

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
November 3, 2005

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, November 3, 2005, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Hugh Welsh, Wes Storm, Tom Allen and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Aquatics Division Manager Duncan Olney, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Cemetery Superintendent Craig Nichols, Project Manager Rod Johnson, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcik, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier and Administrative Assistant Jeri Lynn.

Lindquist explained that the Board would discuss the Five Year Plan first so that we can use the larger Multi-Purpose Room for this portion of the meeting. There is another event in the room beginning at 7:00.

Lindquist explained that the proposed projects listed on the wall are from the 5 Year Plan prepared by the previous Parks & Rec Subcommittee and other projects that have been suggested. He suggested that the Advisory Board continue to use safety as one of the most important criteria when determining when projects should be done. Consideration should also be given to projects that are part of a master plan or part of larger project that has already been started.

Lindquist noted that Rapid City has some highly visible parks that should receive special consideration because they are the stars of our park system. These areas identify the Department of Parks and Recreation and show what we can accomplish. These parks are Halley Park, Canyon Lake Park and Memorial Park. Sioux Park is also in this category, but its development is complete.

The following projects were discussed:

Bike Path Expansion

Cole explained that there is a master plan completed for bike path extension in this area. Also, there has been \$2 million allocated in Transportation Funding that could deal with bike path improvements. Lindquist added that this money will require matching funds. There are still questions about what these funds can be used for. This could give us an opportunity to do things in certain areas that would be enhancements to existing facilities.

Bike Path Extension – Fish Hatchery

Cole noted that there is no master plan for this area, although we do own property in this area. There has been talk about the idea to continue the bike path past the fish hatchery and into Dark Canyon.

Bike Path – Robbinsdale Park

Rod Johnson indicated this may be a project to connect the bike path on 5th Street through Robbinsdale Park. Cole suggested that the Board make a distinction between sidewalks and bike paths for future discussions. Unless there is property available to expand for an 8' bike path through public right of way, we are talking about a sidewalk.

Bike Path – Fairgrounds

Cole explained that the Growth Management Department has submitted an application for an ISTE Grant for this project and they are in the process of checking the status of the grant.

Bike Path – 5th Street to Oakland

Van Deusen and Johnson noted that this is the project that will connect the bike path from Oakland Street through Robbinsdale Park to the existing path along Fairmont Boulevard.

Braeburn Park (Dog Park & Fencing)

Cole explained that this park has been left in its natural state and is used extensively for a dog park. It is probably the most used of the smaller parks in the community. The concept behind this project is to provide elements for the users. One of the safety issues that should be addressed is fencing along Highway 44. The old outdoor hockey rink is located in this park and suggestions have been made to renovate that facility to make it usable for dog owners in a variety of ways.

Cambell Street Polo Field

Cole noted that a SFPF Application was submitted by Soccer Rapid City last year to renovate this field. The project was not funded, but they are eligible to apply for that funding again.

Canyon Lake- Phase 5

Lindquist stated that a Canyon Lake Master Plan was done a number of years ago. The City acquired the property west of Chapel Lane after the 1972 Flood, and this is considered Phase 5 of the Canyon Lake project. It is proposed for development and expansion of the park. Olson noted that there is talk from time to time about a second vehicular access into Chapel Valley and we should keep this in mind when we are talking about development of this area.

Canyon Lake Spillway Lighting

Van Deusen explained that this would be complete the lighting project in Canyon Lake Park along the sidewalks and bike paths, out to Park Drive.

Canyon Lake Renovation

Lindquist explained that this project was submitted to the 2012 Committees for consideration. The original project included a bypass through the lake, as well as drawing down the lake for silt removal. The second half of the project was not recommended for funding by the 2012 Committees.

Cemetery Veterans Memorial

Cole explained that this project was brought forward by a combination of citizens and the Mayor's Office and we are working on some type of design at this time. It would be a special place in the cemetery for a veteran's memorial for all those in the city cemeteries. We have veterans who are not buried in the veteran's section and people want them recognized as veterans. Most of this project we will attempt to accomplish through fund raising. Cole added that if we proceed with this project, the City will probably need to contribute some capital improvement dollars.

Centennial Park Improvements

Zimmer noted that the residents of this area requested improvements to this park which is adjacent to the LaCroix Links golf course. Lindquist noted that this project will be completed utilizing the Vision 2012 playground improvements project funding.

Christmas Lights

Cole explained that the Mayor is putting together a Task Force to oversee this project. The City has already received \$20,000 in donations for Christmas lights in the downtown area.

Neighborhood Tennis Courts

Staff noted that the city needs to maintain the neighborhood tennis courts that are located throughout the community to a usable level. It was noted that the main focus for tennis court development will be the main courts in Sioux Park and the new tennis court complex being planned for the Parkview area. Cole added that staff will need to review the courts and make a determination, based on use, whether the courts should be renovated or the use of the facility changed. Johnson added that most of the neighborhood courts are multi-use and also used for basketball.

Park Irrigation

Cole explained that there are many areas throughout the park system that have antiquated systems for irrigation which are very inefficient and costly to maintain and use. The City needs to address these needs in our premier parks like Canyon Lake, Memorial and Halley Park.

Dinosaur Park

Van Deusen stated that the City needs to upgrade the lighting on the statues at Dinosaur Park. He added that this could be added to an ADA project which would provide better access.

Elk Vale Park - Land Acquisition

Lindquist explained that this came forward during discussions of acquiring additional park land for various parts of the community. Johnson added that the City was also looking at a partnership with the school district on this project. Cole indicated that developers are developing a private park in Big Sky Subdivision, however, there will still be a need for a public park in this area.

Executive Golf Course

Cole explained that this golf course will be included in a TIF that is being done for development north of the golf course. The TIF may provide options for development of the golf course and surrounding park lands.

Farmer's Market

Cole reported that the people involved with the Farmer's Market would like to be located on Omaha Street, on the south side across from Founder's Park. The City could construct a facility which could be used by the Farmer's market as well as other community events. If the City managed the facility, we could lease the spaces for the Farmer's Market and have better control on use of the area.

Founder's Park (restrooms)

Lindquist noted that part of the money for this project has already been set aside. It was noted that this is where the City would like to expand the sand volleyball courts for spring, summer and fall league play.

Grandview School – Shelter

Cole explained that currently this is a tennis court, but it is not used by the school or the neighborhood. The Principal at Grandview School indicated that they could use some type of shelter that could also be used by the neighborhood for picnics and other gatherings.

Greenway Improvements

Cole noted that this is a 2012 project that is wide open as far as a description of the project. Lindquist noted that it may be necessary to use this funding to match the \$2 million from the TEA funding for bike path improvements. It was also noted that during some discussions it was suggested that this funding could also be used for the Skyline Drive project.

Halley Park Improvements

Irrigation and sidewalks are the improvements included in this project. Cole stated that definitely need irrigation in this park and if we put in irrigation, we may as well put in sidewalks around the flower gardens and gazebo.

Hammerquist Field Improvements

This is an existing project under the Sports Facility Partnership Fund which should be completed in 2006.

Harney Concession Building

Cole noted that this project was submitted under the Sports Facility Partnership Fund, but it was not approved for funding in 2005. They could reapply for this funding in 2006.

Horace Mann Pool Improvements

Cole noted that this project would include a concession facility, too.

Jamie Johnson Field Improvements

This project should be handled through the Sports Facility Partnership Fund Program.

Knollwood Park Improvements

Rod Johnson explained that at one time there was discussion about putting in a bike path around this park. Lindquist noted that this property is a drainage area, not really a park in the traditional sense. He doesn't anticipate that it will every be developed as a city park.

Mary Hall Park – access and parking

Cole explained that this park still needs an access road and parking lot. No matter if you agree with the Kiwanis Club developing the park, it is a public park and it should have access.

Memorial Park Improvements

Cole explained that irrigation is needed north of the lake in Memorial Park. There is money in the Omaha Street Enhancement Project to provide irrigation south of the lake. Van Deusen added that the fountain has been in this park since it was built and the electrical systems need to be upgraded. He added that he would like to see the fountain modified so that it is not a water feature for children to play in. Cole suggested that the lake in Memorial Park be treated similar to Canyon Lake with some hard surfaces around the lake that would provide access to the water's edge and eliminate the shore line erosion. We should also consider adding a fountain in the lake to help with aeration.

Skateboard Park

Cole noted that this is a 2012 Project that should be accomplished in the near future.

North Haines Park Development

Cole informed the Board that \$500,000 in funding has been provided through TIF Financing to develop a park on city-owned property in the north part of Rapid City, west of Haines Avenue.

Omaha Street Basketball Lighting

Staff noted that these courts are used steadily at the present time. If they were lighted, they would be used even more.

Omaha Street Orchard

Cole stated that this project should be tabled at this time. The people who were working on it are no longer interested.

Park Signage

Cole stated that what we need to do is come up with a standard sign that lets everyone know that this is a Rapid City park and what amenities are available in the park. Lindquist noted that this project could be a selling point for the Parks and Recreation Department. Cole added that a lot of our existing park signs are in disarray and need to be replaced or renovated.

Parkview Complex (Softball and Tennis)

Staff noted that the tennis courts are being funded from the Vision 2012 Program. There are safety issues at the softball complex that need to be taken care of. Staff indicated that there will be 2012 funding to address the softball complex also.

Jackson Park Improvements

Cole explained that there will be a new parking lot constructed in this area to serve the public as well as an office building that is being built. We will need to think about a new shelter and restroom facility at this location.

McKeague Field Improvements

Lindquist stated that he feels this project has been completed.

Minnesota Street Playground

Johnson indicated that there were safety issues expressed by the Planning Department because of the location of this park and its proximity to the streets. The Board concurred that this project should be deleted.

Omaha Street Beautification (Area D – Memorial Park)

Cole explained that construction of this project will begin in 2006, however, we will be approximately \$200,000 short in funding based on the master plan. The funding shortfall was created because the grant for the project was written and awarded prior to a master plan being done. As a result, the scope of the project grew and additional funding will be necessary. Lindquist added that there are five phases in the Omaha Street Beautification Project which begins at Founders Park and goes east to Pressler Junction. The funding shortfall applies to the first phase of the project which includes the improvements in Memorial Park.

Storybook Island Improvements

Lindquist noted that this project was presented to the previous Parks and Rec Subcommittee. At that time, the Subcommittee requested a plan for when certain fixtures would be replaced and estimated costs. Lindquist noted that the Storybook Island people have never submitted a prioritized list of their needs.

Quarry Park (parking and irrigation)

Lindquist explained that this park was originally developed with Land and Water Conservation Funds. This is a neighborhood park that does not have a high degree of usage.

Rapid Valley School Park Development

Staff noted that public parks are needed in this area of the community. It was also noted that if parks are developed, the land must be annexed into the city limits.

Red Rocks Park Upgrade

Cole explained that this park was built by the developers and give to the city. In the future, the city can consider upgrading the ground cover from pea gravel to a rubberized material.

Restrooms – City Wide

Staff indicated there is a need to upgrade our public restroom facilities throughout the city. Van Deusen noted that no improvements have been made to these structures in quite some time and most of the facilities are over 30 years old.

Robbinsdale Park Improvements

Van Deusen explained that the plan for this park was to provide a larger shelter facility that will provide the community with a place to have larger functions like family reunions and other big events.

Sioux Park Improvements

This project called for lighting the basketball courts, renovation of the sand volleyball courts, including lighting, and lighting for the baseball field. Johnson explained that the lighting would be for the existing basketball courts and he didn't feel there would be floodplain issues because of previous projects done in this location.

Lindquist suggested that the baseball field lighting project be deleted because that project has been completed (Post 320 Field). Also, staff has indicated that there is no need to renovate the sand volleyball courts in Sioux Park. They are only used for recreation and there is no need to provide lighting at this location.

Skateboard Park

Cole explained that the City has a main skateboard park on New York Street, but he would like to see smaller parks with only a few elements scattered throughout the city. The main users of the facility on New York Street are those individuals who can walk or skate to the park. If the city constructed smaller parks in various locations, Cole anticipated they would be very well used. These small parks would primarily be used by local kids; they would not draw kids from other parts of the community.

