

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
January 11, 2018

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2018 with the following members present: Vice Chairman Karen Olson, Rick Askvig and Greg Oleson. The following members were absent: Domico Rodriguez, Shon Hanczyc and Chuck Tinant. Also present were City Council Liaison Darla Drew, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Park Division Manager Scott Anderson and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Askvig, seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the minutes of November 9, 2017 as presented.

Agenda

Biegler reported that representatives from the Junior Hockey League are not ready to make their presentation this evening. This item will be placed on a future agenda at the appropriate time. The Agenda was approved with the deletion of Item No. 7, Junior Hockey League Proposal.

Election of Officers

Nominations were opened for the position of Chairman. Oleson nominated Karen Olson; no other nominations were made. Motion was made by Olson seconded by Askvig and carried to close nominations and that a unanimous ballot is cast for Karen Olson.

Nominations were opened for the position of Vice Chairman. Askvig nominated Greg Oleson; no other nominations were made. Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Olson and carried to close nominations and that a unanimous ballot is cast for Greg Oleson.

Liaison Reports

Biegler reported that Beth-Anne Ferley from the Solid Waste Division attended the Beautification Committee meeting to present information on the City's Sustainability Committee. She also presented information about the My Waste App which provides a great deal of information about recycling, as well as solid waste and landfill operations. Ferley also presented information on the Annual Clean Up Week held in April.

The Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and a report was given on the annual deer harvest which will begin soon. Biegler noted that some members of the Urban Wildlife Committee feel urban deer are a big problem in the community and feel the number of deer harvested should be increased.

Biegler reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning. Staff has been busy removing dead/diseased and hazardous trees at the Cemetery. Tree removal crews will also be assisting with removing dead/diseased trees at Meadowbrook Golf Course. Biegler added that the City recently purchased a planer that staff can use to repurpose wood from larger trees that are taken down. These planks can be used for picnic tables and benches

throughout the park system. Also staff has started planning for the 2018 Arbor Day Celebration which will be held at Rushmore Little League Complex off E. Main Street North. More details on this event will be coming soon.

Darla Drew recommended that the Department find a way to provide training to individuals who agree to act as chairmen of various committees. This would assist with meetings that are run better and more productive. She also noted that the Beautification Committee is having trouble finding individuals interested in serving and perhaps they should only meet four times per year. Biegler noted that staff could take a look at the ordinance creating the committee and provide recommendations on changes that may be needed.

Lease Agreements for Recreation Facilities

Biegler explained that staff has been working on the lease agreements for most of the recreation facilities in the community which expired on December 31, 2017. Facilities constructed on property which received funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will be required to make one field available for public use after the priority-use season is complete. The trade-off will be that the City will maintain the fields when the season is done and a portion of the facility is available to the public. It is anticipated that this change will also increase communication between city maintenance staff and the various organizations which will be good for everyone involved. Biegler added that staff has met with representatives of the organizations that will be affected and they seem to be okay with this change to the Lease. The leases being approved at this time will expire on December 31, 2018. This will give the City time to work with the State to make sure the changes proposed by the City are acceptable to the State and that they adequately address the need for public usage required under the Land and Water Conservation program.

Proposed leases with the BH Lacrosse, Post 22 ASA Softball League, BH Sports (Fitzgerald Stadium), Post 320 Baseball, RC High School Baseball, RC Softball Association, and RCGJO ASA Softball (Parkview Complex) will be for a longer time frame since those properties are not encumbered with LWCF requirements.

Director's Report

Lowe noted that the restroom facility is now under construction at Meadowbrook Golf Course. Some trees had to be removed for the utilities to be installed. He added that the project was modified slightly to include space for the starter shack. Also, the golf cart fleet contract has been approved and the carts should be arriving soon.

Lowe reported that for the fourth year in a row the City's volleyball and basketball leagues have record numbers of teams participating. Staff is using all available gym space to run these leagues at South and West community gyms. Lowe stated that the City needs to seriously begin looking at constructing a facility between the Ice Arena and the Swim Center.

Contracts have been signed by the swim teams for use of lanes at the Swim Center and another round of skating lessons is beginning at the Ice Arena.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that staff is working on an improvement project at the Cemetery which will include expansion on the south end, working on roads and irrigation, staff parking, expansion of the maintenance shop and design of an area on the hillside that could be used for cremains.

Parks crews have removed the Christmas decorations from the downtown area as well as Halley and Wilson parks. Staff is looking at replacing some of the decorations because they are in pretty bad shape. Drew suggested that we talk with organizations and do a Go Fund Me project for Christmas lights replacement. Biegler noted that the Public Park Foundation might also be able to assist with this type of project.

Anderson also updated the Board on the following projects:

- Robbinsdale Park Improvement Project
- Bike Path Imp/Creek Bank Stabilization Project
- West Memorial Park Imp. Project
- Annual Deer Harvest

Biegler reported that organizers have changed the name of the Fat Tire Festival to the Black Hills Mountain Fest. The annual event will still include mountain bike races but it will also include food vendors, craft beer enthusiasts, music and a host of other activities.

Rapid City will be hosting the SDPRA Conference in 2019 and department staff has begun to work out all the details for that event which is a very large task.

Biegler informed the Advisory Board that the YMCA has opted to terminate their lease for the LaCroix Links golf course and the City will be taking over maintenance of this facility. He added that the City will not operate a golf course on the property, but there are lots of possibilities for this location. The Department will be maintaining it this year as open space until we can put together a plan for use of the property. Askvig asked if the City would be interested in another private entity leasing the facility. Biegler stated that he didn't know at this time, but noted that the YMCA was not getting any use at the facility.

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 6:40 pm.