

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
October 11, 2007

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, October 11, 2007 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Chuck Tinant, Sherri Zimmer and Wes Storm. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Coordinator Matt Brandhagen, Beautification Committee Liaison Steve Doshier, City Council Liaison Karen Gunderson Olson, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Zimmer and carried to approve the Advisory Board minutes of September 13, 2007.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Applicants for Advisory Board Member

The first item on the agenda was introduction of citizens interested in serving on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Citizen Interest Forms were submitted by Oakley Rathbun, Jim Smorgawiecz, Richard Dlugosz and Mark Kline; however none of them were able to attend this meeting. Cole suggested that the Board find a date and time to talk to the applicants individually. It was the consensus of the Advisory Board that the interviews should be held on Tuesday, October 30th. Lindquist asked that a schedule be sent to the Advisory Board members when the interview times have been established.

SDDOT Property

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the surplus SDDOT property located on Omaha Street (former location of Otto's Towing). Lindquist noted that Growth Management Director Marcia Elkins was not able to attend the meeting and requested that this item be continued. Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Storm and carried to continue this item to the November 8th Advisory Board meeting. (Secretary's Note: Elkins is not able to attend on this date so the item will be on the agenda for the December 13th Advisory Board meeting.)

Federal Greenway Funds

Cole explained that the City has received \$1.7 million in transportation enhancement dollars from the federal government and decisions must be made on how these funds should be used. Mayor Hanks has requested that the Parks and Recreation Department take the lead in soliciting public input and setting up public meetings relative to use of these funds. He added that a link will be put on the City's web page that will make it very easy for the public to send an e-mail to the Parks and Recreation Department with ideas and suggestions for use of this money. Lindquist suggested that a paragraph be included on the web page explaining that these funds can only be used for

transportation related projects such as commuter trails, bike routes, bike lanes and associated uses such as parking lots, trail heads, restroom facilities, etc. After the public comment period is done, staff will prepare an itemized list of the projects and ideas which will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

Skyline Drive Preservation, Inc.

Cole explained that the Skyline Drive Preservation Group has agreed to become the 501(c)(3) organization that will work on behalf of park and recreation issues for the City. It is anticipated that this group will take the lead on fund raising projects and be able to assist the City in a variety of ways on future projects. On behalf of the Advisory Board and the entire City, Lindquist issued a "thank you" to the people who were involved with the Skyline preservation effort. They worked very diligently to get title to this property turned over to the City so that it would remain available to the public for generations to come. Lindquist added that due to misinformation that was given to the Skyline Preservation Group, the 2007 taxes had to be paid before title to the land could be transferred to the City. In order to pay those taxes, a mortgage was taken out on a small piece of this land and title for it is still held by Skyline Drive Preservation, Inc. Lindquist noted that the Skyline Preservation Group acted in good faith to help the City and now we should do the same by purchasing the remaining parcel for the amount of the loan that was taken out to pay the taxes. Cole suggested that the Board pass a motion relative to this issue and request that it be taken to the City Council for action. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that the City of Rapid City purchase the small portion of the Skyline Wilderness Area which is still owned by the Preservation Group for the amount of the loan that was taken out to pay the taxes, and that this property be added to the Skyline Drive tract. Olson suggested that the Advisory Board members talk to each of the City Council members individually so that they understand the issue. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried with Tinant abstaining.

Liaison Reports

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning. Richard Hauer will be the speaker at the workshop scheduled for March 12, 2008; in addition the Board is planning a panel discussion to talk about tree liability issues.

Steve Doshier reported on the Beautification Committee meeting which was held on September 13, 2007.

Project Updates

Cole reported that the playground projects at Scott Mallow and College park are complete and very successful. He added that funding is available to replace playground equipment that was removed from other parks in the community because of safety concerns.

Director's Report

Cole reported that the City has received a Land and Water Conservation Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for playground development in Vickie Powers Park. He added that he has been working with the YMCA, Club for Boys, Girls Club and YFS to provide funding, development, and construction of the playground in Vickie Powers Park. The idea is to build a playground second to none in this park. A presentation on this issue will be made to the Advisory Board at a future meeting.

Cole also reported that the \$850,000 in funding for the first phase of Vickie Powers Park will be available in 2008. This phase will include parking lots, trails, drainage, etc. Lindquist asked that staff send out an e-mail detailing what will be included in Phase 1 of this park.

Cole noted that the developers who were planning to put in a retention pond on this public land have changed their minds. At this time they have withdrawn the concept and they will look at finding an area for drainage retention on their property.

Cole informed the Advisory Board that the US Women's Olympic Softball Team will be making an appearance in Rapid City in July, 2008 as part of the "Bound for Beijing" tour. This team will appear in approximately 42 venues across the country and Rapid City will be one of those. The Department of Parks and Recreation will be heavily involved with this project along with the local ASA organization.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2007.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.