

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Parks Division Conference Room
February 11, 2010

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 11, 2010 with the following members present: Sheri Zimmer, Chuck Tinant, Lisa Seaman and Michaela Hofmann. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Council Liaison Aaron Costello, Alderwoman Karen Gunderson Olson, Landscape Designer Randy Lyons, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Dosier, Urban Forestry Board Liaison Steve Hasenohrl and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Seaman and carried to approve the minutes of January 14, 2010, as presented.

The agenda was approved as presented.

New Advisory Board members Lisa Seaman and Michaela Hofmann were present and everyone introduced themselves and explained their affiliation with the Advisory Board.

Liaison Reports

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning and the main topic of discussion was the upcoming reconstruction of 6th Street from Kansas City to Omaha Street and the status of the existing trees located in this area (especially the nodes). At their next meeting the UFB is going to try to inspect these areas and attempt to formulate a recommendation on what should happen with the street trees in the construction area.

Dosier reported that the main topic of discussion at the last Beautification Committee meeting was review of the proposed changes to the City's Landscape Ordinance. Dosier added that the St. Joe Street Tree Project is on schedule for late spring.

2012 Presentations

Rails to Trails Project: Bike Path from Rapid City to Airport: Emily Wheeler explained that the West River Trails Coalition will be presenting a Rails to Trails Project which consists of constructing 9 miles of bike path beginning at Brennan Avenue in Rapid City and going east to the airport. The mission of the West River Trails Coalition is to plan, develop and maintain a 104 mile Rails to Trails project from Rapid City to Kadoka, however their goals include raising funds, education, assistance to public and private organizations, preservation of and improvement to public trail access points, promotion of sustainable trails, to encourage local trails, provide support for trails, to promote healthy social and economic benefits of trails, and to foster cooperation among diverse groups through facilitation and planning. The rail line for the 9 mile stretch from Rapid City to the airport was rail banked in 2009 and salvage of the rails will begin in 2010. The State is interested in maintaining the rail bed as a transportation corridor and

therefore the property can be leased for little or no cost for trail purposes. One challenge for this project is that Discount Lumber has a lease with SDRRA for use of this property for parking but they have indicated they are willing to work with the Trails Coalition for a passage through the area.

Wheeler stated that this pathway project has the potential to open an area for travel that is currently unsafe to travel by foot or bike. The project would also provide a healthy recreation activity for children traveling to school as well as older users looking for a safe transportation route. Wheeler also noted that \$690 was spent in the Black Hills by each party who came to use the Mickelson Trail and the trail project proposed by the Trails Coalition could generate the same type of economic development for the area.

The cost of the proposed 9 mile project is estimated at \$1.8 million for an asphalt trail or \$650,000 for a crushed stone trail. Bridge construction would add approximately \$200,000 and site amenities are estimated to cost \$250,000 (signs, cross walks, etc.). The total estimated cost for an asphalt path is \$2.25 million and \$1.1 million for a crushed stone path. Costs to maintain the 9 mile path would range from \$2,000-\$10,000 per year, depending on the type of path constructed.

Roosevelt Park Intergenerational Facility: Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole presented an Intergeneration Facility Project for the Advisory Board's consideration. He went through the history of the Vision 2012 program and listed the projects that had been constructed in past years. It was interesting to note that a recreation center was listed in each phase of the 2012 Program, however, no funding was provided for this project in Phase 3. Cole presented details about the Swim Center and the Ice Arena which were both funded through the 2012 process. He added that both facilities were constructed with additional infrastructure that anticipated a building connecting them in the future. Cole is proposing an Intergenerational Center to connect the facilities. It could include recreation areas, a field house, and a senior center with endless possibilities for programs and activities. He also suggested alternative energy sources and other "green building" elements that could save maintenance and operation costs in the future. Cole estimated that the cost of the project would range from \$8,000,000 to \$11,800,000 depending on the elements that are included.

