

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Parks Division Conference Room  
April 8, 2010

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 8, 2010 with the following members present: Van Lindquist, Lisa Seaman, Liz Runquist, Wes Storm and Michaela Hofmann. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Council Liaison Aaron Costello, Alderwoman Karen Gunderson Olson, Park Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Landscape Designer Randy Lyons, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Dosier, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Hofmann and carried to approve the minutes of March 11, 2010, as presented.

The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion item for Wes Storm just prior to the Director's Report.

### **Liaison Reports**

Lon Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning. The Board discussed the fact that they currently have three vacancies and two potential candidates for these positions. There is also a current member who is interested in serving another term. They will work with staff in the Mayor's Office on the appointments. There was also discussion about the 2010 Arbor Day celebration which will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Vickie Powers Park. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 am and a tree will be planted. Van Deusen noted that programs with all the information for this event will be distributed to the Board. The 6<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction project was also discussed, in particular how the project will affect the existing trees in this area. Brett Lawlor also informed the Urban Forestry Board that he is ready to begin the Urban Orchard project and it will officially start on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Council representative Karen Olson updated the Board on the progress being made to construct a restroom/storage facility at the Parkview Tennis Complex. The City and School District have contributed \$50,000 to the project and the BH Tennis Association has done fund raising for this facility as well. The School District has hired a consultant to design a facility that will cost approximately \$150,000 and that should begin very soon. Olson thanked the Director Cole and the Board for approving funding for this project.

Olson also requested authorization from the Advisory Board to find a person or organization to find an alternative fun activity for kids at Canyon Lake Park in lieu of feeding the ducks. This has the possibility to make a better informed citizenry for the community. Motion was made by Storm seconded by Seaman and carried to authorize Karen Olson to find an organization or person to find an alternative fun activity for the public visiting Canyon Lake Park, in lieu of feeding the ducks and geese.

### **RTP Grant Application Packet**

Cole explained that he received notification from the SD Division of Parks and Recreation that applications are being accepted for the 2010 Recreation Trails Grant Program. He noted that the City received funding from this program in 2009 for the Deadwood Avenue Drainage Trail project however the funding was later rescinded due to budget concerns. It was the consensus of the Advisory Board that another application for this project should be submitted. Cole noted that the previous grant application was for \$289,000 which would cover the cost of purchasing easements and trail construction from Mt. View & Omaha Street up the Deadwood drainage area to Rand Road. This proposed trail would provide commuters working in the industrial area as well as the residential areas a safe route for bicycle and pedestrian transportation. If the grant is approved the City will need to provide approximately 20% in matching funds. Cole explained that the original grant application was for \$280,000 but only \$80,000 was approved which wasn't adequate funding to purchase all the easements or construct the trail. He stated that he would like to re-submit for the original amount to purchase easements and construct trails. If we don't get full funding, we will have to decide what to do with a lesser amount. Motion was made by Seaman seconded by Hofmann and carried to direct staff to submit an RTP Grant application for the Deadwood Avenue Drainage Trail project.

### **Memorial Bench - Jeff Nelson**

A letter requesting a Memorial Bench for Jeff Nelson was submitted by Barb Nelson in September of 2009. Nelson requested in the letter that the bench be placed in Roosevelt Park. At that time it was misunderstood that the person being memorialized had to be deceased for one year and the request was delayed until now. The request is before the Advisory Board again for their consideration. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Runquist and carried to approve the request for a memorial bench and direct the applicant to work with the Parks Division on purchase and placement of the bench.

### **Memorial Tree and Plaque - Norman Nelson**

A letter was also submitted in September of 2009 by the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association requesting that they be allowed to place a tree and a plaque in Wilson Park honoring Norman Nelson who was a founding member of the WBNA and a strong advocate for historic preservation in Rapid City. That request is also before the Advisory Board at this time for their consideration. Motion was made by Storm seconded by Seaman and carried to approve the request and direct the applicant to work with the Parks Division on this project.

### **Advisory Board Member Items**

Wes Storm asked about funding that was inadvertently charged to the golf course for water charges that should have been charged to a different department. Cole explained

that we did find a discrepancy in how the Finance Office was allocating water charges and there is funding that will be returned to the golf enterprise fund in the near future.

Storm also asked about a proposal from the current concessionaires at the golf course restaurant to sell their interest and equipment to the city for this operation. He understood that the difference between what the concessionaire was asking and what the city would agree to at the time was approximately \$12,000. Storm added that many golf course patrons have breakfast and other items off-site because of the cost charged at the restaurant. He felt it would be a good investment for the City to run the restaurant operation if the opportunity arises in the future. Cole explained that the City negotiated in good faith when this opportunity came up several months ago. He added that Meadowbrook is the only public golf course in the United States that doesn't provide food service or merchandise and still makes a profit. Both of these services are handled by private concessionaires at Meadowbrook Golf Course. Cole added that if there is a person or company looking to purchase this contract, he will make sure that they know the contract runs through 2013 and will probably not be renewed. At that time the city will have an opportunity to run the food service operation at the golf course.

### **Director's Report**

Cole presented a slide show of various projects that are happening throughout the park system at the current time.

Staff is planning to have a Grand Opening for the Vickie Powers Memorial Park and Playground on June 17, 2010 which is the one year anniversary of when volunteers began construction on the playground.

Cole also asked the Board if they wanted to take the Spring Tour of park and recreation facilities throughout the community. It was agreed that the Board would like to take the tour. Staff will send out several dates to find one that will work for the most people.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the City and Rushmore Lions Club for the Rushmore Lions Nature Park to be located west of Chapel Lane. Cole added that this organization is submitting a 2012 project to assist with construction of pathways through the park.

Cole added that he has been meeting with interested parties in an attempt to close Thrush Drive to traffic. This right-of-way provides access to the Hanson Larson park area and people are using it for four wheelers and causing damage to the trail systems in the M Hill area. This issue will be considered by the City Council in the near future.

Cole also informed the Board that the Parks Division employees have spent a lot of time at Executive Golf Course cleaning up the creek areas. Several shanties were cleared out that were used by homeless people. The area looks really good and the Parks staff should be commended for their efforts.

Landscape Designer Randy Lyons is working on development of a playground area to be constructed in the Parkview Recreation Complex this summer.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.