes to choose from. The group was asked to decide which route should be chosen to put the extension through the cemetery. Ms. Arnold asked about the respectability of people walking on the trail. Mr. Pryor, Mr. Thomas,

and Mr. Jernigan all spoke approvingly and gave examples. Mr. Jernigan cited the benefits of greater public presence in the cemetery: A vandalism deterrent – less likelihood of destruction of stones and the theft of monuments, gates, and decorations that have increased in recent years; a reduction of illegal activity in the cemetery, including drug deals; and more public buy-in, appreciation, and knowledge of the history of the people buried there, and the architectural styles of the monuments themselves.

“People are already biking and walking the cemetery. They are respectful. Having more of that presence lessens the presence of wrongdoers who like secluded areas.”

Mr. Thomas asked who will have the expense of the trail extension through the cemetery.

Mr. Pryor answered that it will be Public Works.

The map showed the two routes, one being a more northern route that goes right through the cemetery. The southern route was the initial proposed route for the trail. Mr. Pryor said there are three homeowners near the southern trail who spoke negatively of that route.

The southern route skirts the edge of the cemetery and makes the least impact on the cemetery. The northern route goes through a busier section of the cemetery. It would have more of an impact and could affect the layout of the cemetery, much more so than the southern route.

Mr. Yoakum said there is already a road easement for the southern route. Mr. Pryor agreed that the easement is already there. Mr. Yoakum spoke in favor of the southern route since it already has an easement and because it would be a wooded trail without close proximity to gravesites.

Mr. Fleishhauer made a motion to approve the southern route for the extension. Ms.

Wrasmann seconded the motion. The vote to approve the southern route for the extension passed unanimously.

4. Review of financials

- Mr. Jernigan noted the financials were in the meeting packets. If there were any questions, he could be contacted.

5. Narrative

- SplashZone has seen an increase in attendance. The renovated slides have been an influencing factor. Will close on weekdays based on availability of Lifeguard Staff. Last day is Sunday, Sept. 5, closing prior to Labor Day. Canine Plunge, an annual event to dogs and their owners, is Saturday, Sept. 11, and is the final day for SplashZone.
- BerJuan All Inclusive Playground is complete except for one final component from the contractor.
- Frisco Train received a \$5,000 grant from BNSF Railroad for reimbursement of materials used in the restoration and preservation effort.

6. Review of tentative 2021-22 Parks & Recreation Budget

Mr. Jernigan noted that the proposed 2021-22 budget has been submitted but he has not met with Mr. Butz yet for our department’s budget discussion. Mr. Jernigan said if there are any

changes, he expected they would be slight. Mr. Jernigan will send an updated budget to the committee when it has received final approval.

7. Commission comments

Mr. Thomas said there will be no meeting next month unless Mr. Jernigan sends an email to the Commission requesting to meet.

Mr. Thomas noted the change in meeting time from 5:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. from here on out.

8. Adjournment

- Mr. Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fleishhauer seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.