

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Special Meeting  
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room  
March 22, 2005

A special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, March 22, 2005, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Hugh Welsh and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were Parks & Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Cole explained that seven applications for the Sports Facility Partnership Funds were submitted. He suggested that the Advisory Board listen to the presentations being made today by the various organizations and then rate the projects. These recommendations will then be considered at the regular Advisory Board meeting on April 7, 2005.

Lindquist suggested that a category of “other factors” Be added to the rating criteria so that we can take into account extenuating circumstances for certain projects. For instance, the City required the adult softball organization to remove their playground equipment because it doesn't meet code. So, perhaps we should help them with replacement costs for the equipment. Cole noted that the City's lease with the softball association requires that they contact the city prior to placing this type of equipment at the complex. If they would have done that, the Parks Director would have assisted them in choosing the right equipment for this project. In essence, they created this problem themselves.

Dennis Hanken was present representing the **Church Softball League**. They are requesting a 50% match in the amount of \$1,454 to purchase a storage shed for field maintenance equipment. For the past several years, the League has leased a Murphy Shed for the summer, but it goes back to the company in the fall. During the “non-summer” months, Hanken indicated that he stores the tractor in his garage. He added that they have located the shed on the sidewalk in the past because the ground between the fields gets very loose when there is any kind of moisture. Regarding a permanent location, Hanken stated that they would work with the Parks Department on the best location for the shed. Lindquist noted that there is reference to excavation and gravel or concrete for a slab to put the shed on, but there is no information on the costs involved and where the money will come from for this portion of the project. Hanken indicated that this will be a project the League will do probably on “clean-up day”. The churches will supply the labor and the League will pay for the materials. Lindquist noted that a concrete slab would be better than gravel for this project. Hanken stated that he doesn't feel requiring a concrete slab would be a problem. Cole asked if this is the most important project for the Church Softball League. Hanken stated that it is at this time. Van Deusen noted that this project may require a building permit, depending on the size of the shed. Hanken explained that this shed will be no different than any of the other sheds located in the Whitehead/Timberline complex.

Jim Sullivan and Bruce Ashland presented the proposal from **Black Hills Pony League**. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$16,206 to renovate the newly acquired Hammerquist Field. They plan to completely redo the infield for baseball, including installation of a sprinkler system and new lighting. Darryl Deneke will supervise the

technical work that needs to be done. New lighting is necessary to meet current standards for pony league play and they have a price from Conrad Electric to accomplish this portion of the project. Sullivan added that ten additional lights will have to be purchased and the league will pay this cost. He added that they plan to begin the project in August of 2005 so that the field will be playable in 2006. They will use the field for practice in 2005. A question was asked about what portion of the project would not be done if funding was approved at a reduced amount. Sullivan explained that there would be no reduction in the scope of this project; the difference in funding would have to be made up by Black Hills Pony League.

Jeff Schleusener and Steve Burgess were present to answer questions about the application submitted by **Timberline Little League**. They are requesting \$9,320 to match funding for renovation of their concession stand. Schleusener explained that the City constructed a new restroom facility at this complex last year. As a result, the restrooms in the current concession facility can be eliminated and the concession use expanded. They submitted drawings of the proposed facility and noted that the proposed project will be ADA accessible for visitors to the concession stand as well as workers. The project also includes sidewalk work around this facility. The water table is very high at this location which causes a lot of freezing and thawing. The original sidewalk was not installed properly and has cracked and broken in areas. This project will correct that problem. Burgess noted that the drawings show a shelter area attached to the concession stand which is phase 2 of this project. The application being submitted by Timberline Little League at this time is only for Phase 1 which is renovation of the concession stand. He added that expanding the concession facility will allow Timberline to offer and serve more items and different types of items which will generate additional revenue for the league. Cole questioned the matching funds portion of the application; only \$1,056.55 is listed. Schleusener stated that a cash contribution from Timberline Little League in the amount of \$8,264 will be made to this project. Cole reminded them that 25% of the total project costs must be in a cash donation, but the remainder can come from donated labor and materials.

Bill Cross, Mark Owen, Pat Clinch, Randy Eide, Brenda Jansen and Darlene Smith appeared on behalf of **Soccer Rapid City**. They are requesting funds in the amount of \$24,999 to complete a field renovation of the Black Hills Soccer and Polo Grounds located on Cambell Street. Cross noted that Soccer Rapid City currently has approximately 3,000 members from 5 years to 55 years in age. Because of the number of people playing soccer, and the number of fields available, usage is at the maximum. The field surfaces are at a minimum level for playability and there is no time to "rest" them. Cross explained that about four years ago, the lease of this land was changed from the Polo Group to the Soccer organization. However, a large portion of the field is not playable for soccer. One of the goals of the field renovation project is to provide more fields for games and practice so that some fields can be "rested" for a season the number of games per field is reduced. Ultimately, this will improve the level of playability on all the soccer fields in Rapid City. It was noted that a parking lot, sidewalks and some curbing were installed at this facility last year. Owen explained that they intend to grade the area that is unplayable at this time and then overseed and topdress that area. By adding the irrigation system, they hope to get grass to grow in these areas. They will also have volunteers clean up the creek area to improve aesthetics and safety in this area. Owen explained that currently they can locate three full-size fields at this location.

