

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

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, March 12, 2009 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Chuck Tinant, Sheri Zimmer and Jim Smoragiewicz. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, City Council Liaison Karen Gunderson Olson, Urban Forestry Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Bike/Walk/Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejcek and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the minutes of February 12, 2009.

The agenda was approved as presented. Lindquist noted that the request for a memorial bench and the presentation on the community orchard will be taken first.

### **Memorial Bench – Edmund Herr**

Cole noted that this item was discussed by the Advisory Board at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. No objections were noted at that time. Larry Chilstrom requested that the Advisory Board give favorable consideration to this item. Motion was made by Smoragiewicz seconded by Zimmer and carried to approve the request for a memorial bench in Canyon Lake Park and direct staff to work with the petitioners to find a suitable location and bench type.

### **Community Orchard Presentation**

Brett and Skye Lawlor gave a five-minute Power Point presentation on the community orchard project they are proposing. Members of the Rapid City Urban Orchard Project would like to work with the City to acquire suitable sites throughout the community to plant apple trees. Lawlor noted that one of the main requirements for identifying suitable locations is the availability of water. Possible locations include areas along the bike path, Evans Orthodontics, the Omaha Street tennis courts, Two Wheeler Dealer and the Abourezk Law Office. Representatives from Evans Orthodontics and Abourezk Law Office are excited about the project and have agreed to allow the use of water from their buildings. The goal of the RCUOP is to plant a total of 100 trees throughout the community. Olson stated that she would not support the project if they intend to install signs identifying the people or organization caring for the trees. Lawlor noted that any signs would be small squares which would be flush with the ground. Cole asked if these areas would attract deer. Lawlor stated that he didn't think the presence of apple trees would attract them any more than they currently attracted by the green grass. He added that each tree kit will come with stakes and twine to support the tree and fencing to keep out deer. Lindquist stated that fencing in the floodway would probably not be allowed and he encouraged the organization to discuss these issues with the Growth Management Office. It was recommended that bark protectors be considered rather

than fencing. Cole noted that typically trees are not considered a structure and therefore are not covered by the 11-6-19 review process. However, if we are talking about a lot of trees, that may be different. He noted that he will contact the Growth Management Office on this issue. Hasenohrl suggested that the group get professional help on their board because pruning apple trees is very different than pruning shade trees. Lawlor stated that he envisions having a board which would include professionals who would be able to assist with this type of information. It was also recommended that this project be presented to the Urban Forestry Board, the Urban Wildlife Committee and the Growth Management Office for their input. Cole stated that he would check with the Growth Management Office relative to planting trees in the floodway. Lindquist suggested that the Lawlors present their project to the Urban Forestry Board and bring back their recommendations. Staff will visit with Growth Management and the item will be discussed at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>. It was also recommended that the RCUOP representatives work with the Urban Forester to review proposed sites and see if there are others he might recommend. Lindquist noted that it might also be appropriate to visit with the Beautification Committee on this proposal. Motion was made by Zimmer seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to direct staff to work with Bret Lawlor on this issue and have him submit information to the Urban Forestry Board, the Growth Management Department, and the Beautification Committee.

### **Liaison Reports**

Matejcik reported that the Bike/Walk/Run Committee did not meet.

Hasenohrl reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning and toured the new maintenance facility at the Parks Division. The Tree Care Workshop was last weekend and was very well attended. Arbor Day is April 24<sup>th</sup> and the Parks Department is planning a celebration at General Beadle School of Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to kick off the week.

Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee did not meet last week. He did note however, that Rod Johnson from the Public Works Dept. reported that the St. Joe Street Landscaping Enhancement Grant project is still viable. Doshier encouraged the Board to retain the \$25,000 needed for matching funds.

Olson reported that the fundraising committee continues to work to raise funds for the Parkview Tennis Court project. Cole noted that the bid for this project will be going out very soon. He added that the project has also not completed the 11-6-19 review that is necessary. Current cost estimates are significantly higher than previous estimates and additional funding will probably be needed. There is a very good possibility that there will be no bathrooms, parking lot, lights, irrigation or landscaping. Cole added that he is meeting with the Mayor in the morning relative to this project.

### **Purchase of land near Braeburn Dog Park**

Cole reported that Fae Bice and her son Sam Bice approached the Mayor about the possibility of the City purchasing a parcel of land adjacent to Braeburn Off-Leash Area.

If this is something the Advisory Board supports, then staff can begin negotiations with the property owners. Motion was made by Smoragiewicz and seconded by Tinant to direct staff to open negotiations for the potential purchase of the Bice property. Lindquist added that the purchase of this property would fall under the recommendations of the Floodway Boundary Committee in that if there are privately owned parcels of land that are available for sale, the City should attempt to purchase them. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Cole noted that staff is working with the Finance Office to make sure the amount of funding carried forward from 2008 is accurate.

There is an issue at the Harney Little League complex that needs to be addressed. Because of traffic and safety concerns through this complex, vehicle access to the back field was eliminated which created ADA accessibility issues. The Public Works Department has developed a trail project to take care of this issue and the estimated cost is \$12,000. Motion was made by Zimmer seconded by Tinant and carried to fund an ADA accessible trail to this back field, as directed by the City, funding to come from 2009 SFPF monies.

### **Director's Report**

Cole updated the Board on the status of all current projects.

He also reported that the Leonard "Swanny" Swanson Memorial Pathway will be dedicated on June 6, 2009 which is National Trails Day. Staff is working with the Swanson family to coordinate the dedication. He also presented a draft of the trail markers that will be located along the pathway which contain a picture of Swanson.

Cole reported that the City has been contacted by the owners of several properties adjacent to the Skyline Wilderness Area. The owners are interested in selling them to the City for inclusion in the wilderness area. Chuck Tinant indicated that he will contact these owners about their properties.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.