

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
May 5, 2005

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, May 5, 2005, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Tom Allen, Wes Storm, Sherri Zimmer, Hugh Welsh and Council Liaison Tom Johnson. Also present were Director Jerry Cole, Council Member Ray Hadley, Parks Director Lon Van Deusen, Golf Superintendent JJ Walraven, Public Works Director Dirk Jablonski, Ken Edel, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

It was noted that a correction should be made to the April 7th minutes. Storm made the motion to approve the minutes, not Allen. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Storm and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of April 7, 2005, as corrected.

Community Orchard Project

Lynn Steen presented plans to develop a community orchard project on the property formerly leased to Harley Davidson. City regulations will not allow fencing the entire property because of flood plain issues, however, each tree will be fenced to protect it from deer.

Star of the West Softball Complex

Jenna McNabb submitted a letter to the Advisory Board requesting authorization to construct a second shelter at the softball complex, and erect an eight foot fence barrier between the player warm-up areas and the spectators. An 11-6-19 Review process has been done and the Planning Commission approved the shelter. The request for an exception to allow an eight-foot fence will go to the City Council for approval. Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to approve the construction of a second shelter facility at the softball complex and recommend to the City Council that the exception to allow the eight foot fence barriers be approved.

Rapid City Soccer

Louis Usera, Pat Wyss, Dan Davis, Helen Pich and Joan Martin of Rapid City Sport Complex Committee presented an update on the proposed Rapid Valley Soccer Complex. Based on the recommendations of the 2012 Committees, the plan has been revised as follows:

- * Reduced the area needed for the sport complex to approximately 83 acres
- * Approximately 40 acres of frontage land could be sold for commercial development
- * Maintains the Greenway Master Plan set forth by the City in 1999
- * Maintains an aesthetically pleasing "open green area" on the scenic by-pass to Mount Rushmore

- * Utilizes the area that is difficult to develop due to wetlands, drainage ditches and flood plain
- * Maintained the complex's ability to host all of the tournaments that could have a \$10 million annual economic impact for the city and the surrounding Black Hills
- * The majority of these tournaments are held in the shoulder months of the tourist season

Usera explained that it is proposed that Phases 1 & 2 be completed using the \$3.764M funds recommended by the 2012 Committees. This would allow development of 12-17 fields by the end of Phase 2 which would provide adequate space to host all tournaments with the exception of the Region II Championships. The completed complex in its entirety will give the organization the opportunity to host Region II Championships bringing in approximately 15,000 people for five days with an economic impact estimated at \$9.2M.

Fairgrounds Bike Path Project

Director Cole explained that an ISTE A Grant has been prepared by the Growth Management Department and is waiting for matching funds to be identified. At the last meeting, the Advisory Board approved funding in FY2006, however, funding must be identified in 2005 before the Grant can be submitted. Cole explained that there is a project in 2005 entitled Neighborhood Tennis Court Reconstruction which was to replace the tennis courts at Grandview School. Cole explained that he spoke with the School District Superintendent Peter Wharton and Grandview Principal Jean Cowan and both of them indicated the school does not use these tennis courts very often. They would rather have a shelter type facility that the kids could get under during inclement weather. Cole suggested re-allocating this \$25,000 to the ISTE A Project. Also, there is currently \$12,629 available in the 2005 Parks & Rec contingency fund. Zimmer asked what would happen to the Grandview Tennis Court project. Cole stated that he would sit down with representatives from the School District to discuss the issue of the city building shelters on school property. Lindquist added that perhaps the best thing would be to keep the project on the list so that it is not forgotten when all the projects are prioritized. Motion was made by Zimmer and seconded by Allen and carried to re-allocate \$25,000 from the Neighborhood Tennis Court Reconstruction project and \$5,000 from the 2005 Parks and Rec Contingency Fund, for a total of \$30,000 to be used as matching funds for the ISTE A Fairgrounds Bike Path Improvements Project. Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to add the Grandview Tennis Court Replacement Project (formerly the Neighborhood Tennis Court Reconstruction Project) to the list of Parks and Recreation projects.

Public Works Department

Dirk Jablonski, Public Works Director, asked the Board for input about the type of engineering support they should be providing for parks and recreation projects. He has heard concerns about the level and type of services that were provided in the past, and the timing of the service provided. Jablonski indicated that part of his charge as Public Works Director is to make his department more responsive, which relates to timing and quality of service. He would like to hear some frank discussion about these issues.

Lindquist stated that one of the things that is a high level of concern for the Advisory Board is that in the past staff has not listened to what the board had to say. An example is the restroom facility that was constructed in Wilson Park. The Parks & Rec Committee specifically requested that staff discuss the project with the Historic Preservation Commission. That was not done and the Historic Preservation was not happy with the project that was built. Also, projects have been done that came in under budget. The remaining funds were used to add elements to the project, but these decisions were made by staff and the Parks and Rec Committee was not consulted. Lindquist added that since the parks and recreation structure has been revised and the Department has been formed, the Advisory Board is searching for the best way to get projects done and who is going to be responsible. Jablonski explained that he has had discussions with his staff and they will no longer be working on projects unless specifically requested to do so. Cole added that since Jablonski has come on board, these issues have gotten much better and we have a good working relationship. Ken Edel from the Adopt A Creek Program noted that the bridges over Rapid Creek currently are used by individuals for housing. He would like to see the bridges engineered differently so that they cannot be used for this purpose. Jablonski explained that his department has a lot of projects going at the present time. Something like the creek bridges would have to be approved by the City Council before he would authorize his staff to begin work on that type of project.

Director's Report

Cole commended Recreation Coordinator Brad Keizer for the work he has done this past season at the Roosevelt Ice Arena. He actually decreased the General Fund subsidy for the ice arena even though we lost a \$30,000 per year contract with the youth hockey league. Keizer went through his Year End Report noting that the Ice Arena staff successfully created the Rapid City Rage hockey team, continued to offer excellent hockey programs, increased Learn to Skate enrollment, and maintained decent public skate numbers throughout the season. Also, staff is working to provide rubber flooring in the lobby and restroom areas for the safety of those skating at the rink, and working to create a broomball league next season.

Golf Course Superintendent JJ Walraven reported that the courses are at the mercy of Mother Nature. Staff is currently getting ready for the Meadowbrook Open which is May 14-15. After that event, staff will begin working on the many projects scheduled for 2005, like planting trees.

Cole reported that Dick and Waneta Ragels have submitted a formal request to transfer their concession lease at the Meadowbrook Grill & Pub to Sandy Thornburg. The Ragels have some personal health issues they are dealing with. This issue will go to the City Council in June and, if approved, the transfer will be valid through the end of 2005. Later this year, we will solicit proposals for this concession lease. Cole added that he is looking into whether or not we want to get into the food business at Meadowbrook. There is an annual profit potential of approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000. We need to look at anything that will provide revenue for the golf enterprise fund. One of the areas of concern is serving alcohol, but this is handled successfully at the Civic Center so it is doable. Johnson suggested that the Advisory Board determine what it takes to run the

golf courses and identify that funding requirement at the beginning of the annual budget cycle.

Cole explained that the Beautification Committee has been working on landscape regulations for the City and he submitted a proposed draft for the Board's review.

Cole also noted that staff is in the process of conducting a Needs Assessment for parks and recreation activities and programs in the community. We have held several public meetings in different areas of town and with different service groups, and a survey was mailed out throughout the city. Also, an on-line survey will be available in the near future for anyone who wants to take it.

There will be a public meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2005 beginning at 7:00 PM to get public input on the Omaha Street Corridor Enhancement Project. The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room on second floor of the Swim Center. The final plan will then be presented to the Committees and Council for additional input and then final approval.

Cole presented copies of the 2005 Summer Program Guide noting that it was distributed to Rapid City households by the Rapid City Journal. The Guide is also available on the City's web page. He added that the Guide was prepared and printed by the Rapid City Journal, however, Recreation and Aquatics staff will prepare all future program guides in-house. The Department has also established a Marketing Committee with a member from each division on the Committee. They have developed a marketing plan for all Parks and Recreation facilities and programs and some of those strategies have already been implemented. For example, disc flyers were purchased which will allow one free admission when they are returned to the Swim Center. Staff has been monitoring this program and has determined that two paid admissions have accompanied each free admission presented. A logo for the Parks and Recreation Department has also been created and this will be added to everything the Department puts out. The marketing plan also provides for radio ads, rack cards and the golf staff will give golf tips on the radio on Friday mornings. Cole added that the marketing efforts currently being done by the Parks and Recreation Department would not be possible without the staunch support of the Board's Council liaison who was successful in acquiring \$6,000 in funding for marketing during the 2005 budget cycle.

Cole also presented the 2004 Annual Report to the Advisory Board. The Report contains a variety of information on the pools, golf courses, parks and recreation facilities and activities.

New Business

Tom Allen updated the Board on the Mary Hall Park project. Job Corp personnel began constructing the walls for the restroom facility last week.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM