

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
June 10, 2021

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021, with the following members present: Karen Olson, Roger Heacock, Shon Hanczyc, Jessica Ries, Keryn Rowland, Tony Marshall and Michael Calabrese and City Council Liaison Laura Armstrong. The following members were absent: None. Staff present: Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Assistant City Attorney, Kinsley Grote and Administrative Assistant Amy Graves. Visitors from the public were Mike Richardson.

Public Comment.

Mike Richardson from Rapid City addressed the board regarding the Post 22, Post 320 and McKeague baseball fields. Mr. Richardson would like to see upgrades to all of the baseball fields. Richardson said a common building for umpires would be beneficial along with upgrades to the restrooms and additional shaded areas. Richardson said additional fields would help accommodate the number of visitors to our area. Richardson said he has volunteered at the facilities and is interested in assisting with additional improvements.

Minutes

Hanczyc asked to correct the minutes to read that he was not present at the May meeting. A motion was made by Calabrese, second by Heacock and carried to approve the minutes from May 13, 2021 with the correction to the attendance.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

The board reviewed the approval of the Donor and Naming Agreement Between the City of Rapid City, Black Hills Sports, and First Interstate Bank for Fitzgerald Stadium. The agreement approves the donation of \$118,000 in 10 annual installments until 2031 for the naming rights to the canopy at Fitzgerald Stadium. Motion was made by Rowland, second by Marshall to approve the agreement with one no vote from Calabrese. Motion carried.

Liaison Reports

Anderson said the Urban Wildlife committee will meet in the fall.

Anderson said the Urban Forestry committee met in June. The committee will submit a grant application to the Gwendolyn Stearns Foundation for trees to assist with park reforestation. The committee will meet again in August.

Biegler said the Beautification committee reviewed a draft of the Beautification Master Plan from Randy Fisher at Designworks. The committee will provide feedback to Fisher and discuss the draft plan at a later date. The committee also has plans to submit a

grant application to the Gwendolyn Stearns Foundation. Biegler told the board that the city has received grants in previous years from the Stearns Foundation to assist with plant material in several projects.

Armstrong said the city bike tour was held on May 22. Approximately 12 people attended the event and Armstrong said they plan to repeat it in 2022.

Armstrong said the Adopt a Park group at Wilson Park planted flowers and she was grateful to the greenhouse staff that assisted them.

Armstrong reported on the soccer event being held the weekend of June 11th and plans for the 50th anniversary of the flood.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler said the Park and Recreation tour on September 9th will need to be rescheduled because Tallgrass Landscape Architecture will present the Dinosaur Park design plans to the board on that date.

Biegler said there will be a firework display at Executive Golf Course on Sunday, July 4th.

Biegler said the opening ceremonies will be held at Fitzgerald Stadium on Tuesday, June 15th.

Biegler said Melissa Petersen is working on a project for erosion control along the creek bank at Meadowbrook Golf Course with plans to start the project this fall.

Discussion was held on the Dinosaur Park project. Biegler said the main goal of the project is to provide universal access to the park, stabilization to the dinosaur structures and to enhance the area. Further information will be presented in September.

Biegler said Pollinator Week is June 21st through June 27th. A celebration will be held at Market Park on June 26th with wildflower seeds available to the public, kids' activities and presentations. The event will be cosponsored by the Rapid City Sustainability Committee.

Division Manager Reports

Anderson told the board that fences have been installed on the south side of the volleyball courts in Founders park and on the north side of the basketball courts off of Omaha Street to prevent balls from entering the road.

The parks division is planting trees and flowers and working on general maintenance to the parks and irrigation.

Anderson said the Cemetery grounds are in good condition.

The park and cemetery maintenance staff were provided lunch by a citizen in appreciation of their work.

Discussion was held on changes to mowing in the parks to provide a natural habitat and to assist with pollinator efforts.

Lowe said the summer programming at the recreation and aquatics divisions are full and revenue has increased.

Lowe said the ice arena is hosting the Rushmore Cup with up to 100 participants and 35 teams. Lowe is working with the Civic Center to assist with the sale of season tickets to the NA3HL Rushmore Sabres hockey league.

Lowe said participation at the golf course is good and there is currently a waiting list for the youth programs. Lowe said he is looking at expanding all of the youth recreation programs.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Calabrese, second by Hanczyc and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 8, 2021.