

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
February 10, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 10, 2022. The following members were present: Roger Heacock, Keryn Rowland, Karen Olson, Michael Calabrese, Shon Hanczyc and Tony Marshall. The following members were absent: Jessica Ries. Others present: City Council member Bill Evans. Staff present: Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen and Administrative Assistant Amy Graves.

A motion was made by Marshall, second by Calabrese and carried to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022, meeting.

Members from the Special Olympics South Dakota – Rapid City Flame organization addressed the board with a request to receive approval to install bocce courts at Sioux Park. The organization previously applied for Vision Funds to place 20 accessible bocce courts in West Memorial Park and their application was denied.

Jack Lynass and Monica Burgess shared information on the organization and the history of their past events. Special Olympics South Dakota has a successful bocce program with annual tournaments. The group would like to install 12 bocce courts in Sioux Park. The courts would allow participants to practice 2 times per week after school and weekends. The courts would be available to the Special Olympic participants and the community for all ages and abilities. The bocce season is held between July and September. The group will use a local contractor and will fund the entire project with an estimated cost of \$300,000.

Details of the project, park location and parking were discussed and the board voiced their support for the project. Biegler said an MOU for the project would need to be approved by City Council followed by an approval of a Use Agreement with Special Olympics South Dakota to specify their priority of use time for their events. Staff will study the location to consider the impact to the park and the existing amenities and will also consider additional locations for options.

Rowland moved to have staff move forward with the process, to prepare the Memorandum of Understanding and take the necessary steps to create the Use Agreement with Special Olympics South Dakota. Second by Marshall. Motion Carried.

Liaison Reports

City Council member Bill Evans told the board the City Council is in full support of awarding the Vision Funds to replace the tennis courts at Sioux Park.

Evans said he and Laura Armstrong are looking at options to create a land preservation trust fund to assist with acquiring property for public use. Discussion was held on the support of landscapes, parkland and schools in new developments.

Evans said the city needs an improved tree canopy. Discussion was held on the Emerald Ash Borer program and the replacement of ash trees.

Biegler said the Beautification Committee will meet in April and mentioned that Steve Doshier would like to have a working session with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to discuss the future of the committee.

Anderson said the Urban Wildlife Committee and Urban Forestry Committee met in February. The Urban Wildlife Committee received an update on the 2022 deer harvest program. Staff has harvested 192 deer as of February 10th. The SDGF&P approved the removal of 250 deer in 2022. The Urban Forestry Committee is preparing for a spring tree workshop for the public and they are making plans for the 2022 Arbor Day event on April 29th.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler gave an update on the Weger property near Star Village. The City Attorney's Office presented a Quit Claim Deed to the Weger's and will place the item on the Legal and Finance and City Council agenda when it has been signed. Biegler will provide updates as the process continues.

Parks Division Report

Anderson gave an update on the park maintenance and forestry crews. Anderson said the cemetery division is looking at plans for an additional ossuary and working on fence repairs bordering the cemetery property.

Recreation Division Report

Lowe said the golf course is taking over sales for the outside beverage cart At Meadowbrook Golf Course in 2022. Recreation staff is preparing for the summer programs at aquatics, ice and recreation. The Sabres Hockey team has been successful. Revenue at the ice arena has increased with the addition of the hockey team.

Discussion was held on the approval of Vision Funds for the dome over the outdoor pool at the aquatics center. Lowe said the operating budget for the center will increase with the installation and use of the dome.

Landscape Designer Report

Petersen gave an update on the 2022 projects, highlighting on the Dinosaur Park renovations and the creek bank stabilization at Meadowbrook Golf Course.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.