

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Parks Division Conference Room
September 10, 2009

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 10, 2009 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Liz Runquist, Sheri Zimmer, and Chuck Tinant. Also present were City Council Liaison Aaron Costello, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Dosier, Community Planning Coordinator Monica Heller, Bruce Backens, Barb Nelson, Council Member Patti Martinson, Council Member Karen Olson and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Zimmer and carried to approve the minutes of August 13, 2009, as presented.

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Bruce Backens – Update on Scotty Backens ADA Memorial Statue
- Request for Memorial Tree & Plaque for Norman E. Nelson
- Request for Memorial Bench for Jeffrey Nelson

Liaison Reports

Dosier noted that he was not able to attend the most recent Beautification Committee meeting so he does not have a report.

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning and discussed the annual Tree Care Workshop which will be held in March, 2010. The new Extension Agent, Rick Abrahamson also attended the meeting to introduce himself and become familiar with the Board.

Van Deusen also reported that some of the trees recently planted in Vickie Powers Park will have to be moved because they were planted too close to existing power lines.

Olson reported that first reading of the ordinance dealing with a feeding ban for waterfowl was continued to the October 28th Legal & Finance Committee meeting so that experts from the Game, Fish & Parks Department would be able to attend the meeting. At that meeting a presentation will be made and a discussion will be held on the issue of feeding waterfowl in the city limits.

Olson also reported that the Tennis Committee is very pleased with the new tennis courts at the Parkview Complex. She added that no recreation programming will be possible at this location until funding is available to build a restroom facility. The Committee will continue to fund raise for this project.

Update on 2012 Projects

A list of the current 2012 Projects was distributed to the Board for their information. Lindquist noted that if anyone has any questions on these projects, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

Update on Scotty Backens ADA Memorial Statue

Bruce Backens and Doug Pitts submitted drawings for the ADA statue proposed to be located in Memorial Park near the existing Omaha Street crosswalk. Pitts explained that the project has been modified so that the base of the statue will be smaller and serve as a bench for sitting. It will also have honor stones which can be used to commemorate individuals, businesses or organizations that have been major contributors to this project, or ADA memorials. The name of the statue will be "the ADA Tribute Memorial" and Scotty Backen's name will be on a plaque attached to the chair. The design has been modified so that additional memorials can be added in the future. Pitts added that Rousch Monument has indicated they are able to inscribe the pavers on site so that won't be a problem. The location of the statue will be near the crosswalk on Omaha Street, between 6th and 7th Streets. It is anticipated that the statue will be unveiled on July 27, 2010 which is the 20th anniversary of the ADA Act. Monica Heller from the Growth Management Dept. indicated that this item will go to the Planning Commission in two weeks and it would be good to have the Advisory Board's approval prior to that meeting. Motion was made by Tinant and seconded by Zimmer to approve the name of the Statue (The ADA Memorial Tribute), the proposed location near the crosswalk on Omaha Street, and the materials that have been proposed for its construction. Heller added that an Agreement will need to be drafted for the City's approval that will deal with accepting ownership of the statue and outline maintenance issues, costs and fees. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Memorial Requests

The next item discussed was a request for a tree and memorial plaque to be located in Wilson Park to honor Norman E. Nelson. A letter was submitted by the West Boulevard Association requesting that this memorial be approved. Nelson was a founding member of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association and a strong advocate for historic preservation in Rapid City. He was among the organizers of the first West Boulevard Summer Festival in Wilson Park 33 years ago. He also wrote a pamphlet on neighborhood historic homes and served many years on the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission and the Historic Sign Review Committee. The West Boulevard Association, with more than 240 members is sponsoring this project and will pay for the plaque and any maintenance fees deemed appropriate. Lindquist noted that the Memorial Policy adopted by the City requires that individuals being honored be deceased for at least 1 year. He suggested that this letter be submitted in March of 2010 and it can be considered by the Advisory Board at that time.

Barb Nelson was present to submit a request for Memorial Bench in Roosevelt Park in memory of her son, Jeffrey Nelson who passed away last March. Nelson explained that

her son grew up in this area and attended Berquist School, played baseball for Rushmore Little League and spent his childhood years playing in Roosevelt Park. His grandmother lived across the street from the park and Jeff and his brothers spent all summers at her home and played in the park, swam in the pool and skated on the pond during winter months. She added that Jeff helped many people in Rapid City by opening his home to those who had no jobs and no homes. He took them into his home and gave them a place to stay until they were on their feet and able to move on. He did this out of the kindness of his heart. Lindquist again referenced the policy and the criteria that the individual being honored be deceased for at least one year. Nelson stated that she would submit her letter again in the spring.

Director's Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the Roosevelt Ice Arena had a very successful summer season. The Ice Arena, however, is getting older and we are beginning to see some high-end maintenance costs for the cooling system.

The Recreation programs experienced a decrease in numbers this past summer, including tennis and arts/crafts programs. Lowe added that the parents he has talked to have indicated that they are choosing fewer programs for the kids because of economic considerations.

The golf courses have experienced successful seasons so far in 2009 even taking into account the wet months of May and June. If the remaining four months of the year are similar to 2008, the golf enterprise fund is on track to being in the black this year.

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported that there was an article in the Rapid City Journal a few weeks back which talked about the duties of the division and commending the Park staff for the good job they are doing. He added that the summer has been a good one and his staff has been very busy with the regular duties of taking care of the park system as well as several landscape projects that have been done throughout the community. Van Deusen noted that Parks Division staff completed landscaping projects at the Cemetery and in front of the Rapid City Swim Center. He also noted that his staff has helped with many special events throughout the summer by moving picnic tables and providing garbage cans, etc. It was noted that it takes staff an entire day to move the picnic tables needed for the Summer Nights event and another day to pick them up when the event is done. While it is good for the community that city staff assists with these events, it does take these employees away from their regular duties throughout the park system. Vickie Powers Park and Red Rock Meadows Park have been added to the duties for the Parks staff this summer and a lot of new trees were planted. The trees were acquired through a Stearns Grant which was received through the Beautification Committee.

Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney reported that attendance at the municipal swimming pools was down approximately 30% this summer. The low attendance can be attributed to a very cool and wet June and July. Swim lessons were down approximately 7% and we feel this was also because of the cool weather in the month of June.

Olney added that he is working with the City Finance Office to establish separate funds for each pool so that we can track revenue and expenses at each facility.

Landscape Designer Randy Lyons reported on the various projects he is working on. The DOT Audit for the Greenway Project has been approved and we can begin to negotiate with CETEC Engineering on the scope of the project and the fees. He also reviewed the restrooms that will be renovated throughout the city with the contractor and staff will be entering negotiations for that project soon. Construction is nearly complete on Vickie Powers Park and the pre-fab restroom is now on site and looks really good. Lyons added that he continues to work on Wilderness Park and he is coordinating with the Game, Fish & Parks on the Outdoor Campus project. We would like to connect these two projects and give them the feel of one park area rather than two separate facilities. We will be going out for bids for this project in approximately one month. The Robbinsdale Park ADA Sidewalk project is now complete throughout the baseball complex.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2009 beginning at 5:30 PM.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.