

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center – Conference Room
March 13, 2008

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 13, 2008 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Jim Smoragiewicz, Wes Storm and Sheri Zimmer. Also present were Tom Allen from the Kiwanis Mary Hall Park Committee, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Bike Walk Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejck and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the Advisory Board minutes of February 14, 2008.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

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

Educational Brochures

Copies of educational brochures prepared by Urban Wildlife Committee dealing with feeding ducks and geese were submitted for the Board's consideration. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the brochures, as presented.

Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park Project

Tom Allen was present on behalf of the Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park Committee. He explained that they would like to place a storage shed at Mary Hall Park to house a riding mower used to maintain the park. Currently the mower is stored on private property and hauled to the park when it is needed. Allen acknowledged that they would need to apply for the necessary permits through the City of Rapid City.

Allen also informed the Board that the Kiwanis Mary Hall Park committee, in conjunction with staff at West Middle School, would like to develop garden plots which would be available to students in the Rapid City School District. They would be required to have a responsible parent or guardian involved in the project and there would be a small fee involved in an attempt to bring ownership to the garden project and cover the cost of taking care of the garden area. Allen noted that the project would be administered by Ann Hart and other teachers from West Middle School. One caveat is that there would need to be at least ten students interested in taking care of a garden or the project would not be implemented. It was also noted that there is a large population of deer in this area. It will be quite a challenge to keep the gardens from being eaten by deer and other animals. Fencing will not be allowed because of flood plain issues. Lindquist asked how the garden plots would be watered. Allen explained that they intend to keep a trailer with a large water

tank near the gardens. Students will have to transport the water from the tank to their gardens.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to allow construction of a storage shed at Mary Hall Park with the understanding that the Kiwanis group will need to get all the necessary permits required from the City; and allow them to try a garden project in cooperation with the Rapid City School District.

Proposed Knollwood Community Heights Project

Nick Uhre distributed copies of a proposal he prepared to turn the Knollwood Metering Dam into a park area. He also presented a book with ideas and great things that can be done with land that is reserved for drainage. His proposal included several agencies that have grants available which he feels this project would qualify for. Uhre also noted that he has talked with the School District about partnering with Knollwood Elementary and North Middle Schools to use this area for environmental education purposes. The proposal Uhre submitted included a copy of a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Report which was prepared by Wayne Asscherick from the Rapid City Police Department. This report contains information on the physical area as well as data on the number of calls for service from this part of the community. Several citizens from the Knollwood area were present at the meeting and supported the proposed project. Uhre added that there is currently a great deal of vandalism in this area. If a park was developed and more people used this area, he felt it would reduce the amount of vandalism. Uhre stated that they are asking that the city install lighting and a sidewalk/bike path through this area which would connect Rushmore Mall with the new mall area being created east of LaCrosse Street. Leah Lutheran from the Rapid City School Board stated that it is always good when the School, City and other organizations can partner on projects. The manager of the Maple Avenue Townhouses indicated that if this area was maintained it would reduce the number of mice and other pest issues that come from this property. It was noted that the Maple Avenue Townhouses has donated office space to the Police Department so they can establish a presence in this area of the community. Questions were raised about how to proceed with this project. Lindquist suggested that this item be continued to the next meeting when Jerry Cole would be present. Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to continue this item to the April 10, 2007 Advisory Board meeting.

Uhre also suggested that perhaps a group could be formed, similar to the Kiwanis Club, which would take over maintenance and development of this drainage area.

Director's Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe noted that Sport Facility Partnership Fund Grant Applications are due on March 20, 2008. They will be submitted for the Board's review at the next meeting.

Van Deusen noted that the Annual Tree Care Workshop was held on March 12, 2007 and was a great success. Also, the Forestry Board is looking for a place to hold the 2008 Arbor Day Celebration.

Taton reported that a grant has been received from the Qwest Foundation in the amount of \$50,000. These funds will be used for construction of the playground at Vickie Powers Park. Also, a contract has been approved with Eastin Outdoors, Inc. for master plan development of a trail system in the Skyline Wilderness area.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 4:30 PM.

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