

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Halley Park Board Room  
February 8, 2018

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 8, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Lynn Paulson, Greg Oleson, Tom Willock and Brent Lawlor. The following members were absent: Domico Rodriguez and Shon Hanczyc. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Park Division Manager Scott Anderson and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

**Public Comment**

Scott Caesar from the Black Hills Disc Golf Confederacy spoke to the Advisory Board about the possibility of developing an additional disc golf course on the property within the Lacroix Links golf course. Biegler explained that the YMCA previously leased the golf course for a golf program but as of January 2018, the lease has been vacated. Biegler stated that this item could be put on the agenda for the meeting in March for additional discussion.

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of January 11, 2018 as presented.

**Agenda**

Biegler requested that a report on the Post 22 Girls Softball Field project be added to the agenda. Olson stated that it will be added after the Report on the Deer Management Plan.

**Liaison Reports**

Biegler reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and received a report on the Deer Management Program. There was also discussion on the geese population and the impact it was having on the park system. Staff is working with the State's Game, Fish and Parks Department to implement provisions of the Waterfowl Management Plan which would include locating nests and addle eggs. It was noted that 75 waterfowl were harvested last spring and the meat was distributed to the local food pantry. Van Lindquist stated that he is aware of the issues created by geese in Canyon Lake Park and at Meadowbrook Golf Course. He noted that the harvesting of waterfowl in 2017 did make a significant difference in the issues created by the waterfowl and he encouraged the City to do whatever it could to reduce the waterfowl numbers at the golf course and in the Canyon Lake Park area.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and a report was given about tree work done in the city in 2017. Staff is also working to finalize the Emerald Ashe Bore Management Plan which will be submitted for approval soon. The UFB is planning the 2018 Arbor Day Celebration which is coming up in April. The Board intends to plant 30 trees at Rushmore Little League complex on E. Main Street North.

Biegler reported that Beautification Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, but a quorum was not present last week. Those who were present discussed projects which received Stearns grant funding.

### **Report on Deer Management Program**

Anderson went through the information presented to the Advisory Board members. He explained that Parks Division staff conducted a deer trend survey in October of 2017 and the information gathered was submitted to the SD Game, Fish & Parks Dept. Based on that information, GF&P recommended that 150 deer be harvested. Anderson reported that this is the first year the program was conducted completely by Parks Division employees. New shooters were used for the harvest this year and each had to have a federal background check and be qualified with the firearm they would be using for the program. The City also purchased the necessary firearms, ammunition and other items necessary to conduct the program. The program went very smoothly and the Department received only minimal calls from citizens with questions. Bait sites were set up throughout the community so that deer were taken from a variety of areas. Information on deer activity was also taken from the Wildlife Complaint log and the animal/vehicle collisions report compiled by the Police Dept. GF&P also decided to test for CWD which created another issue for staff to deal with. Staff completed the harvest in approximately three weeks.

Van Lindquist reported that he lives on Fairlawn and the deer are becoming a real problem. He landscaped his property 2 years ago and one of the specifications he used was that all plants had to be deer resistant. Over the last two years he has lost more than 50-60 plants at an approximately value of \$7,500. Lindquist stated that he isn't sure where the numbers were this year but the Pinedale area has a lot of deer and anything that can be done to reduce that number would be greatly appreciated.

### **Post 22 Girls Softball Fields**

Randy Fisher explained that he was hired to design two softball fields on the property previously used for soccer adjacent to Cambell Street. He submitted a drawing of how the softball fields could be located on the property noting that there are several obstacles which must be addressed. The property is located in the 500 year flood fringe, but it is zoned floodway which doesn't allow any restroom or concession facilities. They will have to apply to have the property rezoned and make sure all easements are kept clear. Fisher noted that he will continue to work on the project and keep staff informed of his progress.

### **Director's Report**

Anderson reported that the Parks Division is working to purchase equipment including a garbage truck and a dump truck with a chipper body. Staff is also working to update the signs throughout the park system. Operations in the Green House are getting underway and seeds have been planted; plus will come later in March. Staff is also planning for sidewalk improvements and adding areas to the central irrigation system.

Biegler reported that the restroom project at Meadowbrook Golf Course is underway and should be complete in April. The bike path improvement project is underway as well as the creek bank stabilization project. Biegler was also pleased to report that staff will be repairing the pathway behind the Fish Hatchery in the near future. Biegler also reported on the West Memorial Park project that will be getting underway soon.

The lease documents for recreation facilities will go to Council for final approval on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Food Truck vendors have been applying for permits in 2018 and it looks like we will have a good variety of options. A variety of locations have been identified in several parks

that will allow food trucks. Biegler added that they have done a good job of looking after themselves.

Biegler noted that Kristy Lintz is the Special Event Coordinator and handles all special events in the city. In 2017, 127 event permits were issued.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on March 8, 2018.

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