



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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November 23, 2016

Rapid City Common Council
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: Recommendations from Vision Fund Committee

Dear Council Member:

In the last couple of days the Citizen Vision Fund Committee sent letters to applicants of the 2017 Vision Fund process. The letters indicated to each of the individuals, whether or not their project proposal would receive the committee's recommendation for funding.

The Vision Fund Committee is on the agenda for the December 5th City Council meeting to present the recommendations to the Council. I believe you will find that the committee has performed admirably in their task of vetting each potential Vision Fund project. The committee was made aware of the City's Comprehensive Plan and used the plan as a filter for the proposed projects. They will supply their own rationale for the awards and denials, and they will do so with the knowledge the City Council may override their recommendations.

I assume at the December 5th City Council meeting you will decide either to approve the recommendations as presented, or delay the award for further consideration.

Attached to this letter is a summary of the Vision Committee recommendations for funding. Those projects which were not recommended for funding by the committee include:

- Dog park at Idlehurst Lane. Project cost \$130,000 no specific amount requested from Vision.
- Black Hills Farmers Market \$500,000 project cost. \$500,000 requested from Vision.
- Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium remodel. \$5 million project cost \$5 million requested from Vision.
- Children's Museum \$25 million project cost. No specific amount requested from Vision.
- 8.37 acre land acquisition (City of Rapid City) \$600,000 project cost. No specific amount requested from Vision.

- Phase two Dinosaur Park Master Plan (City of Rapid City). \$2,543,469 project cost. No specific amount requested from Vision.
- Downtown lighting project. \$3,568,878 project cost. \$3,568,878 requested from Vision.
- First Nations Sculpture Garden. \$500,000 project cost. \$100,000 requested from Vision.
- Update Humane Society facility. \$1,200,000 project cost. \$1,200,000 requested from Vision.
- Improve façade/historical renovation. \$50,000 project cost. \$50,000 requested from Vision.
- Building for Storybook Island. \$600,000 project cost. \$400,000 request from Vision.
- Startup company baseball manufacturing. \$300,000 project cost. No specific amount requested from Vision.
- Sidewalk in front of Western Dakota Technical Institute. \$250,000 project cost. \$250,000 request from Vision.
- Expansion of Youth and Family Services facility. \$13,833,187 project cost. \$4 million request from Vision.
- Childhood development center-YMCA. \$8,080,000 project cost. \$1,200,000 request from Vision.

Obviously, these individuals and agencies will be disappointed by not receiving the Vision Fund award recommendation. Many of them are worthwhile projects and likely could be funded if there were more funds available. This is the consequences of withholding 50% of the Vision Funds for Civic Center remodel/rebuild options. Although we are getting closer, The Civic Center Resolution Task Force is not ready to recommend a construction plan or funding needs at this time.

If you would like further information, please let me know by contacting me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Steve Allender, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota

2017 Vision Fund Citizen Committee Recommendations

Our mission is to enhance the lives of all residents of Rapid City, now and for future generations, by expanding and enhancing critical community resources and sustaining economic development, where opportunities and security are greater for all.

The below recommendations are respectfully submitted on behalf of the 2017 Vision Fund Citizen Committee in order of priority.

All projects recommended have demonstrated advanced planning and ready to move forward/break ground in the Spring/Summer of 2017.

DAV – Flag Pole for \$21,000

This project shows support of our local Veterans and their families. In our opinion, this request is a small amount to pay to show our respect to nearly 21,000 Veterans in Western South Dakota, and over 72,000 Veterans in our State.

Community Health Center of the Black Hills: Mental Health Pod for \$523,406

Community Health Center is an inclusive mental health facility that provides critical mental health services to our community on a sliding scale fee. This organization has achieved significant progress on their own, providing various health services to our community, and the Mental Health Pod is the last piece of their project.

Wellfully: Premier Adolescent Care Center (LAB Space) for \$1,125,000

Wellfully fills a gap that does not exist in Western South Dakota. Wellspring has demonstrated impressive leadership and utilized many additional resources to make this project a reality. Filling growing need for services, this organization is out of space and has no room to grow at their current facility. Vision Fund contributions will go toward the public portion of this project which will be assessable for all teens in Rapid City.

Rural America Initiatives (RAI): Community Center for \$2,000,000

This project supports our youth and developmental education and is a *need*. This organization supports the most vulnerable individuals in our community and has operated in various locations since its inception nearly 30 years ago. The Community Center consolidates various community programs into one location and provides accessibility to needed resources and support. RAI has received an outcry of public support and resources, and this building is a small piece of a much larger picture. One member abstained from input, opinion or vote on this project.

Rushmore Little League: Field Lighting Project for \$25,000

This is a community project and a matter of public safety. This project supports our local community youth athletics. The leadership of this organization has presented an impressive background and presentation while demonstrating a high level of leadership.

SDMS&T: Field/ Turf and Beautification of Corridor for \$1,897,604

This project supports youth athletics and economic development in our community and received preference due to the deteriorating condition of the field. At this point, the field is a safety hazard to athletes and is not only home field to SDSM&T, but also to Stevens, St. Thomas More and Central High Schools. The field is utilized by other various public institutions within our community including but not limited to: the CVB, RCFD and RCPD, Regional Health, YMCA, BH Youth Football, and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office and offers utilization to the public for walking when not in use. The committee members felt the proposed improvements were conservative and cost efficient in comparison to other complexes. Two members of the Committee abstained from input, opinion or vote for this project.

Central States Fair (CSF): Stall Barn Expansion for \$550,000

This project supports our agricultural industry and promotes economic development in our community. This project will provide an edge to bring national and regional shows and events to Rapid City and is necessary for existing, and continued growth for CSF to remain competitive.

Summer Nights: Stage for \$127,990

This project impacts *everyone* and shows support of community. Summer Nights invigorates downtown and supporting them is supporting a community tradition inclusive of all members of our community. One member of the Committee abstained from input, opinion or vote for this project.

ASA Softball: New Concessions/Bathroom Building for \$200,000

This project supports youth athletics, draws on regional and state tournaments, and impacts further economic development in our community. This small project is the final piece to the Parkview complex which was built with Vision Funds from previous allocations.

The Skin Institute: Shade Structure (installation only) for \$30,000**(Contingency to work with Parks to determine the best location)**

This project is a matter of health and public safety. A community Partnership: The Skin Center has partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department and will provide the shade structure and the City will provide cost of installation and future maintenance of the structure. This project was taken into consideration with due regard for the private funding and need to remain competitive for hosting regional and State tennis events.