

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
March 2, 2006

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, March 2, 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, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Golf Course Superintendent James Walraven, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejck, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Ken Edel from the Adopt-A-Creek Committee, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of February 2, 2006.

The **agenda** was approved with the following addition:

- Rushmore Curling Club – Ryan Nankivel

Rushmore Curling Club

Ryan Nankivel, President of the Rushmore Curling Club, explained that the Club has formed a Facilities Committee which was charged with developing a strategic plan to get a facility built specifically for curling. A copy of that plan was distributed to the Advisory Board. Nankivel explained that initially the club took out a loan for \$15,000 to purchase the necessary equipment for curling. Since then they have been renting ice time at the Roosevelt Ice Arena. Currently there are 51 members in the Curling Club and they are renting ice twice a week. 32 people can curl at one time under the present setup. The club held the first curling tournament in Rapid City and had 18 teams participating; 9 from Rapid City and 9 from North Dakota. We will be having another tournament this year and there has been a lot of interest expressed by different teams to participate. The Curling Club also conducted clinics in Wyoming and have been teaching lots of people about curling. The Facilities Committee has been looking into building options. Because of the costs involved, the Club cannot consider building adjacent to the existing Ice Arena. If there is other city-owned land available, the Club could possibly build a facility with four curling lanes for approximately \$800,000. Nankivel stated that the Club is asking the City to provide matching funds on a 50-50 basis for construction of this type of facility. He added that the Curling Club wants the Advisory Board to know that they are looking for another facility that will accommodate all of the people interested in curling. If they are able to construct another facility, it will not include bleachers or seating for spectators. Any tournaments would be scheduled at the Roosevelt Ice Arena. Lindquist noted that there is a spike in interest in curling right now because of the Olympics. He asked if the Club has any feel for how much interest will drop-off and what the normal levels might be. Nankivel indicated that they do not know because they are having a hard time providing enough ice time for the people who

are participating now. They anticipate that their numbers would triple if there was adequate space available. Cole suggested that the Curling Club contact the Soccer Association because they are also looking for land for facilities.

Detention Cell to be located in North Haines Park

Frank Lawton appeared before the Advisory Board as a follow-up from the last meeting. Cole reported that he met with representatives from the Public Works and Growth Management Departments on the drainage issues in this area. Upon review it was determined that the City would have to build a detention facility on this parkland even if a separate facility was built on property to the north. Staff's suggestion is to allow Mr. Lawton to build the detention cell he is proposing on city land with the condition that city representatives be involved with the planning for the drainage element. Lawton agreed to this stipulation. Cole stated that he doesn't feel any action is needed by the Advisory Board at this time. Mr. Lawton will have to go through the 11-6-19 review process and the Board will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal as it goes through the process. Cole added the reason he would like to be involved with the planning of this drainage element is because he would like to have input on how the project looks and how it will be landscaped and maintained. Lawton explained that it will look like it is part of the park when it is completed. Cole noted that once the detention cell is constructed, it will be maintained by the city.

Liaison Reports

Frank Matejick from the Bike Walk Run Committee reported that a majority of the discussion at the last meeting dealt with the Pedestrian Bike Crash Report which has been updated to include 2005 data. They also discussed the bike path project through the Fairgrounds. It was noted that city staff has applied for a federal grant for this bike path project. If the grant is approved the project will proceed; if not, it will not be done. Cole asked for a copy of the Crash Report so that this information can be included in the comprehensive plan. Matejick also thanked those individuals responsible for providing invitations to the Healthy Communities activities.

Steve Doshier from the Beautification Committee reported that there was no quorum at the last meeting, so no action was taken. There was, however, a lively discussion about billboards and off-premise signs. The Beautification Committee would like to know more about the process used by the Sign Variance Board to make decisions on various issues.

Ken Edel from the Adopt a Creek Committee reported on the activity along Rapid Creek on the west end of Founders Park. He stated that we need people using the areas adjacent to the creek, but we don't need more people trashing the area. Cole reported that this is the area being proposed for a Dirt Jump Park and there is a group of people working to clean this area up and make it usable.

Access Road to Founders Park Development

Cole reported that he met with the developers in this area with a request to gain access to city property near the old packing plant. We came away with an easement that will allow us to access city property through Founders Park Development in perpetuity. There is not enough room at this location to build a road without taking some of the rock out or changing the creek. Staff has decided to reduce our request to a 14' easement for a trail. There will also be an access easement for service vehicles. Cole added that he offered that the City would install a gate on city property if they would pay for the cost of the gate. Representatives from the Lien Trust are considering this offer.

Rapid City Parks and Recreation Plan

Director Cole submitted the first draft of the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Plan for the Board's review. He noted that the Plan is not complete and there are many maps, public comments and statistical data that will be added. The Board can review the Plan in a couple ways: review sections of the Plan during the regular monthly meetings, or schedule special meetings. Lindquist stated that he doesn't feel the Board should rush through this review process and asked about the time frame. Cole said that he would like to present the Plan to the City Council for approval by the end of the year. If it is initially submitted in September, it would be possible to have final approval by the end of the year. Lindquist stated that he would like to review the Plan one section at a time. Section 1 would be pages 1 through 33. Allen suggested that the Board members review Section 1 prior to the next meeting and submit proposed changes to Jerry's Office for distribution to the other board members. Cole urged the Board to review the Plan for intent, not grammar and spelling, etc. Lindquist stated that it is the consensus of the Advisory Board that Section 1 of The Plan (Pages 1-33) will be reviewed by the Board at the next meeting scheduled for April 6, 2006

Memorial and Donation Policy

Cole submitted a draft of the Department's Memorial and Donation Policy for the Advisory Board's review. He explained that there has not been a written policy in place to handle issues relating to donations or memorials citizens would like to place in the Park system. The proposed policy makes it clear who is responsible for financial and maintenance issues dealing with memorials. Cole asked the Board members to review the policy and it will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Director's Report

Parks Division Manager Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board is sponsoring a Lawn and Tree Care Workshop on March 8, 2006 at the Fairgrounds. This is an annual event which is very informative. Also, the Division is in the process of hiring seasonal employees for summer work.

Gold Course Superintendent JJ Walraven reported that, weather permitting, Meadowbrook Golf Course will open for the season on April 1st. If the weather remains good, it could be sooner than that. The Executive Course will also open on April 1st. Regarding the Practice Green project, an engineer must be hired to assess the floodway issues before we can proceed.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that March Madness is here for the Recreation Leagues and the Volleyball and Basketball tournaments have begun. The first Winter Expo was held in February that had demonstrations on hockey, figure skating, and curling. The event was very successful. The Ice Arena also held a figure skating competition which drew 90 participants. This event was also very successful. The End of the Road Hockey Tournament will be held in March and staff expects 16-24 teams to compete.

New Business

Cole reported that he has been attending meetings of the Deer Committee and suggested to that group that they look into becoming an Urban Wildlife Committee. This Committee could then deal with various issues relating to animals and wildlife. For example, it is anticipated that the bird flu is coming this way and this organization could be the group that handles the public education on that issue. Olson stated that the current Deer Committee is very reflective of people who would like to not shoot any deer. If you are going to move to an Urban Wildlife Committee, the membership would have to be redone. Lindquist noted that if this is done the City should ensure that someone from the Audubon Society is on the Committee. They were the group that came forward and stated that something needed to be done with the geese and ducks in the community. Olson noted that it would be more important to identify the views that we want to be on the board and then look for individuals to fill those spots. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Storm and carried to ask that our Liaison proceed and request that the City Council appoint an Urban Wildlife Committee.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM