

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Conference Room
September 7, 2006

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 PM on Thursday, September 7, 2006, with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Wes Storm, Tom Allen, Sherri Zimmer and Hugh Welsh. Also present were City Council Liaison Karen Gundersen Olson, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Bike Run Walk Committee Liaison Frank Matejcek, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried to **approve the Advisory Board minutes** of July 6, 2006 with the addition of Steve Doshier to the list of those present.

Chairman Lindquist asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda. Cole reported that the Salvation Army has requested that their issue be continued to the October Advisory Board meeting. Also, Randy Fisher from Designworks, Inc. should be added to the agenda to discuss the Omaha Street Corridor Enhancement, South Memorial Park Project. The Agenda was approved with the noted changes.

Liaison Reports

Matejcek reported that the Bike Walk Run Committee met and discussed how the 2012 signage funding should be used. The Committee agreed to think about the issue and discuss it again at the next meeting. This project will provide signage on the bike paths throughout the community. Matejcek noted that all ideas are welcome. Allen suggested that a sign be installed for Mary Hall Park near the Park Department Office. Cole requested that the Bike Walk Run Committee meet with the Parks Division Manager when deciding where these signs should go.

Advisory Board Meeting Time

Lindquist noted that currently the Advisory Board meetings begin at 4:30 in the afternoon; the previous Park and Rec Subcommittee's meetings began at 7:00 in the evening. He suggested that the Advisory Board meetings begin at a time that will work for all members. Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Allen and carried that, effective October 5, 2006, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Memorial Park South Project

Randy Fisher from Designworks, Inc. presented drawings of the project and explained that he is ready to send the project out for bids. There is a shortfall in funding of approximately \$260,000 to complete the project as designed. The following items could

be bid as alternates and then a decision could be made on whether to include them, based on the funding allocated:

- Upgrade to the Veterans Memorial area
- Pavers
- Hard edging around the Storm Water Retention area
- Landscaping

If we eliminate the alternates, the estimated project cost would be approximately \$775,000 and an additional \$100,000 in funding would be needed.

Lindquist noted that Western Dakota Water Development District contributed \$25,000 to this project because it was to be a demonstration project for storm water retention areas. He added that Drainage Funds should also be used because this is a drainage project. Olson noted that there is money in the Drainage Fund, however, there may be stipulations on how that money can be used. Cole stated that he would ask the Finance Office about these funds. Fisher added that his staff has looked at the following areas which would reduce the costs for this project: eliminate light poles and reduce sidewalk width.

Cole stated that to do this project right, the City needs to find an additional \$260,000 in funding. In reviewing the Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan, we can probably find \$100,000 by delaying some projects. The CIP Committee has contingency funds which could be used for this project and there may be drainage funds available as well. Motion was made by Zimmer, and seconded by Allen to direct staff to request funding from the CIP Committee and the Drainage Fund to complete the Memorial Park South project, which is one of the key elements of the Omaha Street Corridor Enhancement Project. Olson indicated she would have this project added to the Public Works Committee Agenda for discussion. She wants to make sure that the City Council members are aware that this is more than a park enhancement project. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Director Cole explained that the Metropolitan Planning Organization prepared a Bikeway/Walkway Plan which has been submitted to the Planning Commission for consideration. A copy of this Plan was distributed to the Board with the Agenda packet. Olson noted that this Plan was approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting earlier today. Lindquist suggested that a map be attached to the plan. Cole stated that he believes that this is a revised plan to what is currently in place. He will be asking that the Metropolitan Planning Organization notify the Department of Parks and Recreation to review this document before it is presented to the City Council.

Cole reported that the proposal from the Springbrook Homeowners Association to purchase the Springbrook Wilderness Area was presented to the City Council. After reviewing the proposal and the attached stipulations, the City Council rejected the

proposal. The Springbrook Homeowner's Association Board is meeting on the issue and it is possible they may submit a revised proposal.

