

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

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 2, 2006, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Wes Storm, and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were City Council Liaison Karen Gundersen Olson, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Aquatics Director Duncan Olney, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcek, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Zimmer, seconded by Storm and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of October 5, 2006, as presented.

Lindquist asked for any changes to the Agenda. Cole noted that a representative from the Police Department will be attending the meeting to talk about a proposed use of land along Rapid Creek between East Boulevard and Fifth Street. The Agenda was approved with this addition.

Liaison Reports

Frank Matejcek reported that most of the discussion at the Bike Walk Run Committee meeting was about ideas for the bike path signs. Regarding the bike path that goes behind the Fair Office on San Francisco Street, Matejcek reported that the work is scheduled in 2007. The grant funding is not available until 2009, however the project can be started in 2007 using the City's matching funds.

Steve Doshier reported that there was not a quorum present for the Beautification Committee, however, several items were discussed informally. Doshier noted that it is his understanding that the Enhancement Grant portion of the State's Transportation funding has been eliminated and, as a result, all projects will have to compete against the highway projects for funding.

Karen Olson reported that the Deer Committee met in October. Olson stated that she feels the Committee should meet again and discuss preparing two reports: a majority report and a minority report. These can then be submitted to the City Council for their information.

Off-Leash Dog Area

Jim Hanson from the Police Department explained that he and Duane Baker have come up with an idea to increase the use of park land located between East Boulevard and Fifth Street on the north side of Rapid Creek. Currently this area is "wasted space" and it could become a very nice off-leash area for dogs. Parking would be available in the parking lot at the corner of 5th Street and E. New York Street, as well as the parking lot

for the Time Square Plaza shopping center. Hanson added that this area of the park has been cleaned up immensely and there are a lot of people who are pro-active in this area. This is a beautiful area of the park and the creek is very open along this stretch. Hanson added that a fence should be considered along East Boulevard so that dogs wouldn't be able to run into this busy street. They will be approaching the business owners in this area to see if they would contribute financially to this project. Cole noted that this type of use would provide more activities in this area and encourage people to use this under-used space. Cole suggested that this issue be discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting and a recommendation can be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. Lindquist encouraged the Board members to visit this area of the park prior to the next meeting.

Salvation Army Proposal

Cole explained that the Salvation is currently developing office and warehouse structures on property located at 700 E. St. Patrick Street. They have proposed that a neighborhood park be developed on the southern section of this property. Cole noted that the property is located in Comprehensive Plan District 4 which does need neighborhood parks which generally range in size from 1-2 acres. Lindquist noted that if there is anything Rapid City is lacking throughout the community it is neighborhood parks. Rapid City has a lot of park acreage, but we don't have a lot of neighborhood parks. He added that we should take every opportunity that is presented and try to develop neighborhood parks. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to direct Jerry Cole to begin negotiations with the Salvation Army for development of a neighborhood park on property located south of the new Salvation Army complex being constructed at 700 E. St. Patrick Street. Cole noted that he will meet with representatives from the Salvation Army and report back to the Board.

Five Year Plan

Cole presented the Five Year Plan and went through the status of current projects. Regarding the 2007 Projects, Cole noted that staff has discovered that some of the property thought to be included in Braeburn Park is still in private ownership. The City Attorney's Office will be contacting these property owners to see if they would be willing to donate these properties to the City for parkland. Also, the "scope of work" has not been identified for the Canyon Lake Improvements (lighting) project. Some of the existing lighting cannot be fixed and needs to be replaced. Regarding the City-Wide Restroom Project, many of these facilities are not ADA accessible and if they are replaced, that issue will be addressed. Staff will have to do an evaluation on all of the restroom facilities and bring back a list of priorities and recommendations. He asked the Board members to review the list of projects on the Five Year Plan, including the unfunded list, and decide what needs to be brought forward.

Donation/Memorial Policy

Cole explained that he would like to have a recommendation on the type of bench or table that we want to locate in our park system, as well as placement of these items. We should also have recommendations from the Parks Department Staff on the types of trees we want to have available for memorials and where they should be located. Cole noted that the Board will also need to discuss the costs involved and the fees to be charged for replacement and maintenance. This information will be submitted to the Board for review at a future meeting.

Director's Report

Cole reported that Baffuto Architecturra has been selected as the architect for the Parks and Golf Maintenance Buildings project. The contract will go to the City Council for approval on November 6th and work can begin after that time.

Staff is recommending that the following Sport Facility Partnership Fund Grants be approved for the second round of funding in 2006:

- RC Softball Association – Handrails - \$6,100.00
- RC Softball Association – PA System - \$2,382.40
- RC Softball Association – Time Clock Controllers - \$24,999.

Cole noted that the CIP recommended approval of these grant awards and that action will be considered by the City Council on November 6th.

Regarding Vicki Powers Park, a public information meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Rapid City Swim Center. Cole explained that several proposals will be on display and the public will have an opportunity to give input on each. After the meeting, the comments will be taken into account and one final proposal will be developed and submitted to the Advisory Board for review.

Cole reported that the City Council has asked that the Department of Parks and Recreation look at changing our watering practices over the next 2 months to create reservoirs which would be used to water our parks. Currently we have the capability to do that at Memorial Park and Roosevelt Park. The Council would like to know what the cost would be to make that change. The main costs will be the pumps and the cost of building the reservoir needed to maintain the water flow.

Lindquist stated that recent bid openings for city projects have surprise everyone with the cost increases. This would indicate that Park and Rec resources will be stretched even further when we go to bid projects.

Olson reported that the State has offered the City the option to purchase the land adjacent to the Executive Golf Course (formerly Otto's Towing). Doshier asked why the City would be interested in purchasing this property, unless it was to package it with additional property and then re-sell it. Cole stated that he doesn't feel this particular

piece of property would lend itself to any city park purpose. Storm concurred, unless we could repackage it with some other property in this area and re-sell it for development by the private sector. It was the consensus of the Board that this item should be put on the agenda for discussion at the December meeting.

Cole distributed copies of a proposed conservation easement that could be used for the Skyline Wilderness Area, for the Board's information.

Also, Cole submitted information on the golf course enterprise fund and noted that staff intends to submit a proposal for rate increases. They will be submitted at the same time as rate increase proposals for the swimming pools and cemetery services.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM