

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center – Conference Room
August 14, 2008

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 14, 2008 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Jim Smoragiewicz, Chuck Tinant and Sheri Zimmer. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Bike Walk Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejcik, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Urban Forestry Board Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, City Council Member Patti Martinson, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to approve the Advisory Board minutes of July 15, 2008.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Matejcik reported that the Bike/Walk/Run Committee did not meet.

Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee met on July 16th. A majority of the meeting was spent discussing issues with code enforcement (weeds). Project updates were also reported.

Steve Hasenohrl reported that representatives of the Urban Forestry Board met with Mayor Hanks this morning on several issues including appointment of an active liaison between the City Council and Forestry Board, development of a mission statement, and concerns that park projects are not done according the plans that were approved. The Urban Forestry Board would like to see some type of enforcement for these projects.

Conceptual Design for Wilderness Park Playground Area

Landscape Designer Randy Lyons presented a conceptual plan he developed for the Wilderness Park area. Several pieces of playground equipment have been removed from this park as a result of the equipment inspections several years ago. A new play structure will be installed in Wilderness Park this fall. Also, future trail development in this area would be a good idea and Lyons noted proposed trailhead locations. There have been problems in the past with the existing basketball location because it encourages players to use the parking lot. Lyons proposed removing the basketball pole and rim from its current location and moving it to the west. There is adequate space for a half-court basketball area. Doshier suggested that a cross walk be installed on City Springs Road. It was noted that there are no sidewalks in this area at the present time. Cole noted that he hopes to have sidewalks constructed on the park side of this road in the near future.

Parks and Recreation CIP Five Year Plan

Director Cole explained that two things have happened that require the Advisory Board to review the CIP Five Year Plan. First, the City has received a \$50,000 grant from the State's Recreation Trails Program to be used for trail development in the Skyline Wilderness Area. This grant requires the City to provide matching funds. Secondly, preliminary cost estimates are coming in on Vickie Powers Park and right now we don't have adequate funding to provide a restroom facility. With the playground we are putting in we need to have a restroom because there will be a lot of people using the new facility. There are a couple other elements that may not be included, based on costs, but they won't impact the people using the park and playground like a restroom facility will. Cole added that Design Day for the Playground project is scheduled for Monday, September 15th at Knollwood School and staff is moving forward on this project. Cole submitted a list of proposed changes to the 2008 CIP Five Year Plan for the Board to consider.

- **\$29,266.10** from the contingency fund. This will leave a balance of approximately \$51,000 for the remainder of 2008.
- **\$34,041** from the College Park line item. Cole explained that the College Park playground was renovated in 2007 and these funds can be reallocated to another project.
- **\$50,000** from park signage. Staff is comfortable they can complete the park sign replacement project with \$45,000.
- **\$5,000** from the Meadowbrook Golf bridge renovation project. This project is complete and there is funding remaining in this line item.
- **\$73,674** from the Parkview South project. The concept for Parkview South has been modified because this site was selected as the location for a new tennis complex. The project will now include a playground to be located west of the swimming pool and related trails through the area.
- **\$10,000** Meadowbrook Golf Clubhouse deck replacement. The deck at the Clubhouse was inspected and it was determined that the structure was in relatively good shape. Staff replaced some of the decking timbers using golf course maintenance funds. CIP funds will not be necessary for this project.

If these funding changes are approved, \$175,000 will go to Vickie Powers Park for a restroom facility and \$26,981 will be used as matching funds for the RTP Grant for trail development in the Skyline Wilderness Area.

Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Tinant and carried to approve staff's recommendations on funding changes to the 2008 CIP Parks and Recreation Line Item.

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the changes in the 2009-2013 CIP Parks and Recreation Line Item relative to increasing the allocation for the Landscape Architect position and reducing the contingency fund line item amount, as recommended by staff.

Director's Report

Cole updated the Advisory Board relative to the 2008 projects on the CIP Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan.

Recreation Director Doug Lowe updated the Board on the Sports Facility Partnership Fund projects that have been funded.

Cole reported that Design Day for the Vickie Powers Park Playground project is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2008. The designers from Leathers will conduct sessions with students at Knollwood School in the morning. A staff member from Parks and Recreation will also conduct design sessions with kids at the YMCA and Rapid City Club for Boys. A designer from Leathers will gather all the input and prepare a design for the project in the afternoon. That design will be unveiled at a community celebration that evening at approximately 6:00 pm.

Cole also noted that the Founders Park Complex is proceeding. The developers of this complex will provide a public parking lot and a trail along the creek to M-Hill. Portions of the trail are being constructed at this time. The trail replacing West Philadelphia Street is also under construction at this time. This trail will run on the north side of the Executive Golf Course and eventually connect to the Swanson Pathway.

Cole added that he will contact the Growth Management Office to find out the status of the federal Greenway Funding dollars proposed for the Founders Park area.

Regarding the 2009 proposed budget, Cole reported that Mayor Hanks has reduced the Parks and Recreation Department budget by approximately \$206,000. This budget reduction means that some things will be left undone because there is no funding for them. The Parks Division professional services line item was reduced from \$130,000 to \$83,000. Currently we have park shelters and restrooms throughout the park system that are being maintained and cleaned by Black Hills Workshop. According to the contract, the restroom facilities are cleaned each day throughout the summer at a cost of approximately \$72,000. We do expect the cost of this contract to increase in 2009. As a result of this contract, our parks division employees are able to work in other areas. Other items that were included in the professional service line item include park security, porta-potties and miscellaneous items. Cole stated that his suggestion would be to keep building security as much as possible but we may have to leave some of the restrooms open. At this time there is no funding for porta-potties in the 2009 budget. This means that when the restrooms are closed for the winter we will not have porta-potties to replace them. Cole added that the division spends approximately \$14,000 on porta-potties throughout the year.

The marketing funds were also reduced in the 2009 budget so the program guide will look very different in the coming years.

Cole asked if the Advisory Board wanted to go on the **annual tour** of city park and recreation facilities. Because it gets dark sooner, it was decided that the Board would go

on a tour on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 9:00 AM. Cole noted that if a majority of the Board is not able to participate, the tour would be cancelled until next spring.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 4:30 PM.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.