Regarding the Cowboy Hill property, Cole reported that the City Council will be forming a Task Force to work on this project and the Mayor would like two members of the Advisory Board to serve in this capacity. Currently, the City has until October 18th to find funding to purchase any or all of the property. Since funding is not available to the City at this time, there is probably not adequate time to do anything prior to the sale date. The Task Force will be talking to individuals who might purchase the property and look favorably on selling a portion of it to the city in the future. The City is currently attempting to get an appraisal of the property, but no licensed appraisers are available to do this project on such short notice. Jon Haeder stated that he has spoken to the City Attorney on this matter and, because of his interest in the property, he cannot do the appraisal. He has visited with a number of people on this issue and it could very well be that the City cannot complete the required elements of a purchase by October 18th. This would be a difficult appraisal from a technical standpoint, but it is also complicated by the federal standards that must be used. Haeder stated that his purpose in attending the meeting today is to be on record saying that the City should purchase the entire property. He also requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board go on record and express to the City Council that we should make every effort possible to acquire this entire parcel of land, through whatever means possible. Tom Katus echoed the comments made by Haeder and encouraged the City to do whatever it can to acquire this property for the City. Cole suggested that the Board send a letter to the City Council stating their support for this project. Karen Olson added that the Chamber of Commerce is also working on a letter of support for this project. There was discussion about the value of this property (370 acres) for development purposes. Haeder questioned the proposed value of the property noting that from a development standpoint, there is a large parcel of land near St. Martin's Monastery that would be much easier to develop than this property. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Storm and carried to send a letter to the City Council in support of acquiring the entire Cowboy Hill property, or any portion thereof. Lindquist and Storm agreed to serve on the Mayor's Task Force.

Cole reported that consultant interviews were conducted earlier today for the Parks and Golf Maintenance Buildings and an architect will be selected within the next ten days. At that time, a contract will be negotiated with the consultant and presented to the City Council for approval. This is the first step in selecting an architect to provide conceptual drawings and anticipated costs for these buildings. Cole added that the CIP has authorized him to choose which facility will be built once the drawings and costs have been identified. Construction of the facility will not begin until approximately September in 2007 because of the need to displace the shop and storage areas at either the Parks Department or Golf Course.

Cole explained that the Urban Wildlife Committee has been created as a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. After some discussion, Allen agreed to serve on the Urban Wildlife Committee.

Cole reported that tennis courts are being resurfaced at the present time throughout the community. The multi-purpose court at Stevens High school was resurfaced and this is where the skate park west project will be located. Thomson Park court was also resurfaced and this is the location for the skate park east project. The Wilson Park tennis courts were also resurfaced.

Cole noted that public meetings were held last month on the playground improvement and Vickie Powers Park projects. Wyss Associates is handling both of these contracts and they are working on the projects now. There may be staff changes taking place at Wyss and at this time it is unclear how the City projects will be affected.

Allen left the meeting at this time.

The Canyon Lake Road project is now complete and the road is open to the public. Cole explained that the Parks Division staff did an excellent job in constructing the gates which have been installed at both entrances to the park. The entrance gate is closed at sunset and the exit gate is closed at 10:00 PM. This procedure allows anyone in the park at a picnic shelter, fishing or playing to stay until the park closes at 10:00. Cole added that the gates may be closed at other times to protect the park during extreme weather conditions or darkness. Adding gates to other parks in the community is also under consideration.

Welsh left the meeting at this time.

The Board reviewed the Five Year Plan to find \$100,000 in funding for the South Memorial Park project. It was the consensus of those present that the following re-allocations could be made if additional funding is approved by the CIP Committee and the project can be completed as designed by Designworks, Inc.:

- Reallocate \$80,000 from the Memorial Park Irrigation project to the South Memorial Park project
- Reallocate \$8,737 from the Ice Rink Matting Project to the South Memorial Park project (Ice Rink Matting project is complete)
- Reallocate \$11,263 from the Skate Park East project to the South Memorial Park project

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30.