

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room  
July 7, 2005

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, July 7, 2005, with the following members present: Vice Chairman Tom Allen, Hugh Welsh and Wes Storm. Sherri Zimmer arrived later in the meeting. Also present were City Council Members Tom Johnson and Deb Hadcock, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Beautification Committee Liaison Jim White, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejck and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Welsh and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of June 2, 2005, as presented.

Vice Chairman Allen asked for additions or corrections to the Agenda. Storm asked for a report on the "bleacher" project and the water line that needs to be installed from Canyon Lake Drive to the baseball complex near Fitzgerald Stadium. These reports will be made during the Director's Report.

#### **Liaison Reports**

White reported that the Beautification Committee has applied for a grant to plant trees up and down Main and St. Joseph Streets and they will continue to work to construct pods at the corners in the downtown area.

#### **Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan**

Cole reported that the Board has approved a Five Year Plan so there is no deadline that needs to be met in 2005. However, if the City Council approves allocating \$300,000 for playground equipment in the 2012 Plan, the Board may want to review the five year plan and re-allocate the CIP funding being held for that project. Alderman Johnson explained that the 2012 Committee intends to review projects over the next 3-5 weeks and then a recommendation will be submitted to the City Council for consideration. He added that the fate of Ellsworth Air Force Base may also impact this round of the 2012 Program. Cole noted that the Five Year Plan is "on-hold" at this time and no further action is necessary.

#### **Director's Report**

Cole reported that a young man drowned in Roosevelt Pond last weekend and there was alcohol involved. Also, the victim was an illegal alien and the Police Department is having a difficult time finding and notifying the family. This is an information item only and no action is necessary.

Cole presented the financial reports for the Department covering January through May, 2005 noting that all divisions are in pretty good shape.

On Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> Parkview Pool will host the regional "Lifeguard Games". There are twelve teams competing with six of them from Rapid City. These games will demonstrate life guarding skills and give the participants a chance to compete against each other.

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported on several injuries to his staff resulting in manpower issues at the Parks Division. Allen noted that kudos are in order for the Parks Division for the tremendous recovery of the parks from the spring storms that downed so many trees and limbs. Van Deusen noted that they are still working in some areas to get the debris cleaned up. The City is also in the process of developing an agreement with the Department of Corrections to use their crews on this project. This would be a city-wide agreement so any department needing help would have access to this labor pool.

Van Deusen also reported that the schedule for mosquito control has been posted to the web page. This will let the public know which areas of the community they are working in and what type of control is being done. The Parks Division also finished cleaning up Memorial Park from the Heritage Festival, just in time for the Hills Alive Celebration. Cole remarked that the use of this park for these types of activities is really hard on the park and has created bare spots in the grass that will not grow back this year. We should keep this in mind if we want this area to be the "jewel" of the park system.

It was also noted that the tree crews have started removing diseased trees in the community. Cole added that the Council recently authorized renovation of several tennis courts which will be overlaid. The state tournament will be held in Rapid City this fall and next spring.

Van Deusen explained that fir trees were planted in brick planters on the south end of West Boulevard many years ago. Many of the trees died and were removed, but the planters and stumps remain. He has visited with the West Boulevard Association and the current plan is to remove the planters and the stumps and replant the area with grass.

Cole congratulated the Recreation Division on hosting a very successful State Hershey Track Meet on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Staff received many favorable comments and we expect the event to be even bigger in 2006.

The Black Hills Farmers Market has opened for the season and they are located in the parking lot at Founders Park. There will be a second farmers market opening soon either in the Swim Center parking lot or the former Harley Davidson parking lot on Omaha Street.

Cole also reported that the Church Softball League started construction of roofs on the dugouts at Whitehead Field without getting the necessary permits and approvals from the City. The Building Inspection Department tagged the project and had to issue a "stop-work" order for the project. The Planning Commission conducted an 11-6-19 review this morning and denied the project. The League will have to remove any work that was done on the roofs. There was no representation from the Church Softball League at the Planning Commission meeting, so staff is not sure if they will appeal this ruling to the City Council. Cole noted that the roofs are built on top of the fence which is against City code.

Regarding the bleachers, Cole noted that this is a 2012 Project and no information is available at this time. We won't know the status of this project until the 2012 projects are approved by the City Council. Storm noted that the state track meet is the driving force for this project; however, the bleachers will be used by the entire community for a variety of events.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M. and those present began a tour of park lands and recreation facilities throughout the community.