

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

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 8, 2010 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Sheri Zimmer, Wes Storm and Michael Hofmann. Also present were Alderman Aaron Costello, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Randy Lyons, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Hofmann, seconded by Storm and carried to approve the minutes of June 10, 2010, as presented.

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items:

- Match Funding for Recreational Trails Program Grant for Deadwood Drainage Trail Project, and
- Comments from the Chairman

Federal Greenway Project

Ted Schultz from Cetec Engineering gave an update on the Federal Greenway Project. He noted that this update will also be given at the Committee meetings the week of July 12th.

Shultz explained that Cetec Engineering met with a wide variety of stakeholders on this project which totals \$2.3 million. Traffic studies have been done and recommendations will be made mainly on the Omaha Street site near Founders Park. Design of the project is approximately 35% complete and Cetec staff is open to comments and suggestions from the board and the public. Shultz went through various components of the project including:

- Pathway that will parallel Rapid Creek near Founders Park
- Additional access point to parking lot on Omaha Street
- Parking lot expansion
- Bike Path connection to SD School of Mines, and
- Bike Path construction behind the Central States Fair Office.

Memorial Bench Request

A request for a memorial bench for Caroline "Tike" Owens was presented by Kaye Allison. This request was first considered by the Advisory Board at its June meeting. Lindquist noted that a letter was submitted requesting the bench and two letters of support were attached. Motion was made by Storm seconded by Hofmann and carried to approve the request for a memorial bench for Caroline "Tike" Owens. Lindquist noted

that Mrs. Allison should work with Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen on the details for the memorial bench.

Kepp Heights Water Main Project

Greg Wierenga from Cetec Engineering gave a report on Kepp Heights Water Main Project which will impact the Skyline Wilderness Area. He submitted maps and photographs of the proposed project and explained that they are trying to find the best way to cross the Wilderness Area with the least amount of disruption to the environment. He added that access to this site will need to be available for maintenance purposes and they intend to create the access along an existing utility easement. Also, it may also be possible to create a small parking lot in this area which could provide access to the trail system in the Skyline Wilderness Area. Costello asked about the driving force behind this project. City Project Manager Keith Johnson explained that the Water Department wants to alleviate an old pump station which needs to be removed. The addition of this line will provide water service to a large part of the community and provide a better overall system.

Policy on Memorial Benches and Plaques

An amendment to the Policy on Placement of Memorial or Recognition Plaques, Benches and Plantings was submitted for the Advisory Board's consideration. The change being proposed adds verbiage stating that "the City reserves the right to remove or relocate the bench and/or plaques at any time. The City shall have the sole discretion to determine whether relocation or removal is necessary or desirable." Motion was made by Zimmer seconded by Hofmann and carried to approve the amendment to the Memorial Bench/Plaque Policy.

Parkview Playground Project

Landscape Designer Randy Lyons gave a brief report on Parkview Playground Project. This is public/private partnership with the City, The Rush Foundation and Modern Woodmen of America. The playground will be located west of the swimming pool at the Parkview Sports Complex. Lyons also presented a sketch of the playground and pictures of the proposed play equipment.

Funding Reallocation

The City was recently notified by Governor Rounds that a Recreational Trail Program Grant was approved for the Deadwood Drainage Trail project in the amount of \$200,000. In order to accept the grant, the City must provide 20% matching funds which would total approximately \$40,000. The Board reviewed the list of existing projects and staff reported on their status and budget availability. The Citywide Restroom Project is nearly complete and there will be approximately \$45,000 that will be returned to the contingency fund. It was suggested that \$40,000 be transferred to the trail project. Motion was made by Hofmann seconded by Storm and carried to authorize staff to

transfer \$40,000 from the Citywide Restroom Project to the Deadwood Drainage Trail Project to provide matching funds for the Recreation Trail Grant received from the State.

Chairman's Comments

Lindquist noted that the Friends of the Parks organization does not support the use of parkland for any project. Regarding the Founders Park project, they are operating from the standpoint that they do not feel additional parking is needed and the parking lot does not need to be enlarged. Lindquist stated that it is important that the Advisory Board members attend the open house to support the parking for the greenway project which will generate additional use of this area.

Also, the 2012 Committee recommendations have been submitted to the City Council for consideration. Lindquist stated that he is hopeful that the City Council will give strong consideration to the recommendations of the three Committees. He added that when the 2012 meetings take place, he feels the Advisory Board needs to have a presence at each of the meetings. Taton stated that she will send notification to the board members when the 2012 meetings are scheduled.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on August 12, 2010.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.