

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center – Conference Room
February 12, 2009

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, February 12, 2008 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Chuck Tinant, Sheri Zimmer, Jim Smoragiewicz 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 Liaison Karen Gunderson Olson, City Council Member Patti Martinson, Urban Forestry Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Bike/Walk/Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejcik and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the minutes of December 11, 2008.

The agenda was approved with the addition of Director's presentation of 2008 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Awards

2008 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Awards

Cole presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to **Scott Caesar**. Scott received the volunteer of the year award for his continued support and work on the Jackson Park Disc Golf Course. He has put in countless hours in his devotion to make the Jackson Park Disc Golf Course one of the best in a 5 state region. His dedication to improving the park as well as bringing disc golf tournaments to the community has improved everyone's quality of life in Rapid City.

Cole presented the Volunteer Business of the Year Award to **Qwest Company / Qwest Foundation**. This past year the Qwest Company and the Qwest Foundation donated \$50,000 to the City of Rapid City for creation of a new playground at Vickie Powers Park. This infusion of dollars to the project allowed the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward and complete the design of the playground. Construction on the playground will be done this spring and summer. Creating this place to play will improve this neighborhood, and the entire City's, quality of life.

Cole presented the Volunteer Organization of the Year Award to the **Hanson/Larsen Memorial Foundation**. Members of the Hanson/Larsen group have worked tirelessly for the past 3 years to preserve the natural beauty of the Cowboy Hill area first by purchasing the property in 2007 to create a public/private park system, and this past year by putting the dollars and effort forward to create a network of public trails that will link the City's Chuck Lien and Founders Parks.

Liaison Reports

Karen Olson noted that there have been several items before the City Council relative to the City accepting drainage areas for maintenance. She indicated that some type of

funding mechanism (drainage fee) needs to be implemented to pay these maintenance costs.

Frank Matejcek reported that the Bike/Walk/Run Committee did not meet. Monica Heller has indicated to him that there are no plans for the Committee to meet again and there is some talk about combining this committee with another existing committee.

Steve Hasenohrl reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning and the main topic of discussion was the Tree Care Workshop which is scheduled for March 11th. The Board has decided to use local individuals as speakers for this year's workshop which will last approximately ½ day. Hasenohrl also reported that Arbor Day is the last Friday in April and a celebration is tentatively planned at the new General Beadle School. Staff will continue to work on this event.

Steve Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee did not have a quorum so no actions were taken. The Garden Club made a presentation relative to a project they are considering in Mary Hall Park.

Memorial Bench for Edmund Davis Herr

A letter requesting that a memorial bench be located in Canyon Lake Park in memory of Edmund Davis Herr was presented. Petitions containing 57 signatures were also submitted in support of this request. Larry Chilstrom was present to answer any questions and requested the Board's favorable consideration of this request. Cole noted that Canyon Lake Park is becoming saturated with benches and perhaps this should be the final bench allowed in this area. No other public comments were made. Cole noted that final action on this request will be taken at the Advisory Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 12th.

Memory Garden

Ken Kirk explained that the Front Porch Coalition is an organization founded to assist families who have lost loved ones to suicide. They would like to develop an area with benches and shrubs where people could go to relax and remember the loved ones they have lost. One suggested location is behind RC Regional West Hospital along Memory Lane. The Front Porch Coalition would sell pavers and bricks which could be inscribed with names or verses. Kirk stated that they would be open to any location that would be agreeable to the City. Cole noted that the Board has two options: 1) send the request back to the Front Porch Coalition for additional information, or 2) agree with the concept and recommend that members of the Coalition work with staff on this program. One stipulation would be that a plan would have to be developed by a landscape architect before the Advisory Board could approve it. The second thing would be finding a piece of land for the location. The type of benches would also need to be specific because of concerns with the floodway. The proposal will also need to go through the City's 11-6-19 Review process. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to direct staff to work with members of the Front Porch Coalition to find a piece of land for a memory garden and once a plan has been prepared, it should be submitted it to the Advisory Board for consideration. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried.

Waterfowl Management Plan

Director Cole explained that the Waterfowl Management Plan was presented to the Legal & Finance Committee for consideration at their meeting on February 11th. That committee acknowledged the Plan by unanimous vote and it will now be submitted to the City Council for consideration at their meeting on February 17th. Chairman Jim Good explained that the Urban Wildlife Committee was established in 2007 to review and make recommendations on various issues dealing with wildlife in the city limits. As a result of many complaints about the problems created by the large number of water birds in Canyon Lake Park and near Storybook Island, the Waterfowl Management Plan was developed. The Plan recommends that the City adopt a “feeding” ban for water birds within the city limits. This is a very social activity in Rapid City which is enjoyed by many families. However, it creates several issues:

- Feeding bread products to the geese and ducks is not good for them
- Large problem with feces covering grass areas as well as sidewalks
- Increased number of water birds in the Canyon Lake Area
- Increased number of water birds that remain in the area year-round rather than migrating as they normally would, and
- Promotes cross breeding between species

At the present time there are too many water birds living in the Canyon Lake and Storybook Island areas and they are destroying the grass areas and creating feces issues throughout the parks and Meadowbrook Golf Course. Good noted that the Waterfowl Management Plan is the Urban Wildlife Committee’s attempt to control the size of the flock in Canyon Lake Park and other areas within the City. He added that State Game, Fish & Parks personnel have been involved with preparing the document and have provided valuable resources and information. When reviewing the data, Lindquist asked what level the Committee wanted to be at. Good indicated that the Committee has talked a little about the numbers and they feel we should get it down to the lowest number possible. An acceptable number has not been established at this time. Tinant stated that he was impressed with the report and the growth in the number of birds in these areas. Lindquist added that we should realize that this is not a one time issue; it will need to be handled on an annual basis similar to the deer herd management program. Olson added that another issue with the population of the water birds in Canyon Lake Park is the bird flu. Cole concurred. However, the greater issues for Rapid City right now are the stringent conditions for drinking water being enacted by the federal government that the City must comply with. That is one of the driving forces on this issue. Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to recommend that the City Council give favorable consideration to the Waterfowl Management Plan.

Reorganization Issues for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Lindquist reported that the Advisory Board had a Retreat on February 7th to discuss a wide variety of issues that currently affect the Board, and that they will deal with in the near future. One of the problems the Board has seen recently is the cancellation of

meetings because a quorum of members is not available. It was suggested that the Board be expanded to 7 members, but that the quorum number remain at 3.

Motion was made by Storm seconded by Zimmer and carried to recommend to the City Council that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board be expanded to 7 members, and that the quorum requirement remain at 3.

Motion was made by Storm seconded by Tinant and carried that the time for the regular monthly meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board be changed to 5:30 PM beginning with the March 12, 2009 meeting.

Motion was made by Tinant seconded by Storm and carried to request that the City Attorney draft ordinance amendments to reflect the current operations of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Aquatics, Recreation, Golf and Ice Divisions.

Motion was made by Storm seconded by Zimmer and carried to direct staff to prepare an ordinance recommendation dealing with the proposed changes to the Sports Facility Partnership Fund Grant Program to allow all organizations who lease from the City to apply for grant funds.

Drainage Property

Cole explained that developers in the area near Copperfield Subdivision unofficially contacted him relative to a piece of drainage property in their development that would be a good location for a trail that would connect Highway 44 East and Anamosa Street. However, until a trail plan is approved and we have some idea when a trail would be constructed, we don't need to acquire the property. This is a drainage area and it cannot be developed. Once the City owns the property, we have to maintain it whether a trail is constructed or not. Motion was made by Storm seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to recommend that the property not be accepted by the City at this time.

Parks and Recreation CIP Five Year Plan

The CIP Five Year Plan was submitted for review by the Board. Cole recommended that the Sand Volleyball Court project be reduced to \$100,000 and that funding in the amount of \$25,000 for a St. Joe Street Landscaping Enhancement Grant be eliminated (the grant was never submitted). This will provide \$75,000 for improvements to Wilderness Park. He recommended that no other changes be made at this time until we find out how the bids for Vickie Powers Park come in on February 25th. Motion was made by Zimmer seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the adjustments to the CIP Five Year Plan, as recommended by staff.

Director's Report

Tennis Court Project: Cole noted that a conference call is scheduled with the USTA next week. The City has received a grant from USTA for \$11,000 thanks in large part to the efforts of Karen Olson and Liz Hamburg. The project is proceeding to the national level in the hope that we will receive additional grant funding.

Federal Greenway Project: The RFP for a consultant is currently being reviewed by SD DOT. At their request the trail project behind the Fairgrounds Office is being added to the Greenway Project. The \$30,000 in the 2009 CIP budget identified for the Fairgrounds trail will be used for this part of the project. Cole added that once DOT has approved the RFP and it is distributed we will interview consultants for this project. Cole added that there has been a lot of interest on this project from firms around the country. It is our intent to get a construction contract signed by October 1, 2009. In order for this to happen a consultant must be hired, the project must be designed, bids let and awarded and a contract prepared for signature.

Vickie Powers Memorial Park and Playground: Bids for both projects will be opened on February 25, 2009.

Canyon Lake Bypass Project: Cole reported that the contractor ran into problems with natural springs when they attempted to place the pipe along the north shoreline. As a result they are now putting the bypass on the south side of the island.

Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney reported that staff is trying to comply with the new Virginia Graeme Baker law for swimming pool drain covers, however they are running into problems. The drains at the Swim Center will require custom made covers. There is currently only one manufacturer who produces these covers and they are only working on standard sized items at this time. The costs for these drain covers will be approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 and that is only from the Swim Center. They will also need new covers for the outdoor pools.

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported that the assessment process for the municipal park restrooms is complete and recommendations will be forthcoming. They are also doing an assessment of the lighting in Canyon Lake Park.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the Gold Rush Figure Skating Competition is this weekend with 90 skaters scheduled to perform. This is one of the biggest ice shows in a five-state area.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for March 12, 2009 beginning at 5:30 PM.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.