

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
October 13, 2016

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, October 13, 2016 with the following members present: Vice Chairman Karen Olson, Chuck Tinant, Shon Hanczyc, Greg Oleson and Rick Askvig. The following members were absent: Nick Stroot and Domico Rodriguez. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt, Parks Maintenance Chief Scott Anderson, Urban Forester Andy Bernard, Recreation Program Specialist Kristy Lintz and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of August 11, 2016 as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week. The Committee is advocating for bats and will be constructing three maternity roost boxes which will be located throughout the greenway. The Committee is also discussing a public education campaign to urge the public not to feed wildlife. This will go a long way to solving problems with nuisance wildlife within the City.

Beautification Committee Awards:

Chairman Steve Doshier and Kathy Robeson from the Beautification Committee presented the following Yard of the Month Awards and commended the recipients for their hard work and efforts toward beautifying the community.

September – Herb and Nancy Teal
October – Leanne Reindl

The Green Glove Award was also presented to Herb and Nancy Teal. This award recognizes a home owner who has used Xeriscaping components in their gardens which reduces the amount of water needed.

Recreation Division Rates

The next item discussed by the Board was the proposed resolution establishing rates for recreation division programming.

Tom Johnson, a golfer at Meadowbrook Golf Course, explained that he doesn't have a problem with the proposed increased in rates, however, he is concerned about rumors he hears that the City may be looking to turn the golf course over to a private management company. He and other members of the golfer's association are opposed to a management company running the golf course. He stated that they like the way

things are being run now and they would like it to continue that way. The Men's Association was formed to give golfers a voice in management of the facility and its future. The Parks and Recreation Department has a plan in place to make further improvements at the golf course which will improve the facility even more. Johnson added that the golf course receives very little, if any, subsidy from the City; it is operated on fees generated by users of the facility. Luke Cox stated that he moved to Rapid City more than 30 years ago and has played golf at Meadowbrook ever since. For many years Meadowbrook was listed in the top 100 public golf course in the country. We want to keep conditions at Meadowbrook as good as possible and all parties involved at the present time seem to be moving in that direction.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe explained that he has met with the Men's Association at Meadowbrook many times in the past months and the golfers are willing to pay the increase in the fees, but they want to be sure the facility is run in the same manner as it is now. They have a lot of pride in the golf course and want to keep it operating the same.

Relative to the increase in fees, Lowe explained that the golfers will also pay sales tax on top of the pass fee. In the past the sales tax has been deducted from the published rate and paid by the City. Lowe also noted that the goal of the Department is to recover 60% of costs at the Ice Arena and 50% of the costs for the Aquatics facilities. We try to recover 100% of the costs for the golf course which is definitely above the national average. Oleson stated that he wants to be sure the City doesn't restrict access to the golf course due to increasing fees. Biegler stated that staff at the golf course is working diligently to introduce the sport of golf to the younger generation. The golf course is a recreation program just as swimming and ice skating are. Lowe concurred and listed the programs that are geared toward the youth in the community. Askvig suggested that the staff investigate the possibility of golfers at Meadowbrook implementing a mentor program for kids in the community.

Motion was made by Tinant seconded by Askvig and carried to recommend that the Resolution setting rates for recreation programs be approved.

Black Hills Farmers Market

Biegler explained that representatives from the Black Hills Farmers Market submitted a Letter of Interest to use Cambell Street Field 7 for the farmer's market location beginning in 2017. They feel they are outgrowing the location in Founders Park and there are issues with park and other uses at this location. Biegler added that a proposal for Vision Funds was submitted by representatives of the Farmers Market which includes a new location somewhere in the greenway and a building to be constructed.

Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Oleson and carried to acknowledge the Letter of Interest from the Black Hills Farmers Market and direct staff to continue working with them to find a suitable location.

Memorial Tree Policy

A copy of the Memorial Tree Application and Policy was submitted for the Board's information. Bernard submitted a sample of the bronze plaque that will be used by the Department for all tree memorials. The costs for tree and plaque will be paid by the person or entity requesting the memorial; staff will pick up the tree from the nursery

when it is available for planting and the plaque will be placed in concrete on the ground near the tree.

Rapid City Recommended Tree List

Bernard reported that the Urban Forestry Board has finalized a recommended Tree List for the Rapid City area which is now available to the public. A copy of the Tree List was included in the Advisory Board packet for the member's information. Biegler commended Urban Forester Andy Bernard and Administrative Secretary Amy Graves for the time and effort they put into developing the tree list. It will be a valuable resource for everyone in the community.

Director's Report

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported that Parks staff is in the process of winterizing irrigation systems and restroom facilities throughout the park system. Staff will also continue with the sidewalk repair project as long as funding and the weather hold.

Van Deusen also reported that SD GF&P will no longer be doing the deer trend survey so this task will fall to the Parks Division staff. Staff will be meeting with GF&P representatives in order to take over the annual survey. The information gathered will be given to GF&P and we will continue to rely on that agency to determine the number of deer to be harvested.

Biegler reported that staff is working with the City Attorney's Office to develop an agreement with the Central States Fair for use of several pieces of property near the fairgrounds. Staff is also working to develop a Memorandum of Agreement with First Nations relative to the Sculpture Garden.

Administration staff is working with several departments to streamline the Special Event Permit process. Beginning in 2017 the Parks and Recreation Department will process all special event permits, including those previously processed by the Police Dept. and the Civic Center. This will include Bandshell rentals. We anticipate the changes will include fees for special events and creation of a committee to review applications for large events.

Recreation Program Specialist Kristy Lintz reported that the City has been awarded the bid for a Level 3 national tennis tournament for 14 & under girls and boys. Staff will work with the CVB on this event.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.