

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
December 7, 2006

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 7, 2006, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Wes Storm, Tom Allen and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were City Council Liaison Karen Gundersen Olson, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Aquatics Director Duncan Olney, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcik, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Storm and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of November 2, 2006, as presented.

Lindquist asked for any changes to the Agenda. Cole noted that Duane Baker from the Police Department will be present to discuss the proposal for an off-lease area along Rapid Creek between East Boulevard and Fifth Street. Allen requested that a Year-end Report be added to the agenda for Mary Hall Park. Lowe noted that the Black Hills Figure Skating Club requested that they be moved to the meeting in January. This change will allow them more time to gather information. The Agenda was approved with these changes.

Liaison Reports

Matejcik reported that the Bike/Walk/Run Committee has not met since his last report.

Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier reported that a presentation on the Adopt a Creek Program was made at their last meeting. They also heard from Rod Johnson about beautification efforts being made at the Central States Fairgrounds.

Salvation Army Development Proposal

Cole reported that he met with Bob Riggio and Major McClintock relative to the Advisory Board's concerns about the Salvation Army's proposed development at 700 E. St. Patrick Street. Regarding land ownership issues, they went away from the meeting very understanding of the city's position that we would have to either own the 3.5 acres in question, or have a very long-term lease before a park can be developed on this site. They are going to talk to the national association and come back to the Board.

Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan

Lindquist noted that funds are being held for the following projects that will not be done until at least 2008: Founders Park Restroom (\$80,000); Bike Path at Fairgrounds (\$30,000) and St. Joe Street Landscaping (\$25,000). If this funding is moved to 2008, that will free-up dollars in 2007 that can be used to complete projects. It was the

consensus of the Advisory Board that if these funds can be moved, that should be done so that other projects can be completed in 2007.

Storm spoke in support of replacing the bunkers at Meadowbrook Golf Course. A professional was hired earlier this year to inspect the golf course and he noted that if the City ever wants to host a major event, all the bunkers will have to be replaced. The estimated cost for this project is \$200,000.

Allen suggested that the Pressler Junction irrigation project be moved forward. This garden is located in a very visible area along Omaha Street.

Zimmer noted that if the bikepath through the Fairgrounds is a safety issue, should we consider doing the project without the grant funds. Lindquist noted that the total project cost is more than the CIP budget could handle without the grant funds.

Zimmer also asked about the playground equipment replacement project. Cole noted that the 2012 Project (\$300,000) will be used to replace playgrounds in Scott Mallow and College Parks. There is \$100,000 available in the CIP Parks and Rec Fund that can be used to address safety issues and/or replace individual playground elements throughout the community.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe requested that the Advisory Board consider funding court divider nets for the community center gyms. The Recreation Division's volleyball program has grown tremendously over the past two years and all three courts in the community gyms must be used to allow all the teams to play. As a result, balls are inadvertently going onto adjacent courts which causes safety issues for everyone. Lowe submitted information estimating the cost to provide two nets at each community center at approximately \$20,000. Storm spoke in favor of spending additional funds to get the type of nets that lower from the ceiling rather than pull across a cable. If the netting is stored along the ceiling it will last much longer.

Lindquist asked about the timing to install additional sand volleyball courts along Omaha Street. Cole noted that the courts are needed now, however, to save money it would be wise to combine this project with construction of a restroom facility.

Lindquist also asked about the budget ramifications if the City mandates that the parks must be watered with untreated water. Cole noted that the cost would be in the millions of dollars to accomplish this because of the number of reservoirs that would need to be constructed. Currently we would be able to water Canyon Lake, Roosevelt and Memorial Parks with untreated water. All others would require construction of a reservoir.

Cole suggested that a work session be set up to review the five year plan and all the projects on the list. It was decided that the Board would meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 4th to discuss the Five Year Plan and prioritize projects. This work session will be held just prior to the regular Advisory Board meeting on the same date. Lindquist

noted that if anyone has a project they want added, request that the Parks and Recreation staff to add it to the list prior to the January 4th meeting.

Carry Forward Funding

A spreadsheet was presented showing 2006 funding that will not be spent until 2007. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to approve the carry forward funding with any modifications needed prior to the end of the year.

Off-Leash Area

Duane Baker from the Police Department explained that he feels an off-leash area along Rapid Creek between 5th Street and East Boulevard would be a good use of this property. Cole noted that if the Advisory Board is in favor of this proposal, staff will begin the procedure and submit the information to the Legal & Finance Committee. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Allen to recommend that the area along Rapid Creek between 5th Street and East Boulevard be designated as an off-leash area for dogs. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Urban Wildlife Task Force

Cole explained that the city is experiencing on-going problems with deer throughout the community and ducks and geese in Canyon Lake Park and Meadowbrook Golf Course. As a result, the City Council requested that the Advisory Board prepare a recommendation on forming a committee to address urban wildlife. Cole proposed that the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee be comprised of the following positions: 2 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members, 1 City Council Member, 1 Beautification Committee member, 1 Urban Forestry Board Member, 1 Hunter, 1 Master Gardener, 1 Rapid City Parks Division Employee, 1 Audubon Society Member, 1 SD State Game, Fish and Parks Member, and 1 Biologist. He is also proposing that the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee would fall under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with recommendations coming through the Board to the City Council. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to recommend that the City Council form a Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to deal with Urban Wildlife, with the following membership: 2 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members, 1 City Council Member, 1 Beautification Committee member, 1 Urban Forestry Board Member, 1 Hunter, 1 Master Gardener, 1 Rapid City Parks/Golf Division Employee, 1 Audubon Society Member, 1 SD State Game, Fish and Parks Staff Member, and 1 Biologist. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Mary Hall Park – Year End Report

Tom Allen reported on the following major accomplishments in Mary Hall Park in 2006:

- Receipt and planting of approximately 200 trees and shrubs
- Ditching of the water supply into the building, and

- Receipt and placement of 4 picnic tables and 3 benches.

The summer of 2006 was extremely hot, however, volunteers were able to keep 90% of the trees and shrubs alive with hoses and water tanks. The biggest concern for the future is money to work with and a Capital Fund Drive has been started. The Board hopes to raise \$300,000 over five years to accomplish the remaining projects in Mary Hall Park. Allen added that they are in the process of developing a web page for Mary Hall Park that can be linked to the Parks and Recreation web site to provide information to the public about this project.

Advisory Board Member Terms

It was noted that the three-year term for Wes Storm and Van Lindquist will expire in January, 2007. Storm and Lindquist agreed to serve another term. Staff will prepare a Memo to the Mayor asking that they be re-appointed for 3 year terms which will expire in January 2010.

Lindquist also noted that Board Member Hugh Welsh has resigned his position on the Board. An individual will be appointed by the Mayor to fill the remainder of Hugh's term which will expire in January 2008. He encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on the Advisory Board to fill out an Interest Form and submit it to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

Election of Officers

Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to nominate Van Lindquist for the position of Chairman in 2007. No other nominations were made. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Allen to nominate Sherri Zimmer for the position of Vice Chairman in 2007. No other nominations were made. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Cole reported that new drawings will be submitted to the Advisory Board for Vickie Powers, College and Scott Mallow Parks at the meeting in January.

Cole asked the Board members if they want to attend the meetings on the types of playground equipment available. Lindquist encouraged anyone who can attend the meetings to do so because this is where the new equipment will be presented and discussed. It is anticipated that these meetings will be held the third week in January. Staff will keep the board members posted on the dates and times for these interview sessions.

Cole also reported that the Knollwood PTA has received Block Grant funding for the playground at Knollwood School.

Cole noted that the 2007 rates for Meadowbrook and Executive golf courses were approved by the City Council on November 20, 2007. One of the changes we are making at Meadowbrook in 2007 is the establishment of "Home Clubs". Members of Home Clubs would be charged \$10 per year and would be allowed to schedule tee times for the entire summer. The current policy states that you can only make a tee time 7 days in advance. The criteria for Home Clubs is that they must have at least 16 players and each player must pay the \$10 annual fee. Cole distributed a handout on Home Clubs and asked the Board members to review it. It will be on the agenda for discussion at the January Advisory Board meeting. Storm suggested that staff mail the proposed policy to existing groups that play at Meadowbrook so that they have an opportunity to provide input on this issue.

Cole reported that staff is preparing to construct a putting green at Meadowbrook Golf Course across the creek from the Club House. This project is being done with donations, however, the Board may be asked to provide funding to assist with cash flow issues. An 11-6-19 Review application is being submitted for consideration.

A conservation easement has been presented for the Skyline Wilderness Area and it will go to the City Council for consideration next week. Cole noted that there are some issues he is not in favor of, but timing is very important right now. They are trying to get ownership of the property transferred by the end of 2006. One of the requirements in the Easement is the criteria that the City must get approval from the Trust prior to doing any work on trails or installing signs, etc. in this area. There are also concerns about what the City will be required to pay for if we make a request to do any work in the Skyline Wilderness Area.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM