

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
February 11, 2016

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 11, 2016 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Chuck Tinant, Domico Rodriguez, Shon Hanczyc and Rick Askvig. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Parks Maintenance Chief Scott Anderson, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt, Urban Forester Andy Bernard, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

Minutes

Motion was made by Olson, seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of January 14, 2016 as presented.

Agenda

Motion was made by Olson, seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

Liaison Reports

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and one of the main discussion items was the issue of trapping with the City limits. Staff will be meeting with a representative from the City Attorney's Office in the near future to continue the discussion on this item.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and Van Deusen reported that Board members received an update on operational items and the hazardous tree removal project. The Board also discussed spring planting that will be done throughout the park system. Biegler added that Urban Forester Andy Bernard is proposing a hazardous or diseased tree removal program that could offer home owners a financial incentive to get these trees taken care of. It would operate similar to the Mountain Pine Beetle program with a partial reimbursement from the City for tree maintenance. The Urban Forestry Board is also working on a Community Forestry Plan and a City tree list that would be available to the public.

Biegler reported that the Beautification Committee met last week and reviewed their list of projects. A representative from SDDOT provided an update on State highway projects and proposed beautification components to those projects. A number of the trees that will be planted in the spring will satisfy some of the Stearns grants that the Beautification Committee applied for and received on behalf of the City over the past several years. The Rapid City Public Parks Foundation also received a Stearns Grant for trees that can be planted anywhere in the park system to replace those lost during Winter Storm Atlas.

Memorial Bench – Eugene “Fuzz” Ewing

Stroot noted that this is the second hearing on the request from Marci Ewing Maddux for a Memorial Bench to honor her father Eugene “Fuzz” Ewing who passed away in July of 2014. Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Olson and carried to approve second reading of the request for a memorial bench for Eugene Ewing.

Annual Deer Harvest Report

Staff presented a list of expenses for the deer harvest as well as a map showing the baiting sites. Information was also presented on the deer that were harvested and where they were taken. The information will be presented to the SD Game Fish & Parks Department for record keeping purposes. All of the meat from the deer harvest was donated to the local food banks.

Robbinsdale Park Master Plan

Mike Stanley from Stanley Design Group and Matt Freidel and Tanya Olson from Tall Grass Landscape Architecture presented a draft of the master plan for Robbinsdale Park. This park consists of 112 acres and is the second largest park in the Rapid City park system. The analysis portion of the master plan should be complete in about two weeks and Stanley hopes to have a draft of the report by March. The next public meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on April 21, at South Middle School.

Stanley went through a draft of the report which acknowledged input from all the stakeholders currently using Robbinsdale Park. All the stakeholders like the park and want to remain at this location however they would like updated amenities. This includes the walking path and the off-leash dog area. Stanley also discussed logistics for park users including how they get to Robbinsdale Park.

Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to acknowledge the report on the Robbinsdale Park Master Plan.

Director’s Report

Biegler reported that the following projects that will going out for bid soon:

- Tennis Court and Play Court Resurfacing Project, and
- West Memorial Park Parking Lot Reconstruction

The West Memorial Parking Lot project will include reconstruction of the existing parking area and removal of the old tennis court surface. He added that all of the fencing has already been removed. This project will also include renovation of the area to serve as open space for the community.

Staff is also in the process of purchasing new play equipment which will be installed in Horace Mann Park.

Biegler reported that in the past the Advisory Board has scheduled a work session to review the Five Year Plan for the CIP fund. That work session could be scheduled, or an alternative would be that staff develop a project list to fulfill the dollars allocated each year and submit that information to the Board at the next regular meeting. Stroot spoke

in favor of staff putting together recommendations for the Board's consideration at the next meeting. DeSmidt added that staff is also proposing changes to the grant program used for park and recreation facility maintenance. Staff has inspected each facility with the lease holders and created a list of projects needed at each facility. The funding identified for the grant program could be used to complete projects on the newly developed list. This will also give all organizations an opportunity to receive funding and have improvements made to the city-owned facilities. It was the consensus of those present that staff should prepare information for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled for March 10, 2016.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM