

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room  
December 2, 2004

The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, December 2, 2004, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Tom Allen, Wes Storm and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were Park & Rec Director Jerry Cole, Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, and Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe.

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

- Discussion regarding United Softball Field
- Executive Session

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to approve the minutes of November 4, 2004.

### **Canyon Lake Little League**

Approximately ten people attended the meeting on behalf of Canyon Lake Little League to discuss use of the United Field. Bryan Schnell, President of Canyon Lake Little League, explained that this field was part of their complex until 1998 when they gave up the field to ASA to help them get their fledgling program going. Currently, Canyon Lake Little League is bursting at the seams. In 2004, they had more than 600 kids on 54 teams. The program is out of room and also has concerns with insufficient parking and safety issues. In 2004, Canyon Lake Little League had to play their games with a strictly enforced time limit so that all the games could be played. Because of the limited number of fields, many of the teams didn't get any practice time in the complex. The organization has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the complex and has a great deal of pride in its appearance. Schnell added that their organization, with assistance from the city, has made a lot of upgrades in the baseball complex. Because of the number of participants, Canyon Lake Little League feels they should get the United Field back. The ASA organization now has its own softball complex with four fields and can easily handle the amount of time needed by their organization. If there are problems with some of the fields at the ASA complex, they need to be addressed by the parents and volunteers in the ASA organization just like they are handled by the little league organizations in the community. Schnell added that if they are given the lease for the United Field, Canyon Lake Little League will work with ASA to schedule 2-3 games per week on this field. This would be good for the younger kids at Canyon Lake to see the older kids playing at a higher level. Schnell also requested that the city consider implementing a policy that will hold an organization responsible for the appearance and upkeep of the facilities they lease. Mike Hickey also spoke in favor of leasing the United Field to Canyon Lake Little League. They have a program for 6 year olds and these teams only got to play games on the fields; there was no practice or warm-up time available. This field is needed on a daily basis by Canyon Lake Little League for games as well as practice time. Hickey added that there would be no problem with ASA using this field during the high school softball season.

Hickey and Schnell noted that they spent a great deal of time at Canyon Lake Little League through the 2004 season and they did not see any ASA teams using the field. In fact, the scoreboard wasn't uncovered the entire season, and the grass was not mowed until very late in the season. Schnell added that when they gave up the field in 1998, they had an agreement with ASA Softball that their program would begin with girls 13 years and older. Canyon Lake Little League has a program for girls ages 6-12. ASA has now changed and wants to start a program for younger girls. Schnell stated that he has no problem with this, but they should run their program at the ASA complex. Schnell requested that the Advisory Board consider assigning the principal lease for the United Field to Canyon Lake Little League. They will work with the ASA organization to schedule games and they will take very good care of the field.

Bruce Ashland, representing Black Hills Pony League, explained that they are in line to take over the lease for the Hammerquist Field which was previously leased to ASA Softball. He added that it is very evident that the ASA organization did very little maintenance on this field and it will take a great deal of effort by their organization to get the field back into playing shape.

The Advisory Board asked how many kids played at each of the baseball/softball organizations in town. In round numbers, Rushmore has 500 kids with five fields, Harney has 600 kids with 6 fields, Canyon Lake has 600 kids with 6 fields and ASA has 200 kids with 4 fields.

(Secretary's Note: Action was taken on this issue later in the meeting.)

### **LaCroix Links Golf Course**

Roger Gallimore from the YMCA presented the first annual report on the partnership between the YMCA and the City for operation of the LaCroix Links Golf Course. This partnership has been successful and Gallimore predicted it will become more so in the future. Chairman Lindquist thanked Gallimore for the report and supported the request to make a similar report to the City's Legal & Finance Committee.

### **Curling Club**

Ryan Nankival appeared before the Board on behalf of the Rapid City Curling Club and the Rapid City Figure Skating Club. He wanted the Advisory Board to know that the Curling Club intends to make a presentation to the 2012 Committee for a sheet of ice that would be used exclusively for curling. Nankival explained that different types of ice are needed for various activities, noting that curling needs very soft ice that is very level and smooth. The Curling Club's main issue with the current facility is the times available for curling, and the ice conditions. Since the ice arena opened, there have been over 1,000 people enrolled in the learn-to-skate programs. The figure skating group has 20 members and they practice twice per week. Regarding curling, Nankival noted that they are the only curling club in the state and they have introduced over 400 members to curling over the last year. There are currently 50 members in the league. When you take into account the two amateur hockey teams who also need practice time, it is clear that there is just not enough ice time for these varied uses. Nankival also went into detail about the different types of ice, ice conditions and maintenance needed for hockey, curling and figure skating. He added that members of the curling club are trained on

maintenance and marketing for this type of facility. Nankival requested that the Board authorize him to approach the 2012 Committee with the idea of additional ice in the community. Lindquist asked about the season for curling. Nankival explained that curling typically runs from October through March, similar to the hockey season. He added that their organization requested bids for a facility that would provide four curling surfaces and the estimated cost was \$800,000. This was for a 75'x200' structure and necessary equipment exclusively for curling. No action was taken by the Advisory Board on this item.

### **Soccer Complex**

Michelle Lintz from the Convention & Visitors Bureau explained that the CVB organization has been discussing adding a Sports Marketing branch to the Bureau and they are ready to move forward with this idea. At the current time, they are focusing on a soccer complex which would provide significant economic benefit to the community. Lintz introduced Joan Martin, Helen Pich and Louis Usera who gave a presentation on a proposed 25 field soccer complex to be located on the "wally byam" property along Highway 44 East, east of the Heartland Express overpass. The complex would require approximately 50-60 acres. They would like to have the support and endorsement of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board when this proposal is submitted to the 2012 Committee.

Usera indicated that there are approximately 3,000 participants in the various soccer programs in the city and 4,500 in the metro area which would include Sturgis, Spearfish, etc. However, one of the things Rapid City lacks is a soccer complex where we could bring in teams for competition at any level. Usera went through a power point presentation which outlined the mission of the sports marketing effort and their vision for the community which is to have a multi-use recreational facility for all levels of participants. Usera noted that a soccer complex will require a vast amount of land, but the facility will also be available for other community events. Usera also noted that US Soccer has a grant program which makes funding available for construction of soccer facilities. The request being proposed to the 2012 Committee is for a 25 field soccer complex which could be built in phases if necessary. It is planned that four of the fields would be lighted. Possible sites for the project at this time include the wally byam land south of Highway 44 East, and the North Haines park area.

Director Cole stated that the Parks & Recreation Department would like to be involved in designing a master plan for the entire "Wally Byam" site since the city would like to use some of this property for park and recreation facilities. Allen asked what other activities could be scheduled at this facility. Usera stated that there are opportunities to partner when designing the facility for horse shoes, walkways for wellness programs, picnic shelters, cross county track and skiing, driving range and midget football. Recreation Division Manager Lowe asked what the soccer association would do with the existing soccer fields. Usera indicated they would like to keep certain fields like the large one on Omaha Street, Sioux Park and the Polo field area adjacent to Cambell Street. He added that the soccer association is still addressing specifics on this question. Lindquist noted that there will be high development costs on the North Haines property because of issues with the soils at that location. There will be issues that need to be addressed on the wally byam site because of floodplain issues. He encouraged the group to prepare a matrix for development of each site as well as an economic

matrix to show the 2012 Committee the economic benefit to the community and the multiplier effect. Also, make sure you clarify that the tournaments you want to bring in are not one-time events. These tournaments are available annually and there aren't that many complexes in the northwest part of the country that can host them. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Allen to endorse the concept of creating a multi-use sports complex for the benefit of the Rapid City community. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

## **2012 Projects**

Memorial Park Improvements (Irrigation, 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge & Pond Improvements). Cole explained that the city does not have a plan for specific improvements to Memorial Park therefore this is not a feasible project at this time. We will need to have public meetings to determine what type of improvements the public would like to see in this area.

Completion of Roosevelt Park. Cole noted that staff does not feel a second sheet of ice should be put in the proposed field house area of the Roosevelt Park complex. An ice facility was recently constructed on South Highway 79 and the Civic Center is proposing to include ice in their expansion project. Staff feels the center should be constructed as a field house which could be used for a wide variety of activities. Regarding pools, both a 50 meter pool and a leisure pool will not fit in the area between the existing swim center and Omaha Street.

