

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

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2008 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Jim Smoragiewicz, and Wes Storm. Also present were Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, City Council Member Karen Olson, Urban Forestry Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, Bike/Walk/Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejcik, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Smoragiewicz, seconded by Storm and carried to accept the notes from the meeting held on October 9, 2008.

The agenda was approved with the following modifications:

- Proposed Rate Increases are for golf and cemetery not aquatics and ice arena
- Add Chairman's Items

Liaison Reports

Karen Olson updated the Board on the tennis court complex being built near Parkview Pool. The School District is providing the land for the tennis courts and the city will provide operation and maintenance. A master plan for this area was funded by the City and School District and as a result of that plan a site was identified for a 12 court tennis complex to be located on School District property just west of the ASA Softball facility. Gary Renner is working on the drawings to create the courts, office space, a restroom facility, and a small storage area. There are issues with the soils in this area and an additional \$90,000 is needed to take care of unstable soils that have been discovered. Olson added that all the courts will have lighting and will meet USTA standards for space and distances to sidelines, etc. The Parks and Recreation Dept. has applied for a grant from the USTA for this complex. Representatives from the regional USTA office have visited the site and they enthusiastically support the project. A fundraising committee has also been established with a goal of raising \$50,000 by January 1, 2009. If this goal is accomplished, a request will be made to move the bid process forward. In summary, the project is moving forward and is scheduled to be constructed in 2009.

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

Steve Hasenohrl reported that the Urban Forestry Board is working on the Tree Care Workshop which will be held in March, 2009. They are in the process of selecting a speaker and hope to have this narrowed down by the next meeting. The Urban Forestry Board has been doing the Tree Care workshop for 23 years and feedback indicates it has been getting better each year. The Workshop is attended by a wide variety of people from the landscaping industry as well as private citizens. The Board is also considering updating the tree care ordinance and the mission statement for the Urban Forestry Board. The Board has also received information about the emerald ash boar which infects and subsequently kills ash trees. This insect will eventually make it to

South Dakota and Rapid City and we will need to have a plan ready to take care of this issue. There will probably be a segment on this disease included in the Tree Care Workshop.

Steve Doshier reported that Beautification Committee met on October 15th. The Committee received a Stearns Grant for trees which was donated to Rapid City to plant trees in the park system in 2009. The Committee is continuing to work on revisions to the landscape ordinance.

Farmers Market

A letter was submitted by Mark Olson, President of the Black Hills Farmers Market, requesting that the market be allowed to operate at its current location along Omaha Street through 2011. Leonard Novak, Carlton Peterson, Ev Merritt and Mark Olson were present for the discussion. Van Lindquist noted that there are some issues with this site that everyone should be aware of:

- Traffic issues on Omaha Street
- There are parking problems with the current location
- There are floodplain issues with the current location
- This location will require obtaining a permit from the Growth Management Office prior to the market opening in 2009
- A certificate of insurance must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Office on an annual basis
- This site will not be available in 2010 because of construction in Founders Park (Lindquist noted the construction schedule for Founders Park could present problems at the end of the 2009 season as well.)

Olson stated that he is aware of the requirements through the Growth Management Office and they will obtain the necessary permits. In light of everything that is going on in the Founders Park area Lindquist suggested that the Advisory Board consider approving the request from the Farmers Market to operate at this location for one year only at this time. Future years can be considered in 2009 when more information is available on the construction projects being done in this area. Owens asked the Board what they see this site being after the construction is done. Will the Farmers Market be able to operate in this location? Lindquist stated discussions can take place and a decision on this will have to be made once the construction is complete. Olson noted that the City is very supportive of the farmers market in Rapid City adding that some individuals would like to see it located closer to the downtown area. The community definitely supports the farmers market. Owens stated that the market vendors benefit from the city also and this is a very good partnership for both the city and the farmers market. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Smoragiewicz to approve the same Founders Park location for the Farmers Market for 2009 with the stipulation that necessary permits be obtained through the Growth Management Office and that the required insurance certificates be submitted. Leonard Novak explained that the Farmers Market has been in several different places over the past 8 years and the Founders Park location is definitely the best location we have had. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Deer Management Program

Lindquist noted that the Urban Wildlife Committee has reviewed the information from the recent deer survey conducted by the Game Fish & Parks Dept. They have recommended that the City harvest 300 deer again this year. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Smoragiewicz to concur with this recommendation that the city harvest 300 deer again this year. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Memorial Benches

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the following requests for memorial benches to be located in the City's park system:

- Request by William "BY" Young to place a bench at Meadowbrook Golf Course in memory of his brother, JB Young
- Request by Barbara Steele to place a bench in Sioux Park in memory of her parents, Wallace & Thelma Yule

Rate Increases

A Resolution Establishing 2009 Golf Course Fees was submitted for the Board's review. Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe explained that the only change being proposed is an increase to the twilight rate from \$22 to \$26. Staff is also proposing to establish an All Day Fee of \$15 for the Executive Course. All other rates at the golf courses will remain the same. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approved the proposed changes to the golf course fees for FY2009.

Parks Division Manager Lon VanDeusen submitted a Resolution Establishing Fees for Grave Spaces and Cemetery Services. He explained that each of these fees has been increased by 5%. Lindquist noted that staff is anticipating an increase in the general fund subsidy that the cemetery receives. He questioned why the fees aren't increased more than 5% to reduce the overall subsidy from the general fund. VanDeusen stated that the proposed rates will keep the City competitive with other similar operations in the Black Hills area. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the Resolution Establishing Fees at the Cemetery.

Director's Report

Recreation Manager Doug Lowe reported that staff at the golf course will be putting covers on all the greens next week. Temporary greens will be located in front of the regular greens so the course will be playable during the winter months.

Parks Manager Lon VanDeusen reported that his staff was really "slammed" with the recent snow storms and spent a lot of time digging out trails and the bike path. They have also started putting up the Christmas decorations in the downtown area. The new park maintenance facility should be complete by the middle of December.

Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney reported that he is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Racers Swim Team to allow the swim team to become a City program. Under the new proposal the swim team will not have to pay for pool time and will be able to use a city vehicle for travel.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

Lindquist noted that term of office for Sheri Zimmer and Jim Smoragiewicz will expire in January, 2009. If appropriate we need to request that the Mayor re-appoint these individuals. Smoragiewicz indicated that he would like to serve another term. Lindquist asked that staff contact Sheri Zimmer and ask about her intent. Lindquist also suggested that the Board have a discussion on the best time for the Advisory Board meetings to make sure all members are able to attend.

Lindquist also suggested that the Advisory Board consider having a retreat in the early part of 2009. This will give board members an opportunity to sit down and work through issues that are coming up in the future. He added that he will work on this and have more information at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for December 11, 2008.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.