

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
January 10, 2019

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2019 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Brett Lawlor, Greg Oleson, Tom Willock and Michael Calabrese. The following members were absent: Samantha Linhart and Shon Hanczyc. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

Wes Storm asked if there were any discussion items relative to operations at Meadowbrook Golf Course that would be coming before the Board in the near future. Biegler explained that the contract with Matt Kimball for operations at the Pro Shop is in its final year. He added that the City Attorney's Office has determined that it is not appropriate for a private contractor to be supervising city employees, so changes are coming when Mr. Kimball's current contract expires. Staff is looking into a variety of options including a management company and operating the course with city staff. If a Management Company is hired, they will hire the staff and they won't be city employees. No decisions have been made at this time. Storm added that Matt Kimball has been doing a really good job at the Pro Shop. He was also concerned that if a Management Company is brought in, there will be lots of changes in how things are done which may not be beneficial to the golfers or the course. Storm supported the option of paying Kimball more and allowing him to hire the staff.

Minutes

Motion was made by Lawlor seconded by Willock and carried to approve the minutes of December 13, 2018 as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Beautification Committee met last week and reviewed current projects using Stearns grant funds. Many of these projects are winding down and will be completed soon. He also noted that the Committee worked on a project for the Vision Fund to update and improve the I-190 Interchange however the project was not recommended for approval. The Committee will continue to look for projects they can assist with.

Anderson noted that the Urban Wildlife Committee did not have a quorum, but the members present discussed the terms for members and the annual deer harvest. Anderson noted that the City Council authorized the harvesting of 250 urban deer for the 2018-2019 Season.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and discussed the application for Tree City USA. Anderson noted that the City has received this designation for 38 years. The UFB is also looking to apply for a grant from BH Energy for up to \$10,000 for trees throughout the community. Staff is working to host another Tree Care Workshop in the spring and looking for topics the public may be interested in. Arbor Day is fast approaching and staff is looking for ideas and locations that need some trees planted. Lawlor suggested Raider Park and recommended contacting Tom Keck about the project.

Beautification Committee Appointment

Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Lawlor and carried to re-appoint Cathy Robeson to the Beautification Committee for a three year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Urban Forestry Board Appointments

Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Willock and carried to re-appoint Mark Herreid and Eric East to the Urban Forestry Board for three year terms to expire on December 31, 2021.

Urban Wildlife Committee

Motion was made by Willock seconded by Lawlor and carried to re-appoint the following individuals to the Urban Wildlife Committee:

- 1) Dave Johnson – 1 year term to expire on December 31, 2019
- 2) Terry Mayes – 3 year term to expire on December 31, 2021

Advisory Board Liaisons

Staff explained that the Urban Wildlife Committee, Beautification Committee and Urban Forestry Board are each looking for a liaison from the Advisory Board.

- Urban Forestry Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 am
- Beautification Committee meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 am
- Urban Wildlife Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 am

All meetings are held in the conference room at the Parks and Recreation Office. If Advisory Board members are interested in serving as liaison to one of the committees, please contact Jeff Biegler or Scott Anderson.

Director's Report

Biegler reported that Rapid City was not successful in its attempt to get the USTA Zonal tennis tournaments to come to the community. They decided to keep the tournament in Arlington, TX.

Biegler gave an update on the Vision Fund process. Community projects have been submitted to the Vision Fund Review Committee and the Review Committee's recommendation will be submitted to the City Council on January 31st. That is the same date the Mayor will submit city projects to the Council for consideration. The following Parks and Recreation projects will be forwarded to the City Council:

- 1) Dinosaur Park Improvements: Fund construction of a universal access pathway that is ADA accessible – recommending \$1.7 million
- 2) Military Appreciation Park to be located at the corner of Omaha and Mt. Rushmore Road. Phase 1 will include the location of a B-1B Lancer Jet, pathways and landscaping – recommended funding \$390,000

Biegler stated that at some point staff would like to have a discussion with the Advisory Board on changes in management at Meadowbrook Golf Course. The golf associations like Matt Kimball and the way the course is being run but we have to do something different. He stated that there is going to be a change at the golf course in some fashion.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that staff has been working on equipment purchases for 2019 and working on the preliminary budget for FY2020. A tire shed was built at the Maintenance Shop which has been great for everyone involved. A tire leveler was purchased and all the equipment will be moved to the tire shed. Greenhouse staff is busy designing the flower beds that will be planted in the spring. The Cemetery Storage Building project is nearly complete and staff is still waiting on delivery of the ossuary to complete the cemetery improvement project. Anderson noted that since the City has not had an ossuary before it is requiring modifications to the City's ordinances which has turned out to be a very involved process. The ordinances pertaining to the cemetery haven't been updated for many years so staff is going over everything to make sure it is accurate.

Anderson also noted that our Department will be hosting the SDPRA Conference October 1-3 and staff is working to provide speakers and discussion topics that will be of interest to attendees.

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

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