

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
February 1, 2007

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 1, 2007 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Wes Storm, Chuck Tinant and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were City Council Liaison Karen Gundersen Olson, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcek, Urban Forestry Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Lindquist asked that a statement be added to the minutes noting that Glenn Brenner, President of the Black Hills Figure Skating Club, made a personal commitment to cover any costs incurred for an extended ice arena season that were not covered by revenues generated. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of January 4, 2007, as amended.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion on the concept plans for Scott Mallow, College and Vickie Powers Parks and a report on the playground equipment presentations.

Suzanne Martley and Steve McCarthy were present to discuss dog parks in Rapid City. She noted that about 2 years ago she began to organize the people who bring their dogs to Braeburn in an attempt to oppose plans by the Game, Fish & Parks Department to construct an educational facility on the Braeburn Park site. One of the tools they developed was a slide presentation showing the beauty of the area and how it is being used by dog owners as well as hikers, bikers and picnickers. Martley also thanked the Parks Division for the clean-up work they have done in Braeburn Park and the installation of signs. She also noted that the group of dog owners has formed an alliance with Friends of Rapid City Parks and will work to keep these parks available for use by the public. Martley started the Power Point slide show of Braeburn Dog Park. Steve McCarthy explained that he formed Friends of RC Parks about 1.5 years ago and there are currently 180 members. This group is interested in preserving and protecting the Rapid City parks for two main reasons: 1) beautiful parks, and 2) 30 years ago some very wise people set this property aside for park use because of flood issues. McCarthy explained that his organization will lobby to maintain the beauty of the parks in Rapid City. We are concerned that the real estate we have is green and the more we develop, the less it becomes a park. Friends of RC Parks will encourage the City to look at other places to develop rather than using the park land. Jerry Cole noted that there is a proposal before the Council at this time to create another dog park between East Blvd. and 5th Street, north of Rapid Creek. He asked if these organizations would support that proposal. Martley stated that they do support this project because she feels it will improve the area which is what happened at Braeburn. This area was a "party" area for

many years, but since it has been used as a dog park, that activity has all but vanished. Cole also noted that the Advisory Board has agreed to provide funding in 2007 to install a fence in Braeburn Park along Highway 44, provide crushed gravel trails and asphalt the parking lot and road into the park. He added that he would like to put together a brochure on dog parks in Rapid City.

Liaison Reports

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

Steve Hasenohrl reported that the Urban Forestry Board supports the concept plans for Vickie Powers, Scott Mallow and College Parks as they were presented. The Board did express concern about maintenance once they are developed. This should be part of the equation when talking about park development. The Urban Forestry Board is also interested in how the City intends to manage the new Skyline Wilderness Area and Chuck Lien Family Park. There is some expertise in forestry on this Board and they would be more than willing to assist with these projects. Hasenohrl also invited the Board to attend the annual Tree Workshop sponsored by the Urban Forestry Board. The Workshop is scheduled for February 21st.

Steve Doshier reported that Wayne Asscherick from the Police Department made a presentation to the Beautification Committee on landscaping with an eye toward crime prevention. Also, the Public Works Department is moving forward with the bid process for the Memorial Park project. Regarding the state-owned land adjacent to Executive Golf Course, Cole noted that the Growth Management Department will be coming to the March Advisory Board meeting to discuss this issue.

CIP Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan

Lindquist noted that some revisions are needed in the 2007 Five Year Plan which was discussed at the last meeting. The Board reviewed the following projects which were approved for 2007: Community Center Gym court dividers, Pressler Junction irrigation, Robbinsdale Park restroom facility renovation, Horace Mann Pool heaters, Meadowbrook Golf Course Bridge renovation, Swim Center carpet replacement in locker rooms, Canyon Lake Park Lighting master plan, Canyon Lake Park Phase 1 Lighting. Cole requested that funding be approved for Braeburn Park Improvements and a master plan for the park area near Parkview pool. Also, the Horace Mann Pool committee would rather have funding for Geo Tech Services than heaters. The Geo Tech services are needed to determine if the soils in this area can support this type of use. Cole noted that if the heaters stop working we will have to go to the City Council for funding. The Advisory Board agreed to change the funding for Horace Mann Pool heaters to Geo Tech Services. After some discussion it was noted that a master plan for lighting in Canyon Lake Park could be developed in 2007, however, there would probably not be adequate time to replace the lights. Funding for this portion of the project could be moved to 2008. The Advisory Board agreed to provide \$150,000 in funding for improvements to Braeburn Park and \$10,000 to fund a master plan of the

parkland area near Parkview Pool. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried to approve the following 2007 CIP Projects:

Community Center Gym court dividers	\$ 32,000
Pressler Junction irrigation	\$ 10,000
Robbinsdale Park restroom facility renovation	\$175,000
Horace Mann Pool Geo Tech Services	\$ 15,000
Meadowbrook Golf Course Bridge renovation	\$ 50,000
Swim Center Carpet Replacement (locker rooms)	\$ 25,000
Canyon Lake Park Lighting Master Plan	\$ 30,000
Braeburn Park Improvements	\$150,000
Parkview Park Master Plan	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total	\$497,000

Lindquist suggested that another work session be held to identify projects for future years. It was the consensus of the Board that a work session be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 1, 2007 prior to the regular Advisory Board meeting.

