

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room  
January 5, 2006

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, January 5, 2006, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Wes Storm, Tom Allen and Hugh Welsh. Also present were City Council Liaison Karen Gundersen Olson, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejck, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Motion was made by Welsh, seconded by Storm and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of December 1, 2005.

The **agenda** was approved with the addition of a presentation by the Black Hills Cycling Association on a **Dirt Jump Park**.

Dirk Gustin and Tim Rangitsch submitted information to the Advisory Board on a proposed Dirt Jump Park. They are requesting use of a 1,000 x 1,000 area located near the foot of M Hill. This property is located in the floodplain, but not the floodway. Grants may be available from the Mountain Bike Association and the Black Hills Cycling Association to build the park. Director Cole briefed the Board on what a dirt jump park is, how it is used, and showed video clips of bikers jumping in a variety of different parks and areas. Rangitsch explained that there is an informal jump park in this location now, along Rapid Creek behind Abourezk Law Office on Mt. View Road. Cole showed pictures of this area and how it is currently being used. Gustin and Rangitsch explained that youth in the community have made some jumps and created the area. It is their intent to legitimize the park, help to develop it into a recreational activity for members of the community, make the park better and safer, and provide adequate signage and recognition. They noted that there is a lot of trash and garbage that needs to be hauled out of the area as well as general cleanup. The current location is easily accessible by kids on bicycles from all areas of town. Restrooms in Sioux Park and Founder's park locations are already available. There is no need for expensive water, fences, parking or additional bathroom facilities. Rangitsch added that if this type of facility is created in the community, it will help to keep jump riders out of the Skate park, the downtown area and the BMX track.

Lindquist asked about design standards for this type of facility. Rangitsch explained that the IMBA has design professionals on staff who are available to help with this type of project. He encouraged Rangitsch and Gustin to have professional design staff visit the community and offer their opinions on the proposed site.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to approve the concept of a Dirt Jump Park in the proposed location near the foot of M Hill.

**Liaison Reports**

Frank Matejcik from the Bike, Walk, Run Committee reported that most of the discussion at the last meeting was on the Crash Report which compiles statistics from crashes in 2003, 2004 and 2005. They also discussed three different route options for the bike path as it goes through the Fairgrounds. They agree with staff that the best route is along the creek behind the Fair Board Office.

Steve Doshier from the Beautification Committee reported that the Kansas City Street Reconstruction project will include more streets than just Kansas City Street. The project is proposing to add pocket parks on the corners of some streets with landscape trees and in some instances, mid-block beautification planting areas. Doshier expressed concern about additional maintenance costs and personnel this may require from the Parks Department and he would like to see input from this Advisory Board on the project. Doshier also reported that the Beautification Committee has received confirmation from the Gwendolyn Stearns Foundation that their enhancement grant was approved in the amount of \$25,000. This funding will be used for additional street trees on Main and St. Joseph Streets.

Lindquist requested that city staff brief the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on the Kansas City Street Reconstruction Project at the next meeting.

Wes Storm left the meeting at this time.

**Plum Creek Tax Increment Financing**

Cole reported that the City Council continued action on the work plan for this tax increment district. He has received notification that if the Parks and Recreation Department wants to expand the boundaries of the district and add some park and recreation elements, we need to get it done very soon. Cole noted that he and Van will be meeting with the Growth Management Department to discuss whether or not we can expand the boundaries to include park and recreation elements at the Wally Byum site. Cole added that Karen Bulman from the Growth Management Office suggested looking into a separate TID for park and recreation elements. We should look at both options to see the amount of revenue that would be available.

**Director's Report**

Cole distributed a copy of the NRPA Awards brochure noting that the deadline for award applications is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. In order to be eligible for these awards, the Department must have an approved Comprehensive Plan in place. Staff is working on the Plan, but there is no way it will be finalized by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cole added that the City will be applying for gold medal awards in the aquatics division which don't have the same requirement for a Comprehensive Plan.

Cole also distributed two designs for new park signs that will be used in all parks in the City. Cole noted that the City Council has given us a mandate for park sign in Horace Mann Park. The Board encouraged staff to continue to pursue different types of signs.

Cole reported that he will be asking for authorization to apply for a tree grant on behalf of the City. There have been damaged trees throughout the city in recent years. There is some money in the budget to replace them which could be used for matching funds. Cole noted that we may also be able to use "in-kind" services for the match, such as staff time to plant the trees.

Cole presented a copy of a Senate Joint Resolution which will be presented to the legislature in 2006. The Resolution requests that an issue be put on the ballot for the next general election which would prohibit government entities from selling certain goods, commodities and services to the general public if those goods, commodities and services are readily available through a private business or a non-governmental entity. If this type of action is approved, it will have devastating effects on parks and recreation activities in Rapid City. If anyone has comments on this proposal they should contact the state legislators and voice their concerns.

Cole acknowledged the good work the staff of the Roosevelt Ice Arena has been doing in programming the facility. The hockey association ended their relationship with the city at the beginning of 2004. Current staff has brought in more revenue in November and December 2005 than when the hockey association was using our facility.

Cole also noted that he will be meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the procedures for a Request for Proposals for playground equipment that is being replaced throughout the community. Some parks will be totally redone while others will only have certain elements replaced. The City Attorney has previously stated that we should do one RFP for everything. Since we are doing different things in different parks, we would like to do them one park at a time. Also, there is the question of volunteers being available to do installation of some of the equipment. We hope to get the process started in early February to get a landscape architect to begin designing these areas. Cole added that he would like to talk to the City Council about the possibility of putting a landscape architect on retainer for the parks division. We have several projects to do in the near future that will require these services. Steve Doshier noted that about five years ago the Beautification Committee recommended that the City have a landscape architect on staff for a wide variety of projects throughout the city. Especially in light of all the parks and recreation projects we will be working on through the Vision 2012 Program.

Karen Olson informed the Board that the Skyline Wilderness Preservation Group has paid the back taxes and outstanding interest on their mortgage. As a result, the city recently issued a check paying off their loan. Olson noted that she feels this group will be willing to let the City take ownership of the skyline wilderness area for maintenance as public land. She added that she would like to see the Skyline Wilderness Group organization remain active to assist with fund raising and volunteer efforts that will be needed to maintain and preserve this area. Olson left the meeting at this time.

Tom Allen suggested that the Swim Center staff consider marketing the facility this time of year to encourage citizens to have a health lifestyle. Cole noted that we have a Marketing Committee that has been working for all the divisions, including the golf courses.

Lon Van Deusen, Parks Division Manager, submitted a drawing of the proposed sign that will be located in Halley Park. It is very similar to the identification signs in Wilson Park and on West Boulevard. Staff is currently going through the 11-6-19 review process and will also be working with the Historic Preservation Commission.

Cole reported to the Board that city staff has been meeting to determine what should be done with the road that goes through Canyon Lake Park. Temporary blockades have been put up until a final solution has been determined. Currently, two options are being discussed:

- Remove the portion of the road that goes from the second shelter to the third shelter and have a turn around, or
- Lots of signage and more guard rails

Lindquist stated that he feels the guard rail changes the character of the park. Allen concurred and stated that he would prefer the first option.

Cole also informed the Board that staff is considering installing gates to the entrances in some of the parks in Rapid City. The roads through the park areas are not maintained during winter months and it has become obvious from tire tracks and damages in the parks that some people are driving in the parks when it snows. Cole indicated he would bring more information to the Board on this issue.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM