

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center – Conference Room
December 11, 2008

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, December 11, 2008 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Chuck Tinant, Sheri Zimmer and Wes Storm. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, City Council Member Patti Martinson, Urban Forestry Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the minutes of November 13, 2009.

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Bruce Backens – Memorial for Scott Backens

Storybook Island

Larry Lytle and Connie LeZotte were present to discuss the costs involved with operating Storybook Island. Lytle reported that costs have gone up significantly, however, the Rotary Club's fund raising has remained the same. He noted that membership in the Rotary Club is changing and they no longer have the ability to go to members and request significant contributions. Lytle explained that he has been appointed Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee for Storybook Island and they need help and input from the City in order to keep Storybook open and running. He proposed that the City begin assisting with operations at Storybook Island which is part of the City's park system.

The Strategic Planning Committee has discussed a number of areas including being fiscally responsible. Storybook Island, Inc. has hired an individual who is experienced in strategic planning and he made the following recommendations:

- Reduce the size of the Board from 16 to 6
- Renegotiate the lease with the City prior to any long-range planning

Lytle added that Storybook Island, Inc. understands that the City does not have funding in their budget for this project, but we need to go through this process. We can raise a certain amount of donations, but a lot of the old money in Rapid City Rotary has dried up. We can no longer go to people and request \$5,000 or more. We have used most of our reserves to take trees down, repair sidewalks, and make repairs to the sprinkler system, etc. The Parks Dept. helped with the trees but Storybook had to contract with a private company in the amount of \$18,000 for tree removal. Lytle requested that the Advisory Board review the new lease which asks the City to take responsibility for items that are "on" and "in" the ground as well as security for the park. There are also problems with water flow through the park. There are several stagnant areas that have created a bad odor problem that needs to be addressed by an engineer. Lytle added

that they are planning a community-wide survey in January to let people know the significance of Storybook Island and get feedback from the public on this project. Lytle stated that in order to keep this a free park, the Rotary Club needs the help of the City. Under the new lease, Storybook Island will continue to run the park in the same way it has been operated since 1976. Lytle stated that if the City would repay Storybook \$50,000 for the tree removal and other repairs that were made to infrastructure, they could probably make it under the new lease arrangements.

Cole noted that the budget for Parks and Recreation was reduced by \$250,000 from 2008 to 2009 and there is currently no funding available for infrastructure work at Storybook Island. Lytle stated that Rotary uses a core of volunteers and he feels they have done quite well maintaining the park up to now. We can use volunteers to maintain a lot of the areas in the park, but we are having trouble with the larger maintenance issues like tree maintenance and sidewalk repair. Questions were raised about the community survey that is planned for early 2009. Lytle stated that they want the survey to be as good as possible so that we can get good information to submit to the City Council for their consideration.

Cole noted that the Advisory Board has two options:

- Discuss the proposed Storybook Island Lease at the Advisory Board retreat which is scheduled for February 7, 2009 and then forward it to the City Attorney and City Council, or
- Forward the proposed Lease to the City Council for funding

Olson noted that additional information is needed on how Storybook Island and Rotary uses compare to other organizations that provide services on city parkland. She suggested that the Advisory Board put together information comparing the use at Storybook Island with other uses.

Lytle asked that the City put together an estimate on what the cost would be to the City to provide the services we are requesting. Cole indicated that the City will get this information. Lindquist asked that information be gathered on this issue and we can defer action on this item for 60 days.

Memorial Statue

Bruce Bakkens explained that they have looked at alternate sites for a memorial statue for Scotty Bakkens. They looked at a site on the other side of the creek where the elevation is higher and also near the Dahl Center. There is a 5'x5' slab where we could locate the statue without too many problems. Bakkens noted that he is also considering a memorial bench while the statue project is on-going. Cole explained that the process to locate a memorial bench requires a written request as well as two public hearings by the Advisory Board. If approved, Bakkens would work with the Parks Division to purchase and locate the bench.

Liaison Reports

Steve Hasenohrl reported that the Urban Forestry Board met earlier today and the most of the discussion was about the tree care workshop which will be held in March. The Urban Forestry Board is going to try to use local people for speakers and they are considering a variety of topics. The Board also applied for Tree City USA designation and we anticipate receiving this recognition again in 2009. The Urban Forestry Board is also looking at the City's current tree ordinances to see if they need to be updated.

Steve Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee did not have a quorum, however, general discussion was held relative to operation of the committee.

Karen Olson reported that the City received a grant from USTA for the tennis court project in the amount of \$11,000. The project was also approved to move to the national level where there could be additional grant funding available. \$4,000 was also received from the Central High School Booster Club for the Parkview Tennis Court project.

Carry Forward Funds

Cole requested that the following reallocation of funds be approved:

- \$130.21 transferred from the Golf Course bridge project to the Contingency Fund
- \$1,511.20 transferred from the Golf Course Pro Shop Carpet Project to the Contingency Fund
- \$13,292 transferred from the Contingency Fund to the Parkland Acquisition line item to provide funding for the purchase of the Knecht Property

Both the golf course bridge and carpet projects are complete and the remaining funds are being transferred to the contingency fund for use on future projects. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried to approve the reallocation.

Cole submitted a list of current CIP projects and requested that the funding associated with these projects be carried forward to 2009. Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to approve the CIP carry forward funding as recommended by staff.

Advisory Board Appointments

It was noted that both Jim Smoragiewicz and Sheri Zimmer have agreed to serve another term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried to request that the Mayor make these reappointments to the Advisory Board.

Election of Officers

Nominations were opened for the position of Chairman. Zimmer nominated Lindquist; seconded by Storm. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Van Lindquist.

Nominations were opened for the position of Vice Chairman. Chairman Lindquist suggested that Jim Smoragiewicz be elected for a second year. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried that a unanimous ballot be cast for Jim Smoragiewicz.

Lindquist noted that the date and time for the Advisory Board meetings are one of the topics that will be discussed at the Retreat which is scheduled for February 7, 2009. It is anticipated that the Retreat will begin at 10:00 AM and last until approximately 5:00 PM.

Director's Report

The City Council will vote next Monday to sign the contract for the Greenway Funding Project. We will go forward after that to work with the State and develop an RFP for a preliminary right of way survey, archeological research and 106 Review. These items will take several months. Once these things are done we will be able to begin the design phase. Construction is anticipated 10-24 months from now.

Lindquist suggested that we find a way to protect Founders Rock. If we don't do something now, it will disappear in the near future. Cole stated that from the history he has been reading, everyone believes that is the rock and the site, but not one can prove it. Should we put money into this area? Yes, because it will be a small pocket park. This project can be considered when we review the Five Year Plan.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 8, 2009.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.