

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
November 9, 2017

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, November 9, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Domico Rodriguez, Rick Askvig Greg Oleson, Chuck Tinant and Shon Hanczyc. The following members were absent: None. Also present were City Council Liaison Darla Drew, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

Jean Kessloff invited the Board to an Open House to celebrate the completion and opening of the First Nation's Sculpture Garden. The Open House will be held in the Board Room at the Parks and Recreation Office on November 16th from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Minutes

Motion was made by Olson, seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the minutes of October 12, 2017 as presented.

Agenda

Olson requested that the following item be added to the Agenda: Report on the Sports Summit. The agenda was approved with the noted addition.

Liaison Reports

Biegler reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week. One of the topics of discussion was the deer harvest which will be done in December and January. The deer trend survey was conducted by Parks Division staff in October and the results of the survey were submitted to GF&P for their review. GF&P has recommended that 150 deer be harvested and the UWC agreed with their recommendation.

Biegler noted that the Urban Forestry Board also met and is finalizing the draft of the Emerald Ash Bore Management Plan. The UFB is also working on the Forestry Management Plan that will take into account condition of trees and identify dead and diseased trees in the right-of-way.

The Beautification Committee met also. They received a \$15,000 Stearns Grant for the West Memorial Park project.

Softball Facility

Steve Beardsley appeared before the Advisory Board to request use of the field space along Cambell Street which was previously used for soccer. He explained that there are four teams in the Post 22 Girls Softball Program. The only girls softball fields in town are located in Parkview Sports Complex and are deficient based on the number of teams needing field space. Beardsley explained that the parents involved with the Post 22 Girls Program would like to construct two fields to begin with at the Cambell Street site. They have visited the site and the space available is adequate. There is also space available at this site which would provide shade and rest areas for players. Beardsley stated that they would like to work out an agreement to lease the land for construction of softball fields. He added that they have

parents involved with the organization who have the skills necessary to accomplish this project.

Rodriguez stated that he has reservations about continuing to segregate activities for specific organizations in the community rather than creating space for everyone to use. This was one of the issues identified at the Sports Summit that looked at all sports opportunities in the city. Lowe stated that he feels this particular request is different in that there seems to be a large group of people willing to do the hard work to make this project a success. He added that there is nothing going on at this location at the present time. Biegler added that this is city-owned property and as such the City would retain the authority to allow the space to be used for other activities. Rodriguez reiterated that currently the City doesn't have anything that is open for everyone to use. We have segmented everything and organizations are claiming ownership of city spaces. The existing situation with leases of city-owned facilities is hampering the City's opportunity for growth. Drew stated that she would like to see this move forward to provide equity in opportunities for girls in the community.

Motion was made by Askvig and seconded by Tinant to direct staff to move forward with the process of leasing the subject property adjacent to Cambell Street to the Post 22 Girls Softball program. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried with Rodriguez voting no.

Urban Forestry Board Appointments

Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Askvig and carried to re-appoint Marcus Warnke and Victor Gust to the Urban Forestry Board for three year terms to expire December 31, 2020.

Dinosaur Park Concession Agreement

Biegler explained that the proposed Concession Agreement is for five years with the same terms and conditions as the previous document. Motion was made by Hanczyc seconded by Askvig and carried to recommend approval of the proposed Dinosaur Park Concession Agreement with Hisega, LLC.

Sports Summit Report

Karen Olson reported that the Summit was organized to reach out to organizations involved with sporting activities of all types in the community. The idea was to bring people together and gather information on all sports to grow them in a way that would really impact the city and western South Dakota economically. Olson stated that a lot of information was shared and she felt the Summit was a good start to the discussion. There were people with different ideas coming together to discuss a wide variety of issues. Rodriguez concurred noting that it was a very much needed discussion. He added that he is opposed to further segmenting activities throughout the community noting that Rapid City has been unable to benefit as much as possible because of these issues. Rodriguez added that as a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board we need to begin developing a long term plan for the city and how sports facilities are developed and used. Rodriguez stated that we need to have a plan as a Parks and Recreation Department. There was a lot of good discussion at the Summit but we have a long way to go. One of the things that I hope will grow from this discussion is the ability to explain to the public why it is that this kind of support from city government is valuable to the community as a whole. Olson concurred stating that we have the opportunity to encourage the discussion that will lead to something different. If we don't start we will never reach the destination.

Askvig left the meeting at this time.

Director's Report

Biegler reported that Parks Division staff has begun putting up Christmas lights throughout the downtown area as well as Wilson and Halley parks. Also, the fee increases were approved by the City Council in November and will take effect January 1, 2018.

Lowe reported that the Meadowbrook Golf Course restroom building is going out for bids with an anticipated bid award date of December 18 2017. Also, the Roosevelt Park Ice Arena's Winter Ice Show will be held on December 8th and 9th and he encouraged everyone to attend.

Biegler also informed the Advisory Board members that the First Nations Sculpture Garden ribbon cutting and reception will be held on November 16th from 3:00-6:00 pm at the Parks and Recreation Office.

Also, the Advisory Board members are invited to the Department's Christmas Potluck which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th from 11:30-1:00 pm.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on December 14, 2017.

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