

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
September 13, 2018

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 13, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Tom Willock, Greg Oleson and Brett Lawlor. The following members were absent: Domico Rodriguez, Shon Hanczyc and Lynn Paulson. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Landscape Designer Chelsea Levorsen and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Lawlor seconded by Willock and carried to approve the minutes of August 9, 2018 as presented.

Agenda

Willock requested that the following item be added to the Agenda:

- Monarch Butterfly Milkweed Habitat

Liaison Reports

The Beautification Committee did not meet.

Anderson reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and discussed the annual deer harvest program. Staff will be meeting of the Police Dept. relative to qualifications for the sharp shooters and with the SD GF&P Department on the Deer Trend Survey which is typically done in October each year.

The Urban Forestry Board did not have a quorum of members present but there were informal discussions relative to developing a list of contractors who will be approved by the City to work on dead/diseased trees. The City Attorney's Office is also working with staff to develop an ordinance to encompass the changes that will be needed to deal with dead/diseased trees.

Promenade Corridor Discussion

Community Planning and Development Director Ken Young and Long Range Planner Sarah Hanzel presented a layout of the Promenade development being proposed along 6th Street from the Civic Center to the Performing Arts Center on Columbus Street. Young explained that he has been working on the Planning Commission presentation for approximately 9 months and has been meeting with local organization for quite some time on the proposal. Young gave an overall view of the project looking for input from the Parks and Rec Advisory Board on the entire project. The purpose of the project is to provide a connection from the Civic Center to the Performing Arts Center on Columbus Street. Hanzel gave a detailed presentation on the project noting that the catalyst will be an overhead crossing for Omaha Street. The current proposal envisions creating a tunnel for Omaha Street and a walking park area would be available on 6th Street. The plan does call for closing access to 6th Street from Omaha and would also require working with the Rapid Transit terminal for bus access. The proposal will provide opportunities for food vendors and art work that would be located along the entire corridor. Lowe asked who would be responsible for maintenance of the corridor.

Hanzel stated that the project is just in the beginning stages and specific details such as these have not been addressed. They will be looking for grant funding to do a feasibility study for the project. Hanzel stated that SD DOT is on board with the concept drawings for the project with the understanding that there is a lot of information that will need to be determined. Lawlor asked how this type of project would impact the homeless population in the area. Oleson stated that there was a lot of research done when Main Street Square was constructed; he asked if similar research has been done for this project. Hanzel stated that is what staff hopes to do next with a feasibility study. No action was taken at this time.

Black Hills Soccer Federation

Biegler presented a proposed Lease Agreement with Black Hills Soccer Federation, Inc. that incorporates the currently developed 40 acres and the additional 40 acres to the west. The proposed document will formalize the new name of the organization as the Black Hills Soccer Federation operating as Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club. The Lease Agreement is for 10 years with the ability to extend the lease for an additional 10 year period. Josh Felder, representing the Soccer club, stated that they are exploring options to partner with other organizations to use the facility when it is not in use by the soccer teams. Motion was made by Lawlor seconded by Oleson and carried to recommend approval of the Lease Agreement with the Black Hills Soccer Federation.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaisons

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson asked if the Board members would be interested in serving as liaisons to the Beautification Committee, Urban Forestry Board and Urban Wildlife Committee. Lowe stated that he is also looking for a liaison to the golf committee since Domico has resigned from the Advisory Board. Lawlor stated that he would serve as the liaison to the Golf Committee. Chairman Olson suggested that staff send an email to the Board members listing the committees and the times they meet and this can be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat

Willock explained that he has been talking with a local citizen who is interested in harvesting milk weed pods and distributing them throughout the community to benefit monarch butterflies. He is also working with Urban Forester Andy Bernard on this project. Monarch butterflies will only lay eggs on milk weed leaves. Willock added that he will keep the Board updated on this project.

Director's Report

Biegler reported that Domico Rodriguez has reluctantly submitted his resignation from the Advisory Board due to increased responsibilities at work and additional family responsibilities.

Biegler also noted that the application deadline for Vision Fund projects is October 12th.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that fall programming is underway in all divisions. He also commended the Parks Division staff for the great work they have done striping and maintaining the flag football field on Omaha Street. It is in great shape and all the teams have noticed and appreciate the efforts.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that mowing is winding down and staff is beginning to change gears for fall maintenance projects. Winterizing of water systems

throughout the park system has started and most of the restrooms will be closed for the season beginning October 1st. Anderson also reported that the Adopt a Park Program is getting a lot of attention and we currently have 7 parks that have been adopted by organizations. Anderson also briefed the Board members on construction projects throughout the community that are impacting the park system.

Landscape Designer Chelsea Levorsen reported on the following projects:

- Parking Lot Crack Seal Project
- Vision Fund project applications
- Development process for LaCroix parkland and MN Street Soccer field

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.