

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
February 14, 2019

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 14, 2019 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Tom Willock, Shon Hanczyc, Samantha Linhart and Michael Calabrese. The following members were absent: Bret Lawlor. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Cemetery Supervisor Craig Nichols, Special Event Coordinator Kristy Lintz and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

On behalf of the Black Hills Disc Golf Confederacy, Scott Caesar urged the Board to continue development of a disc golf course at the LaCroix Links location. The City is in need of a second large course which would help the organization host larger and higher caliber events.

Election of Officers

Nominations were opened for the position of Advisory Board Chairman. Oleson nominated Karen Olson. No other nominations were offered. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Karen Olson.

Nominations were opened for the position of Vice Chairman. Hanczyc nominated Greg Oleson. No other nominations were made. Motion was made by Hanczyc seconded by Linhart and carried that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Greg Oleson.

Minutes

Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of January 10, 2019 as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met on Feb. 6th and staff presented a summary of the annual deer harvest. There was also discussion of a native plant display at Mary Hall Park. Willock stated that he would work with staff to see what can be done at this location.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and discussed the Urban Forestry Plan. This is an ongoing project the Board will continue to work on. The Right-of-Way Tree List was also updated as well as the Recommended Tree List for the Rapid City community. Staff is also working with the Board to host a Tree Care Workshop which is planned for May 6th at the GF&P Outdoor Campus. Some topics being considered for the Workshop are planting near power lines, storm water mitigation and the Emerald Ash Borer. Staff is also working on the annual Arbor Day Celebration. Anderson also noted that the UFB is working on a grant application to Black Hills Energy for approximately \$10,000 for trees to be planted throughout the community.

The Beautification Committee met last week and received an update on current projects. One of the main projects is the Omaha Street reconstruction which could begin late this year. The

majority of the project will be done in 2020 and 2021. This project will include medians similar to what was constructed on the Mt. Rushmore Road project.

Live Well Black Hills

Deanna Becket with Live Well Black Hills and Prairey Walking with SDSU Extension Office presented a slide show dealing with park safety concerns in Rapid City. The mission of this program is growing healthier communities and a focus group was done for the North Rapid area. Several issues dealing with safety of the parks in North Rapid came from the focus group. One suggestion was to have a liaison officer in this area more often. There are also lots of safety concerns around the Roosevelt Swim Center and Ice Arena. There are trails through the playground and park, but they aren't used very often because the homeless population seems to congregate in these areas. When discussing physical activity, it was noted that there are some affordable options, but programming can be expensive and transportation to these activities can be an issue. Walking noted that a community report will be generated once the data is compiled and she will make sure to get a copy to the Parks and Recreation Office.

Committee Reports

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported on the Golf, Ice and Aquatics Committees which all met last week. The Aquatics Committee submitted a Vision Fund project to construct a cover over the 50M Pool, but it was not funded. Contract dates for the swim teams have been approved. The Hockey Program Director at the Ice Arena has resigned because he now has a full-time job. Staff will seek qualified applicants for his replacement. Also, the NA3HL Hockey Team being proposed at the Ice Arena will not be happening this year. Lowe also noted that the Ice Arena will be closed from July 7 thru August 4 for maintenance. All the ice will be removed and the floor will be repainted.

Parks and Recreation Behavior Policy

Lowe stated that the information in the proposed Parks and Recreation Behavior Policy is currently being used at the City's recreation facilities. Staff has requested that it be put in writing as a policy so they have something to refer to when handling issues at these facilities. It was suggested that a statement be added to the policy that any entry fees paid would not be refunded if a user is ejected from a facility. Lowe supported the idea and stated he would add it to the document. Motion was made by Linhart seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Parks and Recreation Behavior Policy, as amended.

Cemetery Ordinance

Anderson explained that staff has painstakingly went through all the city codes dealing with the municipal cemeteries and updated the wording. Information on a new Ossuarium section has been added and fees for its use will be addressed by the City council in the near future. Cemetery Supervisor Craig Nichols noted that city codes were updated to reflect current operations and practices. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Willock and carried to recommend approval of Ordinance 6308 dealing with amendments to the City codes for the municipal cemeteries.

Annual Deer Harvest

Anderson explained that the annual Deer Trend Survey was done by Parks Division Staff in October. The findings of that survey were submitted to the Game, Fish & Parks Office for their use and information. Based on the data collected, GF&P recommended that the City cull

250 deer this season. They also stipulated that no more than 225 white tail deer can be harvested. A total of 226 deer were harvested in January and February of 2019. Anderson noted that the City's 2019 budget for this program only included funding to harvest 150 deer. BH Sportsman agreed to provide \$1,000 to go toward the processing cost of these 150 deer. They also agreed to provide funding to cover all the processing costs for all deer over 150. All the meat from the harvest was donated to the local food pantry.

Urban Wildlife Committee

Motion was made by Willock, seconded by Oleson and carried to appoint Shirley Frederickson and Diane Stephens to the Urban Wildlife Committee for three year terms to expire on December 31, 2021.

West Memorial Park

The next item on the agenda was discussion of West Memorial Park. Chairman Olson suggested that this item be put on the agenda for discussion at the March meeting. Chris Stover from Friends of Rapid City Parks stated that they are all about green space and keeping the floodway open. There have been many discussions about the open space over the years and we are opposed to any more development in these areas. Stover stated that it is their position that a B-1B at this location would be an intrusion on the green space. Stover requested that there be more discussion and public input on this project. There is not enough information presented to the public for anyone to make any comments. More public input is needed. Biegler concurred and explained that one of the reasons the funding for this project was put in Year 2021 was to allow more time for public input and design of the project. The information that was submitted was conceptual not the final plan. This item will be on the March agenda for continued discussion.

Director's report

Recreation Division Manager reported that there were a record 62 teams in the adult basketball leagues this year. Also, the Gold Rush Figure Skating Competition will be held this weekend at the Ice Arena.

Anderson reported that winter has been happening and parks staff have been clearing snow and ice and removing dead or diseased trees.

Biegler noted that the following projects on city parkland were approved for Vision Funding:

- Dinosaur Park Improvements
- Star of the West Softball Complex (replace restroom facilities)
- BMX Track (bleachers)
- Harney Little League (fencing, bleachers, dugouts)

Biegler added that the City is accepting applications for the Landscape Architect position and it will close on Sunday.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.