

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room  
September 13, 2007

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, September 13, 2007 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Chuck Tinant, and Wes Storm. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Urban Forestry Board Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, Council Liaison Karen Gunderson Olson, Bike Walk Run Committee Liaison Frank Matejck, and Jim Kissel, representing the Kiwanis Mary Hall Park Committee.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the Advisory Board minutes of August 2, 2007.

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items: 1) Award of Sport Facility Grant Projects for 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of 2007 funding; 2) Funding for Meadowbrook Golf Course Bridge Repair Project, and 3) School Board Liaison.

### **Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park**

Jim Kissel, Chairman of the Kiwanis Mary Hall Park Committee, submitted a proposal for improvements to the access road for Mary Hall Park and improved access to the bike path that runs through the area. He noted that erosion on the hillside of the access road is very bad. The city is not responsible for this issue at the present time because the project is still under the control of the contractor. However, if something is not done soon, it will be a major problem. Also, a parking lot is needed in this area. There are ADA issues with access to the bike path through this area and if a parking lot were constructed, it could provide access to the bike path. Kissel suggested that these projects be funded using the transportation funds recently discussed in an editorial by the Rapid City Journal. Lindquist explained that many uses for these funds have been suggested by various groups throughout the community, however, there are questions about what the funding can be used for. City staff is looking into these issues at the present time. Also, final approval of the projects funded from this source will come from the State Highway Administration. Kissel stated that if the funding becomes available for uses such as those he described, he would like these projects added to the list for consideration. No further action was taken.

### **Sport Facility Partnership Fund Grant Applications**

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe explained that there was a balance of \$29,838 in the SFPF Program after the first round of 2007 funding was complete. The Advisory Board authorized a second round of applications for 2007 and the following applications were submitted:

- Harney Little League – Boys Major Field Fence Relocation
- American Legion Post 320 – Stadium Upgrades
- Black Hills Baseball – Hammerquist Field Improvements

The project submitted by Black Hills Baseball is a “fix” for the field improvement project they did in 2006, therefore the Review Team did not feel it should be funded. Harney Little League submitted an application to relocate the outfield fence on the Boys Major Field to comply with new regulations being implemented by the national Little League organization. The project will require some retaining wall construction near the parking lot area. American Legion Post 320 submitted a stadium upgrade project which will provide better seating for spectators. Lowe reported that the project will also take care of all ADA issues at the facility as well as provide a cover over a portion of the seating.

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Storm and carried to approve funding for the following SFPF grants as recommended by staff:

1.	Harney Little League	\$ 9,000.00
2.	American Legion Post 320	\$20,838.25

### **Golf Course Bridge Repair Project**

Lowe explained that \$50,000 was initially budgeted to repair the bridge at Meadowbrook Golf Course. The DCA costs for the project were \$12,400 which leaves \$37,600 for construction. The Engineer’s estimate for the project was \$36,636 however, when bids were opened on September 11, 2007, the lowest bid was \$46,100.50. Based on the low bid received and providing for a 10% contingency, an additional \$15,000 in funding is needed. It was noted that the carpet replacement project in the Swim Center was completed for considerably less than the budgeted amount, so that funding is available for use on the golf course bridge project. Staff explained that initially the carpet was going to be removed from the locker rooms at the Swim Center and tile installed. A different type of “roll on” flooring was used at the Ice Arena with very good results, so a decision was made to use that material rather than tile. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Tinant and carried to recommend that \$15,000 be reallocated from the Swim Center carpet replacement project to the Golf Course bridge repair project.

### **Change in Meeting Date**

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Storm and carried to change the official meeting day and time for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM. The meetings will continue to be held in the conference room on second floor of the Rapid City Swim Center.

### **School Board Liaison**

The next item up for discussion was a Liaison to the School Board. Lindquist asked that a temporary Chairman be elected because he would like to speak to this issue.

Motion was made by Tinant, seconded by Storm and carried to appoint Wes Storm as temporary Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Lindquist explained that it has been quite some time since the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has had an active participant from the School Board. Recently Board member Wes Storm was elected to the School Board, however, he was told that he could not attend the Building Committee meetings as a representative from the City's Parks and Rec Advisory Board. The Building Committee, however, is where the Advisory Board needs representation and discussion to happen for park and recreation projects and issues. Lindquist suggested that the Advisory Board send a letter to the School board indicating that in order to have better communication with the School District on joint projects, we would like our representative to be a liaison to the Building Committee and attend their meetings in a non-voting capacity. Motion was made by Lindquist, seconded by Tinant and carried to direct staff to send a letter to the School Board to establish a firm liaison position with the School District's Building Committee.

Storm relinquished the Chair to Lindquist.

### **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 October 11<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting.

### **Liaison Reports**

Matejcek reported that the Bike Walk Run Committee met several months ago and reviewed the directional signs that will be installed along the bike path at Canyon Lake Drive, near Baken Park. He also commended the contractor for making accommodations for bicycle traffic through Memorial Park during the construction project.

Steve Hasenohrl and Lon Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board discussed upcoming training sessions and narrowed the list of speakers. Board representatives will be contacting the speakers and asking them for specific topics they would like to address.

