

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Parks Division Conference Room
August 13, 2009

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 13, 2009 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Liz Runquist, Sheri Zimmer, Wade Morris, Chuck Tinant and Wes Storm. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, Urban Forestry Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Morris and carried to approve the minutes of July 9, 2009 with the correction of the date in the first paragraph.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Hasenohrl reported that the Urban Forestry Board does not meet in August, however discussions are continuing on the Tree Care Workshop that will be held in the spring of 2010.

Park/Recreation Facility Partnership Fund Grant

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe gave a presentation on the history of the Grant program noting that changes have been made to make organizations which have either a lease or a Memorandum of Understanding eligible to apply for these funds. The Grant Program was started in 2004 with an irrigation project at Rushmore Little League. Had the City not made that funding available, the project would probably not have been done and the field would not be in the condition it is today. In 2009 that field hosted the City's Little League All-Star Tournament. Lowe noted that projects that address safety concerns are given a high priority when determining which grants are approved. Lowe went through the projects that have been accomplished through this program. He noted that in 2007 BH Amateur Baseball received two grants that have not been done. Grant recipients are notified that they have 2 years to complete the projects and if they are not done, the funding will be returned to the balance and used for future projects. Lowe asked for authorization to send a letter to this organization letting them know that the funding has been revoked for these two projects. Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Storm and carried to authorize staff to notify Black Hills Amateur Baseball that funding for the crows nest and equipment shed projects is no longer available because the 2 year time frame has expired. Lindquist asked who the applicant was for the Robbinsdale park sidewalk project. Cole noted that this was a complaint driven project. The Mayor's Office received a complaint that the Minor League field at Harney Little League was not accessible because of a road that was closed for safety issues. This project was developed to address that complaint. Motion was made by Zimmer seconded by Tinant and carried to authorize staff to begin a second round of grant applications for the 2009 Parks and Recreation Facility Partnership Grant Program.

Lowe indicated he would send the Board members a copy of the distribution list he uses for the grant program.

Tinant asked if the City has projects that would qualify for stimulus funding and if so, how do we go about applying for these funds. Cole noted that the City does have projects that qualify, however the Mayor and Council members are the ones choosing which projects which will be submitted for these funds. Cole added that there are discussions happening in Washington DC now about revising some of the stipulations for projects because the money is not being used. Some of the limitations may be removed from the stimulus money because projects can't be completed in 18 months or funding is needed for engineering services. Cole stated that it is his understanding that they are reviewing the criteria for receiving stimulus funding.

Skyline Properties

Tinant stated that he is just now getting back on his feet and will be able to start working on this project again. He will contact the Skyline Drive Preservation Board to see if they have the energy to fund raise so that additional properties can be added to the Skyline Wilderness Area. He added that once the land was donated to the City, he got the feeling that board members were tired and wanted to remain as a board to be a conduit for money to come into the Skyline Drive Wilderness project but not necessarily to raise funds. Tinant added that he will get with Jerry Cole to review the list of properties that people are interested in selling to the City that are adjacent to the Skyline Wilderness Area.

Director's Report

Cole asked if the Advisory Board members wanted to take a tour of park and recreation facilities this fall. It was the consensus of the Board that they would like a tour and would meet at the Swim Center at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. Cole noted that dinner would be provided.

Cole noted that at the Advisory Board Retreat last February it was discussed that if the number of board members was increased to seven, then perhaps individual board members could be appointed to specific areas within the Parks and Recreation Department (i.e. golf, parks, recreation, ice arena, aquatics). This would give board members an opportunity to get a feel for what we do and how we operate. Once the appointments are made, small committee meetings would be held in the specific areas and members would be informed when specific issues come to the Advisory Board for consideration. Lindquist asked that each Board member submit a list of three areas they would be interested in and he will review that before the appointments are made. Cole added that he anticipates that staff will meet with the Board representatives and discuss specific issues that are going on. Then, when the issues come to the Advisory Board, some members will already have detailed information.

Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney reported that the Outdoors will be closing on the following schedule: Parkview will close on August 23rd; Horace Mann and Sioux

Park will close on September 4th. School begins on September 1st so there will be outdoor pools open during that first week of school. The Swim Center will be closing for annual maintenance on August 15th and will reopen on September 5th. Olney added that he has been working to bring the City's pools into compliance with the federal law dealing with pool grates which went into effect in December 2008 (Graeme Baker). The outdoor pools were in compliance with new drain covers when they opened for the 2009 summer season and the Swim Center will be in compliance when the facility is reopened on September 5th.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the ice arena has completed its third year of summer operations and the numbers indicate that this is a successful operation. He noted that they will continue to analyze the numbers and operations and bring any recommended changes to the Board. The Ice Arena will be closed the last week of August for annual maintenance and will reopen on September 7th. Lowe added that the ice arena is now 8 years old and they are beginning to experience major repairs in the cooling systems. As a result, staff will be requesting a supplement to the 2009 maintenance budget for the ice arena.

Lowe also reported that Rapid City's recreation program numbers have followed the state and national trends and are down in 2009. Adult programming seems to be remaining steady, but youth program numbers are down. We are approximately 20-25 percent down in participation for recreation programs for the summer months and revenues are down approximately 17%. Lowe stated that his staff will be looking for ways to bring program numbers up and will work with day care operations and other large organizations for programming.

Regarding the golf division, Lowe reported that revenues and rounds are down but we had a very wet May and June in 2009. Lowe noted that his staff has been doing a good job of recovering and some of our numbers are higher than July and August in 2008. If our revenues for the rest of the year match last year, we should be in the black for the third year in a row. Lowe added that the maintenance staff and the office personnel are all doing a great job.

Cole submitted color samples of pathway direction signs that are proposed for the Swanny pathway. This project will be done with the \$5,000 allocated from the 2012 Fund. He added that they will request that the sign company make sample signs with different color schemes for the Board's consideration.

Cole also reported that the restroom renovation project is proceeding and will include 3 restrooms in Canyon Lake Park, Old Storybook Island, and 2 in Robbinsdale Park. The restrooms are going green which will allow them to remain open during the winter months. Cole added that we want to start designing our building projects with as much LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) philosophy as possible. This means that a project is designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts. Specially, this means we would use:

- recycled materials
- energy efficient materials
- sustainable products
- locally manufactured products

These are just a sample of the principals included in the LEED philosophy. Cole added that there are some members of the City Council who do not agree with this philosophy if it will increase project costs. Cole stated that he will prepare a policy statement dealing with the LEED philosophy for the Board's consideration in the near future.

Five Year Plan

Cole went through the list of projects and updated the Advisory Board on the status of each. Regarding Vickie Powers Park, we hope to have the playground open at the end of next week during the evenings and weekends. Most of the bills for the playground have been submitted and Cole requested that the Board allocate an additional \$20,000 for this project. There were substantial costs that were not anticipated, extra tools and supplies that had to be purchased and equipment replaced because of the wet and muddy conditions. Cole stated that he hopes to have a grand opening for the park and playground toward the end of September. Motion was made by Storm seconded by Tinant and carried to approve an allocation of \$20,000 from the CIP Parks and Recreation Contingency Line Item for the Powers Park Playground Project.

Lindquist asked that staff give the Board an update on the 2012 Projects that have been assigned to Parks and Recreation, as well as the Greenway Project.

Golf Course 9-Hole Punch Pass

Lindquist explained that if an individual purchases a 9 hole punch pass for the Meadowbrook Golf Course and uses it to play 18 holes of golf, the cost is considerably higher than if they just paid the daily fee. He asked if this is something that should be addressed through the fee structure. Storm noted that the punch pass is for individuals who only want to play 9 holes of golf, not 18 and that is the only way it is beneficial. Cole concurred noting that the 9-hole pass is for golfers who don't have the time to play 18 holes or for beginners who don't want to play 18 holes. We want to encourage people to purchase a season pass which is the best deal. Creating an 18 hole punch card would reduce the amount of revenue the course receives from pass sales. Lowe added that staff is considering eliminating the 9 hole punch pass. There is a good twilight rate and juniors and seniors already receive special rates. No action was taken on this issue.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.