

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
August 4, 2005

A quorum was not present for the August 4th meeting so no official actions were taken. The Board did discuss several of the items on the agenda and heard reports from liaison members.

Members present: Vice Chairman Tom Allen and Wes Storm. Also present were City Council Member Karen Gunderson Olson, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Golf Course Superintendent JJ Walraven, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, Beautification Committee Liaison Jim White, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcik and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Sister City Imaichi, Japan

Paula Camp, President of the Sister City organization, explained that Rapid City has had a formal sister city relationship with Imaichi, Japan for approximately 10 years. There is an exchange of young people and adults each year with the goal of fostering cultural exchanges and awareness. This year, the adult delegation from Imaichi will come to Rapid City and they would like to present a gift of cherry trees to the community. Rather than bringing them from Japan, they will send funds and the organization in Rapid City will purchase the trees from a local greenhouse and plant them. Camp explained that they are looking for a suitable location to plant the trees in the community and information on what would be a good time frame for the planting to be done. The Japanese delegation is coming to Rapid City the week of October 1st through 6th and this might be a good time to have a "planting ceremony". Parks and Recreation Director Cole added that he spoke with Mike O'Connor about this project and he indicated there were plans to coordinate this project with one being planned for an Asian Garden in the ice rink area of Wilson Park. Cole added that the ice rink location in Wilson Park will be the only outdoor ice rink in the community and he would hesitate to change the use to a garden area at this time. Camp noted that the Asian Garden project has stalled at the current time and they would like to proceed and find a location for the cherry trees as a separate project. She added that they are open to any and all suggestions for a possible location. Cole suggested that the Sister City organization work with Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen and his staff to find a good location for the cherry trees. Van Deusen noted that he has been trying for several years to plant some flowering trees around Memorial Park Pond which he feels would be a good location for cherry trees. He stated that he would be happy to work with the Sister City organization on this project.

Liaison Reports

Frank Matejcik from the Bike, Walk, Run Committee reported that City Government is working on a Long Range Transportation Plan that will include bicycle/pedestrian paths and walkways. A map of the proposed areas is on the City's web page for public

viewing. They will also be reviewing the pedestrian crosswalks on Jackson Boulevard and on Sheridan Lake Road near the swimming pool and Storybook Island.

Director's Report

Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney reported that the pools are being well-used throughout the community. Our revenue through June is at approximately 80% of our projections with six months remaining in the year.

Golf Course Superintendent JJ Walraven stated that he feels the hot weather has been a factor in the lower revenue numbers for the golf course, as well as the number of courses available for golfers in this community. In talking with superintendents from other courses, play seems to be down all over. Director Cole added that the City's marketing program is continuing and we will be looking at doing additional things next year. Also, the cart barn is not paying its way right now so we need to try and turn this around. The revenue stream is down in all areas for golf, from passes to rounds played, including cart storage fees. Storm suggested a "golf ball drop" to raise revenue. This could be a fund raising event conducted by the associations. Cole indicated he had no problem with this type of activity. Storm said he would meet with the Men's Association to see if there is interest in conducting this event which could be held in May 2006.

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen noted that it has been a busy summer. There is a large construction project planned for Memorial Park and signs will be put up to inform the public about what is being planned for this area. The signs will include a drawing of the proposed changes. Van Deusen also noted that his staff will be very involved with getting Fitzgerald Stadium and the surrounding parkland ready for the American Legion World Series baseball tournament which is coming to Rapid City August 19-23, 2005. Cole asked that Van Deusen check to make sure the parking lot lights in this area are timed to stay on later at night for the ALWS games.

Storm acknowledged the good work that has been done by the maintenance staffs for the golf courses and the city parks. They are looking good and the staff should be commended. Allen also thanked the Parks Department for the watering truck that was used at Mary Hall Park until water was available at the site.

Director Cole reported that he will be submitted the Golf Course Subsidy Report and a revised budget to the City Council. The Council is looking to budget the necessary subsidy amount at the beginning of the budget process rather than at the end of the year. Cole added that if everything goes according to plan, the golf course will not need a subsidy for FY2005. There was a beginning balance in the enterprise fund on January 1, 2005 because all of the 2004 subsidy was not used. These funds will be used to reduce any subsidy needed in 2005. Cole also noted that he and Van Lindquist will meet with the 2012 Committee on August 12th regarding all park and recreation projects being proposed for 2012 funding.

End of meeting.