Steve Doshier reported that the Beautification Committee met and Craig Grotenhouse was appointed as the liaison to the committee looking at city ordinances. There was also discussion on the budget and ISTEAs grants that will be applied for.

### **Project Updates**

Cole reported that he continues to meet with the School District regarding construction of tennis courts near the Parkview Pool complex. The City has funding to build six courts in the south part of town and the School District has expressed interest in making this a joint project totaling 12 courts. Cole reported that representatives from the School District intend to approach the City about sharing in the cost of a master plan for this entire area to see how these courts will fit into the campus. Karen Olson indicated she would be willing to attend these meetings with the School District because she has an interest as a tennis player as well as a city representative from the Advisory Board and City Council. Cole added that unless the School District agrees to provide the land and additional funding for more courts, construction will begin on a six court facility at the Parkview location in 2008.

Cole reported that the South Memorial Park project is progressing and some of the pathways have been re-opened for use.

### **Director's Report**

Cole informed the Advisory Board that the City Council has authorized staff to put in a bid to purchase the Dan Smith property near Dinosaur Park. The City Attorney is handling this issue and hopefully we will hear something by the end of the week. If the City's bid is accepted, it will take most of the money in the Advisory Board's land acquisition fund.

Cole also reported that for FY2009, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen will be putting together information on what it would take to contract for landscape maintenance of the street nodes and highway medians. The City Council will then have the information they need to make a decision on hiring FTEs to take care of these areas or entering into a contract with a private company for landscape maintenance.

Cole also informed the Advisory Board that the City Council included funding in the 2008 budget to hire a landscape architect for the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding for this position will come from various projects identified in the CIP Five Year Plan and some 2012 projects.

Van Lindquist noted that he and Jerry Cole met with Mayor Hanks earlier this week and he was very surprised to learn that Parks & Recreation projects are still being charged DCA charges even though no work is being done on these projects by the Public Works Department staff. The Mayor will look into this issue for future budget years.

Lindquist also received calls expressing concern about the limited number of areas available for soccer practice and the limited ingress/egress from the Star of the West Softball complex. Cole noted that there are many areas in the community available for soccer practice including the Denver Street soccer field, the area south of Central High

School, College Park and Jackson Park. Regarding egress from the softball complex, perhaps we need to re-visit this issue and talk to the property owners in this area.

Cole informed the Board that the CIP Committee put a "hold" on reallocating funds for development of the Parkview South park area. The Committee is looking for funding that can be used to purchase the property adjacent to Braeburn Park. Olson informed the Advisory Board that Bob Knecht has changed his mind about building apartments on this property. Cole noted that he does not have a problem with the issue of finding funds to purchase this property because it has been identified as a vital piece of property for the City. However, he does object to the CIP Committee arbitrarily making decisions about funds that are under the control of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, without asking for input.

Cole reported that the City has implemented a new accounts payable system and as a result the monthly reporting process has changed. It will take some time to get the new system up and running correctly, so it may be several months before monthly reports are available.

The Hanson Larson Memorial Foundation received a grant to develop a trail system on M-Hill and this project will begin this fall. Construction of different elements of the trail system will take place in 2008 and 2009.

The City received two grants totaling \$24,000 from the State of South Dakota for West Nile Virus Control. These funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for mosquito control.

Cole also informed the Advisory Board that no funding was included in the 2008 budget to staff a community weight room at Stevens High School.

Cole reported that the contractor and volunteers will begin installation of new playground equipment in Scott Mallow and College Parks next week. It is anticipated that crews will begin work in Scott Mallow Park on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and in College Park on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. A grand opening celebration for each park will be held on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Cole informed the Advisory Board that Wyss Associates has submitted two proposals for the Pow Wow Grounds; one to be located adjacent to The Journey Museum and another located south of East New York Street. There is a great deal of work yet to be done on the land south of New York Street dealing with flood plain and hydrology issues. Cole added that the City Council asked for input from the Civic Center and The Journey Museum Boards and he anticipates that Wyss will make a presentation to the Advisory Board as well.

Cole also reported that he and Van Lindquist met with the Mayor relative to the \$1.7 million in greenway funds that are available through the Federal Highway Administration. We were trying to get a clarification from the Mayor on how this process

was going to work. The Mayor indicated that a task force would probably be created to review this issue and that the Parks & Recreation Board would be included in that. The Mayor also asked that the Advisory Board begin work to develop a prioritized list of projects that might be eligible for this funding. Examples of eligible projects would include bike paths and links to the bike paths, for example from the parking lot on Omaha Street to M-Hill. Lindquist noted that when the Task Force is created we will need to have some work sessions to determine what logical connections and additions to the bike path will be.

Cole reported that Skyline Wilderness, Inc. has agreed to remain active and become the 501(c)3 organization for the Advisory Board. Cole noted that they would be an arm of the Parks and Recreation Department however details are still being worked out. He noted that there are grants and other funding mechanisms for park and recreation activities available to non-profit organizations that the City cannot apply for.

Cole noted that there is a vacant position on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This term will expire in December, 2008. Interested individuals should fill out a Citizen Interest Application at the Mayor's Office and our staff will contact them.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 4:30 PM.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.