

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
June 2, 2005

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, June 2, 2005, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Tom Allen and Wes Storm. Also present were Director Jerry Cole, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, Golf Superintendent JJ Walraven, Project Manager Rod Johnson from the Public Works Department, Ken Edel from the Safe Path Committee, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of May 5, 2005, as presented.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Change Order for the Whitehead Field Improvements Project
- Request to create a Turkey Vulture Sanctuary
- Portable Bleachers

Whitehead Field Improvements Project

Project Manager Rod Johnson explained that he is processing the final paper work for the Whitehead Field Improvements Project. Additional fencing was installed at a cost of \$33.60 and couplers were added for a total of \$219. Johnson stated that this will close out the contract for this project. Cole added that there is a possibility that the city will need to install additional fencing in the future to take care of vehicles driving in areas where they shouldn't. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to increase the available funding for the Whitehead Field Improvements Project by \$219 to cover the final costs, funding to come from the CIP- Parks & Recreation Contingency Fund. Johnson explained that the Change Order will have to be approved by the City Council once funding has been identified.

Turkey Vulture Sanctuary

Jennifer Jareau, 3213 Dover Street, explained to the Board that she has big cottonwood trees in her backyard which have become one of the roosting spots for turkey vultures when they are in this area in the spring and fall. Jareau stated that she enjoys these birds, however, they are messy and don't smell very good. The person she purchased this property from used to shoot at the birds in an attempt to scare them off, but she would like to see them protected to some degree. She suggested swapping her land with these cottonwood trees to the city for property adjacent to hers. Melissa Horton from Wildlife Experiences was also present and gave the Board background information on turkey vultures and their behaviors and habitat. She urged the Board to consider developing some type of educational facility at this location. Cole explained that this land is designated parkland and cannot be traded or sold without a public vote. Also, the land is in the floodway so no structures can be built in this location. Cole suggested that

Jareau talk with a non-profit company that can hold land in public trust. This would be one way to ensure that the trees are not destroyed in the future, no matter who owns the property. He added that Jareau would have to deal with the impact this might have on the value of the property if she ever sold it. No further action was taken.

Omaha Street Corridor Enhancement Project Master Plan

Randy Fisher from Designworks, Inc. presented the Master Plan for the Omaha Street Corridor Project. He noted that the Plan does not address financing for any portion of the project, nor does it address phasing for portions of the project. He explained that there is a series of dates that must be met for approval of the Master Plan by the City Council in order to be ready to apply for grant funding. Allen questioned the picnic areas and the fact that there is very limited parking in some areas. Storm explained that it is anticipated these picnic areas are for pedestrian traffic and the downtown area, not a destination for the vehicle traffic. Allen also expressed concern that these areas may become gathering points that may not be good for the community. Lindquist asked when funding for the project will be available, and who will be charged with the task of maintaining the drainage areas contemplated in the Master Plan. Fisher explained that the Master Plan is a road map to accomplish the entire program. The next step would be to identify funding needed to complete the phases and then address funding sources. A question was raised about removing the tennis courts in Memorial Park. Cole indicated that he will work diligently to see that these courts are not removed until they have been replaced in another location. Ken Edel from the Safe Path Committee suggested doing a small portion of this project to see how it will work and how it can be maintained. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Storm and carried to forward the Omaha Street Corridor Enhancement Project Master Plan to the City Council with a recommendation for approval, with the following stipulations:

- Establish the priorities so that we know which area should be worked on first, and
- Identify funding sources and uses to accomplish the Plan.

Liaison Reports

Pat Pummel from the Beautification Committee indicated that we should do more to increase the use of city parks by citizens in the community.

Ken Edel from the Safe Path Committee indicated that Rapid Creek is a mess right now and there are a lot of downed trees in the creek and on the banks. The City should consider funding to hire the large equipment needed to take care of this problem. Cole indicated that there is a contract being drawn up with the Department of Corrections to get the DOC crews working on clean-up of the creek.

Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan

Cole distributed a packet containing the approved Parks and Recreation projects for FY2005 through FY2011 as well as a list of the projects that have been identified but not funded. The 2012 Committees have recommended funding approval for playground equipment throughout the community. If this is approved by the Council, that will free-up

approximately \$300,000 that can be used for other projects. He suggested that the Board members begin thinking about priorities for various projects throughout the community and perhaps projects that should be added to the list. He added that funding was re-allocated from some projects in 2004 in order to replace playground equipment. If this project is funded with 2012 monies, funding for those other projects could be restored. Also, there are projects that need to be added to the list. For example, rubber flooring for the Ice Arena, fencing in the Braeburn Park off-leash area, and bike path improvements in the Dark Canyon area. Also, the developers intend to complete Red Rock Meadows Park this year and it will be turned over to the city for operation and maintenance. Currently, the developers plan to use pea gravel in the fall zones of this park. Cole stated that he would like to start planning parks, and update existing parks, with the rubber matting rather than pea gravel. He estimated the initial cost for rubber matting would be \$8,000-\$10,000 more; however, the long-term maintenance costs would be reduced.

Lindquist asked about the time-frame for the Five Year Plan because so many decisions will hinge on the final 2012 Fund decisions. Cole suggested that the Five Year Plan be presented to the CIP Committee in September. Lindquist requested that Cole distribute a Memo to the Advisory Board members indicating the general time frame for development of the Five Year Plan, including a note that if you have additional projects to be added to the process, get that information to Cole. Lindquist also asked that Cole make sure the other Board members get the information that has been provided. Lindquist noted that in the past, the Parks & Rec Committee determined that projects dealing with safety issues go to the top of the list. Secondly, the projects that are only partially done should be completed. These two criteria worked well and he would like to see the Advisory Board use them.

Black Hills Farmers' Market

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to authorize Black Hills Farmers' Market to operate in the Founders Park Area for the 2005 season.

Director's Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that summer programs are just beginning and staff has been very busy with registrations and passes. Also, he is the project manager for the three Sports Facility Partnership projects that were approved by the Board and is working with the contact people to get the projects going. Also, the State Hershey Track Meet will be held west of the Missouri River for the first time ever and is scheduled for June 18, 2005 in Rapid City.

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported that his staff has started the mosquito control program and is focusing in areas along the soccer fields because of the State soccer tournament which is in town this weekend. Also, staff has a lot of extra work to do because of the recent snow storm which downed a lot of trees and branches throughout the park system.

Aquatics Division Manger Duncan Olney reported that staff is very busy issuing swim passes for the pools which opened on May 30, 2005. Also, 42 lockers in the Swim

Center were vandalized recently with 7 individuals reporting lost items. The Police Department is currently investigating this incident. The One Year Anniversary celebration for the Swim Center was held on Sunday, May 30, 2005. Over 330 hot dogs were consumed and more than 500 people used the pool that day.

Golf Superintendent JJ Walraven reported his staff is doing maintenance on the golf courses and they also have a lot of debris from the storm that downed trees and branches. He also reported that a bicyclist and a golf car had a collision near the Meadowbrook Club House last month and the cyclist was hurt. Cole noted that staff will be meeting soon to review the issue of signage in the area where the golf carts cross the bike path. Also, he intends to solicit proposals for the concessionaire at the Club House. The Golf Pro's contract is also up for review this year.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 2005. Cole stated that he would like to handle regular business from 4:30 to 5:30 and then take the Board on the annual tour and inspection of city park lands. Staff will make arrangements for vehicles, and a box lunch will be provided.

New Business

Storm explained that the 2012 Committee recommended that portable bleachers be purchased with 2012 funds. This request was submitted by the School of Mines for bleachers that could be used by the college as well as the community at large. Storm stated that we need to make the Mayor and City Council aware that the bleachers are absolutely needed in order for Rapid City to host the State Track Meet. Cole indicated he would talk to the Mayor about this issue.

Cole informed the Board that July is Parks and Recreation Month and he will be asking the Mayor to do a Proclamation signifying this issue. Also, he will be taking administrative leave beginning June 17th to finish moving his family to Rapid City.

Tom Allen reported on the progress in Mary Hall Park. The walls of the structure are up and they look really good. Construction is proceeding.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.