Meadowbrook Golf Course

For the Board's information Cole explained that he made an executive decision to move supervision of the golf course under the Recreation Division and as a result, Doug Lowe is now in charge of golf course operations. JJ Walraven will continue as Golf Course Superintendent and operations will remain the same.

Cole explained that it is the policy at Meadowbrook Golf Course that you can only make tee times one week in advance. However, there are several groups that have been allowed to reserve the same tee time for the entire summer which is against the policy. Rather than telling these groups they can no longer do this, we will implement a policy that will allow groups of 16 people or more that are playing each week to book for the entire summer. That way they can play at the same time all summer long. This policy will be implemented to allow this practice for an annual fee of \$10. Staff is recommending that this policy be approved. Storm indicated that some people are not in favor of doing this, however it is not a requirement. Individuals can still call a week ahead and book their tee times. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to approve establishment of Home Clubs at Meadowbrook Golf Course.

Meadowbrook Golf Course Winter Play Policy

A copy of the Winter Play policy was distributed to the Advisory Board members. Walraven explained that this is basically the way the course is operating at the current time. He would like to have a written policy approved by the Board so that he can distribute copies when people complain about the decisions that are made. Cole stated that there are people who do not like this policy, so if it is approved it will give staff support from the administration. He added that because the city has been operating this way for several years, and as a result of the work the City staff has done, he truly

believes the course is in good shape during the primary golfing season. Storm suggested that if this policy goes into affect the City Council should be informed that the course is closing for 90-120 days during the year. This should be taken into account if general fund revenues are needed to support the golf enterprise fund. Storm added that he understands that we want to stay off the greens, however, unless something is done to fix the bunkers at Meadowbrook, the City will never get another #1 tournament. Cole stated that if the course remained open during the winter months, 90% of the play would be by current pass holders. As a result, additional revenue would not be significant. He also questioned if staying open all year would increase the number of pass holders at Meadowbrook. Cole explained that the deficit in the golf enterprise fund has been going down the last three years. Hopefully by 2008, we will be able to operate in the black and begin to see additional revenue that could be used to make improvements to the course. If the City considers being open year-round, Golf Course Superintendent JJ Walraven suggested having two separate passes. He feels that golfers should have to pay more to golf during the winter because of the damage it does to the golf course. Cole noted that Meadowbrook Golf Course makes money. The problem is that it (the enterprise fund) must also support the Executive Golf Course and some expenses at the LaCroix Links course which is leased to the YMCA. Motion was made by Tinant to approve the Winter Play Policy, as presented. There was no second therefore the motion died for lack of a second. Storm reconsidered and seconded the motion noting that it is not fair to the golf course staff to take the heat on this issue. The policy should be posted and distributed. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Advisory Board that the winter play policy should be amended to note the time frame of December through March rather than April. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried with Storm voting no.

Scott Mallow, College and Vickie Powers Parks Concept Plans

Cole explained that Wyss Associates, Inc. has presented the final concept plans for Scott Mallow, College and Vickie Powers Parks with associated costs to complete each plan. Funding is not available to do everything on the plans, so priorities will have to be determined and phases established. The money currently available is for playgrounds and we need to concentrate on this aspect of the plans. If we have to do more in these parks, we will need to prioritize those issues and put them in the five year plan. The main focus right now is the playground areas. Lindquist noted that the Advisory Board approved the concept plans for these three parks at the January 4, 2007 meeting, with the notation that funding was not currently available to complete them as shown. Cole asked the Board to consider what type of playground equipment they would like to see in Scott Mallow and College parks and be prepared to make a recommendation at the next meeting. Cole noted that there is \$300,000 available for this project however, additional costs may be incurred in College Park because a portion of the irrigation system was destroyed when the Public Works Department put in water/sewer lines through this area.

Cole added that the master plan for Vickie Powers Park will be presented to the City Council for approval before we proceed with this project. Lindquist noted that the clock

is ticking on the Vickie Powers Park project because all expenditures must be made within five years of the date of approval for projects financed through Tax Increment Districts.

Director's Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that a request has been submitted by the Black Hills Figure Skating Club to keep the facility open longer. The revenue and expense figures are being analyzed and more information will be submitted on this issue.

Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney reported that an RFP was distributed for a sound system at the Swim Center and proposals should be coming in soon.

Parks Division Manager Lon VanDeusen reported that his staff is working on the irrigation system along Omaha Street near Pressler Junction.

Cole reported that Parks and Recreation will be the focus of a City Council Information Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 12:30 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. He wants to show the City Council what we have done the last 3 years, where we are now, and where we are going.

Regarding the newly acquired Skyline Wilderness Area and Chuck Lien Family Park, Cole explained that volunteer groups will take on some of the issues as far as oversight in these areas. There are things that have to be done and management practices that have to be set in place to maintain these properties. Cole added that the Skyline Preservation, Inc. group will remain active and they are considering becoming the 501(c)(3) organization for the entire park system. Also, on May 25th at 10:00 AM there will be a dedication ceremony for Skyline Wilderness Area and Chuck Lien Family Park at Founders Park. This event ties into the beginning of the inaugural Black Hills Fat Tire Festival which is scheduled from May 25-27, 2007 in Rapid City.

Lindquist reminded everyone that there will be a work session for the Five Year Plan beginning at 6:00 PM prior to the next Advisory Board meeting on March 1, 2007.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM