

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
July 6, 2006

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, July 6, 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, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Golf Course Superintendent JJ Walraven, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcek, City Council Member Lloyd LaCroix and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of June 8, 2006.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of an Executive Session.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Welsh and carried to go into executive session to discuss contractual matters. The Advisory Board came out of executive session at 4:55 and no report was given.

Liaison Reports

Matejcek reported that the Bike Walk Run Committee has not met since the last meeting. Steve Doshier from the Beautification Committee noted that the minutes from their last meeting were included in the packet of information mailed out to members. He also reported that the Water Task Force is attempting to educate the public on water conservation issues and xeriscape gardens. They are also looking into revising portions of the landscape ordinances to require landscaping that will conserve water.

Cole asked Doshier for a report on the St. Joe Street project. The Five Year Plan shows \$25,000 in funding for this project. Doshier explained that the Beautification Committee has \$25,000 in matching funds for this project and is also applying for another grant for the Sheridan Lake Road/Canyon Lake Drive irrigation project. Doshier stated that they are waiting for the grant to be written. He added that he would like to see this process changed to be more efficient.

City Council Liaison Karen Olson reported that she has been defending the City's park system from electronic signs because she feels this would be an inappropriate use of a commercial activity. She asked for the Advisory Board's opinion. It was the opinion of the Board that electronic signs should not be allowed within the park system.

Olson left the meeting at this time.

Director Cole introduced Matt Reed to the Advisory Board. Reed is the Sports Council Liaison with the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Reed explained that his job is to find events that are being bid throughout the country and try to get them to come to Rapid City.

Salvation Army Proposed Development at 621 E. St. Patrick Street

Cole explained that the Salvation Army has submitted an application to the Growth Management Office for a 2-Phase Development at 621 E. St. Patrick Street. Phase 1 includes construction of a warehouse/retail thrift store and a 40'x60' garage. Phase 2 will include construction of a 120'x180' family enrichment center. The Salvation Army Board would like to know if the City is interested in purchasing the back portion of this property for development as a city park. Cole noted that the Comprehensive Plan will be completed later this year and then we will know if a park is needed in this vicinity. Also, access to this property is very limited. It may be that the only access will be from the Salvation Army facility, or walking in from the residential areas. There is also a major drainage area on the back of the property that should be taken into consideration. Cole added that he has inspected this site and there seems to be adequate area for a playground, but that is about all that could be put at this location. It was the consensus of the Advisory Board to inform the Salvation Army Board that we are in the process of identifying areas of the community that need parks and this proposal will be added to the mix.

Update on Parks and Recreation CIP and 2012 Projects

Skate Park West - The School District is considering a request to change the use of the tennis court located near Stevens High School for use as a skate park. Cole is meeting with School District representatives and will know more after meetings next week.

The 6th Street Bridge Renovation project is part of the larger Memorial Park project, however, in order to keep the bridge renovation funding separate from the larger project it is being bid as an alternate.

The location for the Skate Park East project has been identified as the multi-use court in Thompson Park. The skate park elements have been purchased and are being stored at the Parks Division. Staff has initiated the bid process to rehab the surface of the multi-use court.

Vicki Powers Memorial Park (aka Haines Avenue Park) - Cole reported that a contract with Wyss Associates to provide a master plan for this park has been approved by the City Council. There will be public meetings conducted to get input on what should be put in the park.

Canyon Lake Park Road Project – Cole explained that \$48,000 in funding was transferred from the contingency fund to the Parks & Rec line item to pay for this

project. The City Council has approved a plan to change the curve in the road and fill in a portion of the pond to reduce liability.

Cole added that there are three projects in the CIP Five Year Plan that the Board should review:

1) The need for additional volleyball courts at Founders Park has been identified in the next 1-3 years. Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe estimated the cost for additional courts at \$20,000-\$30,000 each. He will review this issue and submit better cost estimates for the Board's consideration. Lindquist asked about the capacity of the current electrical system to handle additional courts. Van Deusen noted that staff has not evaluated this issue.

2) Identified funding is inadequate for the Founders Park restroom project. Lindquist asked about floodway issues at this location. Cole explained that we know that this site is outside of the floodway, however it is in the flood plain and the structure will have to be elevated.

3) Identified funding is inadequate for the Memorial Park Irrigation (north) project.

When asked about possible funding sources, Cole noted that there could be excess funding in the skate parks. However, he recommended that the Board not take any action on funding allocations until more information is available. Staff will update the Board on these issues at the next meeting.

Storm left the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Skate Park Restroom & Parking Lot – Cole reported that this project is on hold pending what the Civic Center plans to do for additional parking.

ASA Softball Complex – Netting has been installed and the dugouts are being designed and necessary permits acquired.

Skyline Drive Preservation – In the State of the City speech, Mayor Shaw noted that this project needs to be a priority for the City. The Preservation Group's concern is assurance that the City will never be able to sell off this property. Currently, if the property is designated parkland, it can be sold if approved by a vote of the citizens. The Preservation Group wants more assurance than that.

Stevens Gym/Multi Purpose Room- This project wasn't scheduled until 2007, however the School District agreed to pay the upfront costs in order to have it built sooner. The project is under construction and it should be finished in 2007.

Roosevelt Park (outside amenities) – Cole explained that this funding is to be used to upgrade the sprinkler system and picnic areas, provide additional parking, and possibly a new or re-conditioned bathroom facility.

Tennis Courts – Cole reported that initially the City had planned to locate a tennis complex on city property adjacent to Parkview swimming pool. It has been determined that because of drainage issues, no courts can be built on the city-owned property. Cole stated that he will be talking to the School District about locating the tennis complex on property that they own in this area.

Founders Park – The group supporting this project is in the fund-raising stage and they have a long way to go to meet to the required funding match.

Parkland Acquisition – Cole explained that this \$500,000 has been identified as matching funds for the Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant. It has not been determined who will have control over any funding that is approved. He noted that a group will have to be formed to make decisions on how these funds should be allocated. Lindquist suggested that the Advisory Board encourage the Mayor to get a committee formed for this purpose.

Director's Report

Cole submitted a copy of a Turf Advisory Service Report for the Meadowbrook Golf Course which was done by the United States Golf Association. The Turf Report indicates that if the City ever wants to host a PGA event, the entire bunker system will have to be renovated at an estimated cost of \$200,000 (if they are all done at the same time).

Cole also noted that a group of interested citizens has set up a meeting with several City Council Members at Horace Mann Pool to discuss their concerns and operations at the pool.

Van Deusen reported that the Parks Division staff is working on the gates that will be installed at both entrances in Canyon Lake Park.

Cole noted that the City Council has given the Parks and Rec Advisory Board authority to create a description of the positions that should be included on the Urban Wildlife Committee. Rapid City is being inundated with domestic water fowl in Canyon Lake Park, foxes, deer, etc. This information will give the City Council direction on how to proceed and appoint an Urban Wildlife Committee. Lindquist suggested that a representative from the Audubon Society be included and that Wes Storm “head-up” the newly formed committee.

It was also noted that the inaugural Rapid City Amateur Golf Tournament was held at Meadowbrook Golf Course on June 30, July 1 and July 2. Staff would like to keep this tournament going and make it a big event for the City.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.