If the field renovation project is done, they should be able to locate seven fields in this area. Cole asked how Soccer Rapid City could justify volunteers cleaning up the creek area as matching funds for the field improvement project. Owen stated that the area between the field and the creek is not a desirable area. Cleaning up this area would support the community and provide a more aesthetically pleasing area for the community to enjoy. Cole asked what age groups would be using these fields. Cross noted that all age groups would be scheduled to play at this location. With the City's watering restrictions, the soccer organization will have to have people go out and turn the system on at 9:00 at night and then turn it off again in the morning. Cole asked if the soccer organization could accomplish that task. Owen responded yes. A question was also raised about damage to the field by the Polo organization. Owen noted that they are required to make the field available for their use during the month of August each year. However, they have not used the field in several years. Owen added that the fine raking will be done after the major grading, using volunteer labor and rakes.

Scott Jacobson and Todd Brink presented a project from **Harney Little League** to demolish and construct a new restroom/concession facility. They are requesting \$50,000 from the Sports Facility Partnership Fund. Jacobson explained that the current facility was built in the 70s and is very outdated and small. Brink added that the cost estimates are based on paid labor but he feels a lot of the items could be done with volunteer labor. This project will provide an opportunity, with the City's help, to fill a need at the Harney Little League Complex that is sorely needed. Lindquist noted that the request for \$50,000 in city funding puts this project in a separate category. Once a project costs \$25,000 or more, it must be a city project and go through the formal bid process. Jacobson noted that, if necessary, they would be able to construct this project in phases.

Jena McNabb, Tim Callahan and Angie Boeve were present to discuss the application submitted by the **Rapid City Softball Association**. They have requested \$15,081 to help pay to replace playground equipment at the Star of the West Softball Complex. McNabb explained that they previously installed playground equipment at the softball complex, however it had to be removed because it did not meet current standards. She added that the softball association is a 501(C)4 organization which affects donations from businesses because they are not tax deductible. The Softball Association has purchased replacement equipment which should be here next week. McNabb stated that they have no choice but to get this playground equipment installed because the children will need a place to play. Thirty-two different teams play in this complex every night which generates approximately 2400 people nightly. Games begin the first of May and continue through October.

Mike Burhans and Jim Roduner appeared before the Board to discuss the application submitted by **Baseball 320, Inc.** They would like to install backs on the permanent bleachers at the Post 320 baseball field and are requesting \$3,152 from the SFPF. Roduner explained that approximately 200 people come to this complex each night to watch baseball. Most of the games are double headers which means people are at the field 6-7 hours at a time. The bleachers are not used at the current time because people can't sit on them for that length of time. Cole noted that the program requires a 25% cash match but no funds are identified in the application. Burhans stated that they could provide 25% cash contribution (\$975) to this project and 25% of the match would be in-

kind contributions. Cole noted that the applicant must provide 50% of the project costs. If you only have \$750 in donated labor costs, then the cash requirement would be \$1,175.

That is all the applications that have been submitted.

Cole explained that in going through the review process, he has some changes he will make in the grant documents for next year; for instance, the project must be a permanent structure. Lindquist suggested changing the youth requirement to “primarily for youth”. Cole noted that the “youth” bonus points were added at the direction of the City Council.

Cole presented the staff ratings for the projects which produced the following order: 1) Black Hills Pony League (field renovation); 2) Timberline Concession facility renovation; 3) Harney Little League (concession/restroom facility); 4) Rapid City Soccer (field renovation); 5) Adult Softball (playground equipment); 6) Post 320 Bleachers; and 7) Church Softball (maintenance shed);

The Board members discussed the pros and cons of each project including whether the applications should be allowed to amend the applications by supplying information and documentation after the submittal deadline. It was decided that the applications should be considered as they were submitted. Also, it was determined that the volunteer labor used as matching funds for the Soccer Rapid City project is not related to the field renovation project and should not be allowed. Also, the playground equipment for the Softball complex was purchased prior to approval which is expressly against the fund guidelines. The applications submitted by Harney Little League and Baseball 320, Inc. requested more than a 50% match for their project. Although the Board would have liked to award funding for additional projects, a determination was made to follow the guidelines for the Fund and not allow exceptions or deviations. After consideration of the applications and considerable debate, the following recommendation will be presented at the Advisory Board meeting on April 7, 2005:

1.	Black Hills Pony League (field renovation)	\$16,206.14
2.	Timberline Little League (concession facility renovation)	\$ 9,320.00
3.	Church Softball (maintenance shed)	\$ 1,454.35
	Total	\$26,980.49

Cole noted that the remaining \$23,019.51 can be carried forward to 2006 and used for future projects.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.