

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
May 10, 2018

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 10, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Shon Hanczyc, Greg Oleson and Domico Rodriguez. The following members were absent: Tom Whillock, Brett Lawlor and Lynn Paulson. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Park Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Recreation Program Specialist Kristy Lintz, Landscape Designer Chelsea Levorsen and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Rodriguez, seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the minutes of April 12, 2018 as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Urban Forestry Board met yesterday. There was not a quorum of members present, so no official actions were taken. Those present discussed the Tree Care Workshop which was held on April 27th. The Workshop was very well received with varied attendance and staff plans to conduct additional workshops in the future.

Biegler reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and received information on the Bat Box program. It was also noted that Game, Fish & Parks is stepping back from any type of wildlife issues within the City limits. They will continue to respond to aggressive wildlife issues but other business will be left to the City.

The Beautification Committee also met last week and received updates on various projects happening throughout the city. They also discussed the proposed bus bench advertising proposals being discussed by the City Council and submitted a letter to the Mayor on this issue. They also discussed the landscape ordinance which is being revised.

E-BIKE PROPOSAL

Biegler presented a proposed Ordinance amendment drafted by the City Attorney's Office which would amend city codes to allow E-Bikes on the City's bike path and in the park system. E-bikes are relatively new in the Rapid City community and this issue was not addressed in the most recent revision to the Parks and Rec ordinances. Ginger Franz presented information to the Advisory Board about a new "Cycling Without Age" program that is coming to Rapid City and submitted a video for the Board's information. This program uses three-wheeled E-bikes and partners bike "pilots" with individuals who are not able to ride. The program fosters generational relationships for the pilot, families and care center employees. Oleson stated that he thinks this is a wonderful idea and asked if there are any issues due to the size of the bike. Franz stated that they haven't had any issues when they have had the bike out the past couple days.

Tim Rangitsch from Acme Bicycles presented an E-Bike for the Board's inspection. He noted that E-bikes only help the person who is making an effort. If a rider isn't trying, the E-bike won't do anything. He added that E-bikes are currently allowed on trails managed by the Game, Fish & Parks Department. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to recommend approval of the ordinance allowing E-bikes on City bike paths and in the park system.

Rushmore Little League Field Name

Biegler explained that Jim Bussell from Rushmore Little League approached him with a request to name the Minor's Division Field "Craig Tieszen Field" and he submitted a letter outlining their proposal. The Rushmore Little League board of Directors approved the proposal on May 4, 2018 and Deb Tieszen and her family fully support the naming of this field to honor her husband, Craig Tieszen. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Rodriguez and carried to make an exception to the one year rule and approve the request to name the Minor League field at Rushmore Little League "Craig Tieszen Field."

Director's Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe noted that the outdoor pools will open beginning May 30th. Swim lesson registration has already happened for the summer sessions and the Trips and Outings programs are operating at capacity. Lowe added that since the new Starter Building/Restroom facility is now open at Meadowbrook Golf Course Marco's Pizza will be using the old starter shack building for concessions on the course.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that the public has started using all park facilities since the weather has gotten nicer. All the restrooms are now open and picnic shelters are available for use. Staff is also working to turn on irrigation systems throughout the park system and at all the recreation facilities. Anderson also noted that as a cost saving measure, the Parks Division has accepted the task of cleaning all the restrooms and picnic shelters in the park system. Mowing is in full swing and staff is having a difficult time keeping up due to all the rain we've been getting. The greenhouse is full of flowers and staff will begin planting them in flower beds towards the end of the month. Staff has also started treating areas around the community for mosquito control.

Anderson reported that the Robbinsdale Park project is on schedule to be open to the public by May 15th. The bike path reconstruction and creek bank stabilization project is nearly done. This project addressed issues with the bike path near Billion Kia, behind the Fairgrounds Office, and behind the Fish Hatchery.

Biegler introduced the Department's new Landscape Designer, Chelsea Levorsen. She is currently figuring out the location of City facilities, city procedures, etc.

Biegler also reported that the City Council approved the Farmers Market location on E. Omaha Street for the next three years. Also the Fat Tire Festival has been re-branded and is now called the Black Hills Mountain Fest. It is scheduled for June 15-17 at Founders Park and will include bike races and demos as well as food, music and entertainment.

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