Roosevelt Park Improvements

Cole explained that the \$500,000 allocated by the Vision 2012 Fund will include funds for irrigation, shelter, and restroom upgrades and grass and top soil.

Rink Matting

Cole noted that staff has tried to incorporate this project in the annual operations budget, however it has been removed each time. Staff feels this is a very high priority item because of safety issues with skaters going down the back halls to use restrooms in the locker rooms. We cannot afford to hire enough staff to keep watch over these areas all the time. If matting were installed in the lobby area, skaters could use the restrooms there and use of the concession stand might also increase. As it is now, users have to remove their skates to come into the lobby area. Those who don't are damaging the lobby floor as well as the skates they are wearing.

Weight & Cardio (and Recreation) Center

Cole stated that the Recreation staff feels that the one item that will do the most to reduce the general fund subsidy is this type of facility located adjacent to the Swim Center and Ice Arena.

Mallow Park

Cole noted that this is a very run down park that needs to be improved. The TIF covering this property does not include up-front funding. The City would have to find funds to complete the project and be repaid over the life of the TIF.

Skyline Drive Land Acquisition

A proposal was submitted to the 2012 Committees requesting funding for this project. No decision has been made by the City Council however.

Soccer Field Development (Wally Byum Property)

Cole explained that this project was also submitted to the 2012 Committee for consideration. He added that this is a very large project that could not be accomplished with the limited Parks and Rec CIP funding.

South Middle School – Basketball Court Lighting

Basketball courts were erected over the former location of the Robbinsdale Pool. Zimmer suggested that this might be a good location for a small skate park, too.

Star of the West Softball Complex

Staff noted that discussions are on-going about the need for a second access into this facility.

Steele Avenue Park (parking)

Cole noted that this could be a Sports Facility Partnership Fund project.

Thompson Park

There are neighborhood tennis courts in this part that need maintenance. It was noted that there are also basketball courts in this area.

Wally Byum Property

Cole noted that the southern portion of this property is located in the floodplain and would be ideally suited for a park. He added that this is also the area the Soccer group would like to have for their large complex.

Wilderness Park

This parks needs an irrigation system and hiking and biking trails. Cole noted that there is a trail that cuts through the park and there isn't much room in this area for additional trails.

Wilson Park

The tennis courts in Wilson Park need renovation. We need to decide if the outdoor ice rink should remain in this park or use the area for another purpose. Cole added that this is the only outdoor skating rink the city will continue to maintain in the future. The plan is to try to bring special events to this location during the winter and holiday times. Lindquist noted that this is a historic park and if we do anything with lighting, it should be

done with the historic aspect in mind. He added that we should also look at the restroom structure to see what can be done to make it compatible with the historic look we are trying to maintain in Wilson Park.

Cole asked for additional projects that should be added to the list.

Storm suggested adding a Golf Maintenance Shed at Meadowbrook Golf Course. Cole added that there are safety concerns with the existing facility staff uses to maintain equipment at the golf course. The Board concurred that the following projects should be added to the list:

- Park Maintenance Building
- Golf Maintenance Building

Lindquist stated that the CIP Committee should give consideration to these two projects because they were on the Government Buildings Five Year Plan for at least ten years. When they advanced to the current year for construction, they were forwarded to the 2012 Committee for consideration. Since no funding is being recommended from the 2012 Program, they should be funded from the CIP Government Buildings line item.

Cole distributed 10 stars to each person in attendance and asked that they put the stars next to the projects they feel should be the priorities for Parks and Recreation. The following projects were selected:

1. Sports Facility Partnership Fund – 10 stars
2. Park Signage – 9 stars
3. Ice Rink Matting – 8 stars
4. Golf Maintenance Building – 7 stars
5. Park Maintenance Building – 7 stars
6. Halley Park Improvements – 7 stars
7. Memorial Park Irrigation – 6 stars
8. Dinosaur Park Improvements – 6 stars
9. Park land acquisition – 6 stars
10. Weight and Cardio Facility – 5 stars
11. Skateboard Park West – 5 stars
12. Braeburn Dog Park – 4 stars
13. Canyon Lake Improvements – 4 stars
14. Skateboard Park East – 4 stars
15. Horace Mann Pool – 4 stars
16. City-wide Restrooms – 4 stars
17. Jackson Park Improvements – 4 stars
18. Skyline Drive acquisition – 3 stars
19. Bike Path Extension (past fish hatchery)
20. Canyon Lake Spillway – 3 stars
21. Omaha Street Beautification – 3 stars
22. Executive Golf Course – 3 stars
23. Wilson Park Lighting – 3 stars

The remainder of the projects received 2 stars or less.