North Haines Park. Cole explained that there is funding in the Tax Increment District that could be used to pay for development of this parkland. If the 2012 fund pays for the development up front, these funds could be repaid over time from the tax increment district. He added that if the city wants to take advantage of this program, the project must be completed by 2008. Lindquist noted that the only problem with the site is the high development costs because of the soils in this area. He added that the opportunity that exists through the tax increment program is only available for this site and he feels the city has a moral obligation to develop a park in this area. Cole noted that additional information is needed on how the public would like this area to be developed. Lindquist suggested that a master plan be developed for this area and that discussions be held with the School District relative to their adjoining property. He suggested that the master plan be done in 2005 with other projects to follow from 2006-2008. This will enable the city to take advantage of the TID window of opportunity.

Skate Park Parking Lot. The estimated cost of a parking lot near the skate park is \$150,000. There is also funding in the amount of \$130,000 in the CIP Government Buildings to provide a restroom facility in this area. Cole noted that the Civic Center may need to expand the 5<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot if they do a construction project at the Civic Center. Perhaps some of these improvements could be incorporated with the Civic Center's project. Lindquist added that this should be considered an infrastructure project.

The Advisory Board agreed to present the following projects to the 2012 Committees:

**Civic Improvements:** 1. Playground Equipment; 2. Completion of Roosevelt Park Complex (field house, rec center and park amenities), and 3. North Haines Park Development. **Infrastructure:** 1. City-Wide Irrigation and 2. Skate Park Parking Lot. Cole informed the Board that he is aware that the Kiwanis Club will request funding for

the Mary Hall Park project and the Black Hills Tennis Association will be requesting funding for additional tennis courts. Also, no decision is readily apparent for what should be done relative to the Horace Mann Swimming Pool. There has been talk that the Pony League baseball field currently in this area will be relocated. If that happens, the pool can be renovated on this site. Further information is needed before a decision can be made on what to do with this pool.

The following priority/funding schedule was suggested:

### **Civic Improvements**

1.	Playground Equipment	2005	\$300,000
2.	Completion of Roosevelt Park Complex (including field house, recreation center and park amenities)	2005 2007	\$ 300,000 \$5,800,000
3.	North Haines Park Area	2005 2006-2008	\$ 50,000 (master plan) \$2,450,000 (construction)

### **Infrastructure**

1.	City-wide Irrigation	2005 2006-2009	\$ 350,000 \$2,750,000
2.	Skate Park Parking Lot	2006	\$150,000

The Board requested that staff apply appropriate inflation factors to the estimated costs for projects in future years.

Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to adopt the above-listed projects to be submitted to the City's 2012 Committees.

### **Director's Report**

Cole went through the revenue and expenses with the Board. It is anticipated that the golf fund will have a deficit of approximately \$175,000 at the end of the year. He is proposing to subsidize this deficit and pay off the 2003 operating loan with funds remaining in other park & recreation budgets. The deficit has been reduced from 2003 by approximately \$20,000 so we are making progress. He also submitted copies of a new contract with the golf pro for Meadowbrook and Executive golf courses. The structure for the golf pro is being changed back to a contract and the other golf course employees will be city employees. This will allow the city to provide for better customer service and maintenance for the golf courses.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe explained that the city has been having problems working with the Rushmore Hockey Association when conducting tournaments at the Roosevelt ice rink. They are required to work with that organization because they are the only group sanctioned with USA Hockey in this area. Lowe stated that he would like to do whatever is necessary to get the Roosevelt Ice Arena sanctioned. Motion was made by Zimmer and seconded by Storm to support the process to get the city's ice arena sanctioned with USA Hockey. Lindquist also suggested that staff work with the City Attorney's Office to see if there any legal remedies to this issue. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Director Cole explained that they have lost some opportunities recently to market city facilities because he is not authorized to sign contracts. Typically it takes 4-5 weeks to get an item through the entire process for Council approval and the Mayor's signature. He intends to ask the City Council for authorization to sign small contracts for limited purposes which are under the amount of \$2,500 and have a short time frame (less than two years). Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to recommend that the Director of Parks & Recreation be authorized to sign small contracts totaling less than \$2,500 and for a time frame of less than two years.

Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to carry forward the slate of officers for FY2005. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Zimmer and carried to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. The Board came out of executive session at 7:55 P.M.

Motion was made by Allen and seconded by Storm to recommend that the United Field be leased to Canyon Lake Little League with the following understanding:

- Canyon Lake Little League will get the field in shape, and
- Canyon Lake Little League will work with the ASA organization and make the field available to them approximately 2 days per week, as needed by ASA.

Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.