Horace Mann Pool/Park Renovation: Cole also presented a proposal for the Horace Mann Pool and Park area. He gave a history of this area noting that the pool was constructed in 1972, and because of soil stability issues it began to leak almost immediately. Some of the funding to construct the pool was received from the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant which means that if the pool is removed, it must be replaced in a similar geographic area. There are 3 options for the Horace Mann Pool:

Option A) Rebuild the pool in the same location. This would include closing the road going through the park, constructing a new 50 meter pool, bathhouse and concession facility, redoing the parking lot, and renovating the baseball field. The cost of Option A is estimated at \$3 million for the pool and \$1 million for the other amenities. Cole noted that this option would perform very similar to the operation at Horace Mann at the present time. Attendance would be about the same as would revenue and expenses.

Option B) Build in the Same Place with Amenities. This option anticipates closing the road going through the park, constructing a new 50 meter pool concession and bathhouse, adding leisure water features, renovating the baseball field and parking lot. Estimated Cost: \$4 million for the pool and \$1 million for other site amenities. Cole stated that this option would perform similar to the Parkview Pool complex. Attendance would increase as would revenue and expenses. The recovery rate would increase to approximately 35%.

Option C) Build at the Rapid City Swim Center. This option contemplates construction of a new 50 meter pool on the south side of the existing Swim Center, adding leisure water amenities, closing the road that goes through Horace Mann Park, construction of a spray park at Horace Mann Park, and reconstruction of the baseball field and parking lot. Estimated costs are \$5 million for the pool and \$1.5 million for the updates at Horace Mann Park. Cole stated that this option would have the best financial performance with an anticipated recovery rate of 60%-65%.

Bikepath Lighting Project: Bob Case, representing the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Watch organization, presented a proposal to provide lighting along the bike path for a total of 6.5 miles. Case added that this project aligns with the RPNW Group goals to work together for crime deterrence, to build community, and to beautify the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood. The RPNW organization has been active since 2001 and was instrumental in the Roosevelt Park improvement projects that have recently been completed. Case presented photographs of the lighting project around Roosevelt Pond showing the impact it has made in the area. Case proposed five segments for the lighting project:

1. Roosevelt Park to Memorial Park - \$419,897
2. Roosevelt Park to Fairgrounds - \$265,849
3. Memorial Park to Sioux Park - \$877,324
4. Sioux Park to Canyon Lake Park - \$1,035,643
5. Fairgrounds to Cambell Street - \$498,439

The total cost to complete all 6.5 miles is estimated at \$3,097,152.

Wildwood Neighborhood Park: Kibbi Conti presented a proposal to purchase one acre of land at the intersection of Wildwood and Sheridan Lake Road and create a neighborhood park and playground. She presented maps of the area showing the need for additional neighborhood parks in this part of the community. Cost estimates for the project include \$225,000 to purchase the land and \$300,000 for playground construction. She added that it may be possible to do a community build for this project and there may be assistance with landscaping. The benefits of this project include improved aesthetics in this highly visible location; it is accessible from the bike path; there is a cross walk across Sheridan Lake Road at this location; the park would offer neighborhood recreation; it would serve households from four neighborhoods and the park would act as a buffer between commercial and residential uses.

Parkview Softball Complex: 2 Additional Fields: Rick Denherder, Arron Mills and Matt Brandhagen presented a proposal to locate two additional fast pitch softball fields at the Parkview Softball Complex. They propose that the fields be located directly south of the existing fields. Denherder reported that membership in ASA Girls Softball has grown from 280 in 2003 to 600 in 2009. This program is for girls ages 5 to 18 years old. In 2009, 522 games were played at the Parkview Complex including the high school season. Fast pitch softball begins in May and ends in August; the high school season continues through October. Denherder added that having 2 additional fields will allow the ASA Organization to bid on tournaments which could have a positive economic impact to the Rapid City community. The estimated cost of adding two fields to this complex ranges from \$550,000 to \$575,000 depending on the construction schedule. Additional parking will also be needed which increases the total project cost to approximately \$1.2 million.

Cole explained that no action will be taken on the 2012 projects at this time. The submittal deadlines have been extended and if more projects are submitted for consideration, they will be presented at the March Advisory Board meeting. At that time the Board will be asked to review all the projects and establish a priority.

Election of Officers

It was noted that Van Lindquist was elected Chairman of the Advisory Board at the last meeting and at that time he requested that election of a Vice Chairman be continued to the February meeting so that the new members could be present.

Tinant nominated Zimmer for the position of Vice Chairman; second by Seaman. No other nominations were made and a unanimous ballot was cast for Zimmer.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.