

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center – Conference Room
May 14, 2009

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 14, 2009 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Jim Smoragiewicz, Sheri Zimmer and Wes Storm. 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, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Bike/Walk/Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejck, City Council Member Patti Martinson, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

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

The agenda was approved with the following additions: 1) Update on Game, Fish & Parks Education Center Project, and 2) Portable Bleacher Rental Policy.

Liaison Reports

Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee discussed on-going projects and welcomed new members.

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

Olson reported that the Parkview Tennis Court project received a second grant from the USTA in the amount of \$25,000 which brings the total grant funding to \$36,000. The project has been very well-received and may be eligible for additional USTA grant funding in 2010. Olson added that the City and the School District have awarded the bid for the project to Simon Contractors and work should begin soon. Olson noted that the bid does not include lights however programming can still be done on the courts during the summer months because it stays light out until 8:00 in the evening. Olson added that the Tennis Association will continue to fund raise for this project so that an office, storage facility and other amenities can be added.

Olson also noted that the ordinance increasing the members on the Advisory Board to 7 was approved by the City Council. The Mayor issued a press release encouraging interested citizens to contact the City relative to these positions. Cole noted that he would like the Advisory Board to review all applications that are submitted and make a recommendation to the Mayor. The Mayor will then make the appointments and they will be confirmed by the City Council. Cole added that once the new board members have been appointed, the Advisory Board can discuss implementing the subcommittee structure that was discussed at the Retreat last February.

Parks and Recreation CIP Five Year Plan

Cole distributed copies of the CIP Allocation Report which shows current Parks and Recreation projects and funding levels. Cole reported that the Vickie Powers Playground Project is proceeding and he believes there is adequate funding available. However, if we need to purchase food items to feed volunteers, we may need additional funding. To be on the safe side he requested that the Board transfer \$50,000 from the contingency fund to the Vickie Powers Playground Project. If the funds are not needed, they can be returned to the contingency fund. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to transfer \$50,000 from the Parks and Rec CIP Contingency Fund to the VP Playground Project.

Urban Wildlife Committee Activities

Cole reported that the Waterfowl Management Plan was approved by the City Council on April 6, 2009. At that same meeting, the City Council authorized staff to request the necessary waterfowl reduction permits from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Ordinance 5501 which deals with banning the feeding of wildlife in the City continues to be discussed by the City Council. First Reading of the ordinance was continued to July 1st so that staff would have adequate time to provide additional information on public education, coin operated feeders, and water quality issues. Cole added that a lot of the public education relative to this issue will begin when the SD Game Fish & Parks Department opens their Outdoor Education Center adjacent to Wilderness Park. They will have many educational programs geared to school-aged children relative to nature and wildlife.

The Council also requested that the Urban Wildlife Committee review the issue of releasing wildlife within the city limits, including a prohibition of releasing fish and waterfowl in the City's park and creek system. The Committee will meet on these issues in the near future.

Director's Report

Cole reported that main focus of the SD Game, Fish & Parks Dept. at this time is on the layout for the building that will be constructed at the Outdoor Education Center. They are reviewing how they will serve all the school children they anticipate will take advantage of this facility.

Cole also reported that the Black Hills Fat Tire Festival will begin on Thursday, May 22nd and go through Monday, May 25th. The Festival has expanded and there are more activities this year as well as more options for rides and races.

Staff is also working with representatives from Storybook Island to negotiate a lease for this facility that is workable for both parties.

Work on the Federal Greenway Project is moving forward and the City is negotiating with Cetec Engineering to provide consultant services for the project.

Staff is working diligently to get new drain grates installed in the outdoor swimming pools that will comply with the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Act. Horace Mann Pool has new grates and Sioux Park is waiting for one grate to be installed. We are getting the necessary pictures at Parkview so that grates can be custom made. Olney added that the outdoor pools are scheduled to open on Thursday, June 11th and the indoor pool will implement its summer schedule on Wednesday, June 10th.

The next item discussed by the Advisory Board was the policy for use of the portable bleachers. Wes Storm asked if non-profit groups are required to pay the costs in the policy that has been adopted by the City Council. Cole noted that the bleachers are administered by the Civic Center staff and it is his understanding that any deviations from the policy must be approved by the City Council. For instance, if a group wants to use the bleachers at no cost, they must appear before the Council and make that request. Staff is not authorized to waive the fees.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 5:30 PM.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.