

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

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 13, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Samantha Linhart, Michael Calabrese, Shon Hanczyc and Tom Willock. The following members were absent: Bret Lawlor. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Special Event Coordinator Kristy Lintz and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Linhart seconded by Willock and carried to approve the minutes of November 8, 2018 as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Urban Forestry Board has been discussing a tree contractors list that can be made available to citizens who have concerns about dead or diseased trees. The Board is also working on a Tree Care Workshop which would be held in the spring. Staff hosted a workshop in 2018 at the Outdoor Campus and it was a great success. Staff is hoping that this will become an annual event.

The Beautification Committee met last week and reviewed current projects using Stearns grant funds. Anderson noted that many of these projects are winding down and will be completed soon. The Committee is also working on a project to submit for Vision funding which would make improvements to the I-190 interchange. They would like to see the major entrances to Rapid City updated to make them more inviting for people coming into the community.

Anderson noted that the Urban Wildlife Committee did not meet but they have been discussing the deer management plan. He added that the annual deer harvest will begin in January.

Farmers Market Request

On behalf of the Black Hills Farmers Market, Barb Cromwell submitted a request that the open-air market area located at 145 E. Omaha Street be named "Market Park". She stated that the BHFM is committed to staying in this area for the foreseeable future and they are enjoying the space available for vendors and the ease of accessibility from Omaha Street. Biegler explained that the Advisory Board can make a recommendation on the naming request and that recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for final determination. He added that staff supports the proposed name of "Market Park" for this area as well as its use by the BH Farmers Market. He noted that they have some ideas for improvements to the area such as providing electricity for vendors. Linhart spoke in favor of the requesting noting that there is plenty of space for the farmers market to grow at this location. Motion was made by Hanczyc seconded by Linhart and carried to recommend approval of the request to name the area located at 145 E. Omaha Street "Market Park".

Annual Deer Harvest

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson noted that the City has been doing an annual deer harvest since 1995, with the exception of a couple years. This will be the second year we have done the program using Parks Division Staff. The Deer Trend Survey was done in October and the findings from that survey were submitted to the SD Game, Fish & Parks Department. Based on the numbers from the survey, GF&P is recommending that 250 deer be harvested in 2019. This item will be on the agenda for City Council action on December 17th. Once approved, staff will request tags from the State and once they are received the harvest will begin. Anderson also noted that due to budget reductions, the City only has funding to harvest 150 deer. He contacted Sportsmen Against Hunger and BH Sportsmen and these organizations have agreed to raise the funding necessary to pay for the remaining 100 deer. All the meat from the harvested deer is donated to the local food pantry.

Anderson added that GF&P will also be testing all deer for chronic wasting disease but they will pay for the additional costs associated with that process.

Director's Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the Swim Center hosted a very successful state-wide swim meet last week. He estimated that between participants and spectators there were between 400-500 people at the pool during this weekend. Also, sign-ups begin next week for the next session of swim lessons.

Season passes for the golf courses are on sale through the end of the year. Anyone purchasing a pass by Dec. 31st will get a 25 punch range pass free which is valued at \$125.

As far as recreation programming goes, dodgeball is finishing up and basketball leagues will begin in January. Winter volleyball has almost 150 teams which is a huge league. Teams play from 6-10 each night and every week of the year from Aug through May.

The Winter Ice Show will be held at the Roosevelt Ice Arena on Dec. 15th at 6:30 pm.

Lowe also informed the Advisory Board that a team from the NA3HL Hockey League has expressed interest in relocating to Rapid City and using the Roosevelt Ice Arena as their home rink. This is a pay-to-play league for kids ages 16-21. The City Council will take action on Monday to begin the process for discussions on the proposed move. Lowe stated that this will be a great addition for the Roosevelt Ice Arena as the team will be using ice time that is not being used at the present time. This will be a great opportunity for the ice arena to generate additional revenue from rental of ice time, signage and concessions sales. Staff expects to find out in the next few days about whether or not this proposal will continue.

Biegler reported that he is working with the City Attorney's Office on the language to be included in documents outlining field use by sports organizations in the community. We are switching from lease agreements to use agreements and the main difference will be not allowing exclusive use by any specific organization. Facilities that have been improved using Land Water Conservation Fund monies must be made available for public use. The National park Service doesn't like the terminology "lease agreement". This is something we must do to satisfy the requirements of the Park Service. Biegler added that more information will be submitted on this issue.

Special Event Coordinator Kristy Lintz reported that Rapid City was awarded a National Level 3 Tennis Tournament in 2019 for both girls and boys ages 14-18 years. The tournament will be held July 8-10, 2019.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson commended staff for getting all the Christmas lights up and working as well as making preparations for the Wilson Park tree lighting ceremony. He noted that many of the decorations they are putting up are very shabby and staff is beginning to look into funding to replace some of the decorations.

Staff also replaced playground equipment in Red Rocks Parks and added some elements for older kids. The playground equipment in Roosevelt Park has also been removed and the ground cover replaced with wood chips.

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