Cole explained that the SFPF is currently funded each year in the amount of \$50,000 and an allocation is made each year for park land acquisition. The Board discussed each of the projects and attempted to identify a dollar amount for funding purposes.

1. Sports Facility Partnership Fund - \$50,000
2. Park Signage - \$120,000
3. Ice Rink Matting - \$25,000
4. Golf Maintenance Building - \$750,000
5. Park Maintenance Building - \$750,000
6. Halley Park Improvements - \$125,000
7. Memorial Park Irrigation – \$80,000
8. Dinosaur Park Improvements
9. Park land acquisition
10. Weight and Cardio Facility
11. Skateboard Park West - \$50,000

The Advisory Board meeting was moved back to the conference room for discussion of the remaining agenda items.

Lindquist requested that staff distribute a list of the projects with an estimated cost for the Board's consideration. Cole asked how staff should handle projects that are suggested between now and December. Lindquist stated that they should be added to the list, noting that it would have to be a very compelling project to move any of the priorities that have been identified.

Recreation Division Manager Lowe reported that the Church Softball League will not be proceeding with their SFPF project (storage shed). This \$1,454 can be returned to the SFPF funding available in 2006. Also, Timberline Little League may be requesting a portion of their SFPF funding in 2005, but the remainder should be carried forward.

Frank Matejck reported that the Bike Walk Run Committee has been discussing the bike path and possible improvement projects.

Steve Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee has been working hard to see the Omaha Street Beautification Project come to fruition. It was also noted that the grant for St. Joseph Street Landscaping has been submitted.

North Haines Park TIF

Cole reported that a TIF has been created which includes the city-owned land for the North Haines Park. The developer will provide \$500,000 for park development. The funds can be expended for master planning as well as park elements. In 2006 we will begin the planning phase for this area which will include input from the neighborhood and what people who live in this area would like to see in the park. Lindquist noted that the city will define the elements for the park, not the developer. Cole added that we should begin this project as soon as possible so that the money is not re-allocated for another use.

Omaha Street Beautification Project

Lindquist explained that Memorial Park area is the first phase of this beautification project. Available funding is approximately \$200,000 short to complete this phase. It has been agreed that Memorial Park is the first priority; and Memorial Park West is the second priority. Doshier added that the Committee did request that staff approach the City Council about submitting an enhancement grant for the West Memorial Park area. Lindquist added that if the City does have \$2 million from the State Transportation Board, and this money has been dedicated to bike path improvements, perhaps a portion of the funding can be used bike path enhancements through the Omaha Street project area.

Family Stone Section at Mt. Calvary Cemetery

VanDeusen explained that over the years, the City's park and cemetery staffs have developed a number of new sections within the cemeteries without official approval from the City Council. Staff has identified the need for another section which would be strictly for family memorials. Cemetery Supervisor Craig Nichols submitted a map of the existing cemetery, and another map of the proposed "Family Stone" section. He explained that they are trying to develop an area for larger family stones to allow adequate room for digging in the future. As the sections are laid out now, staff could run into trouble getting equipment between the grave spaces when it comes time to dig. Nichols estimated that 80 spaces would be eliminated if the new larger plots are allowed. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Welsh to approve the request to allow development of a Family Stone Section at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Cole reported that the irrigation project along Canyon Lake Drive needs additional funding in the amount of approximately \$24,000. If additional funding is not found, a portion of the project will not be done.

Cole also reported that proposals for changes in rates for aquatics, ice rink and golf courses will be submitted at the next Legal & Finance Committee meeting.

Storm asked that Cole schedule time to make his NRPA presentation for the Board at a future meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.