

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
August 8, 2019

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 8, 2019 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Tom Willock, Samantha Linhart and Shon Hanczyc. The following members were absent: Bret Lawlor and Michael Calabrese. Also present were City Council Liaison Greg Strommen, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Melissa Peterson and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Hanczyc seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of May 9, 2019 as presented.

Agenda

Willock requested that a discussion on balloon releases be added to the agenda. Motion was made by Linhart seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the Agenda with the noted addition.

Liaison Reports

Anderson noted that staff is submitting an application for Stearns Grant funding on behalf of the Beautification Committee. The funds will be used in the downtown area to update various areas.

The Urban Wildlife Committee met and discussed the proposed archery hunt within the city limits. They are also working to develop specifications for meat processing for the annual deer harvest. An MOU has been developed between the City, SD GF&P, SD Sportsmen Against Hunger and Black Hills Sportsmen Club, Inc. to clarify the different responsibilities for each organization and who will be paying for what for the deer harvest.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning. The city hired a seasonal intern to specifically work on the tree inventory. So far all the City street trees and the trees in the park system have been inventoried on the south and west sides of town. It is our hope to complete the inventory next summer. The UFB also began discussing Arbor Day for 2020. Timberline Little League has expressed interest in planting some trees at their baseball complex.

Staff also met with the Superintendent at the landfill to make sure everything is ready according to the EAB Emergency Plan that has been developed. Landfill staff is confident they will be able to handle the trees that will have to be removed. Urban Forestry Andy Bernard has estimated there are approximately 40,000 ash trees in the Rapid City community that could be impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Guidelines for Use of Recreation Facilities

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe explained that the Priority Use Policy was implemented in 2012 to govern use of the Swim Center by the two existing swim teams. He noted that according to the policy the number one user of the facility should be the City's Aquatics programs. Then it is school programming and then it is user groups. When the

guidelines were established in 2012 and decisions were made on how much was going to be allowed for user groups, it was fairly early in the recreation programs. A majority of the time was designated for the swim teams; more than aquatic division programming. Currently the user groups get 60% of the time available and the aquatics programs use 40%. This is considered Prime Time which is from 4:45 to 8:45 pm, Monday through Thursday.

If changes are made to the policy, they will have to go through the Public Works Committee and the City Council since the original documents were approved using that process.

Stan Anker, representing the RC Racers swim team, explained that swimming is different than other sports. The short course season goes from Sept. – Feb and the long course season is from April through July of each year. The guidelines state that the amount of time allocated to each team will be determined by the number of participants on January 1st of each year. The reason they have requested that the guidelines be reviewed is because the numbers of participants on a swim team will fluctuate greatly during the year.

Duncan Olney, head coach and acting President of the GREAT Swim Team stated that they are opposed to any changes to the guidelines. He noted that the guidelines have been used against the GREAT swim team since 2006. Now that participation numbers have changed and the GREAT swim group has more members than the Racers, they get more time because they have more members. The Racers now want to change that so the amount of time is equal for each group. Olney stated that they are opposed to changing the policy because they need more time in the pool because they have more members.

Lowe noted that the last two presidents of the swim teams were really working to combine the swim teams into one group but those individuals are no longer involved with the programs. The swim teams currently pay \$8/lane/hour which generates approximately \$40,000 in revenue for the Aquatics Center each year. Lowe added that this is the same situation that happened with the ice arena several years ago. There were lots of user groups that wanted to use that facility other than the hockey program. Since the hockey program didn't get the amount of time they wanted at the facility, they ended up moving out and getting a facility of their own. The city took a hit for a couple years when they moved out, but now we are back to where we need to be.

Lowe submitted information on the current schedule for the Swim Center based on the current guidelines; Swim Teams get 60% of the time and the City gets 40%. Swim Team time is divided up 70% for the GREAT team and 30% for the Racers. He also submitted proposals for the following usage schedules:

Scenario 1: Swim Teams would divide 60% of Prime Time based on Priority Use on a daily basis (90 hours per week). GREAT would get 60% of the time and the Racers would get 40% of the time. City programs would be scheduled the remaining 40% of the time.

Scenario 2: City would retain 50% of Prime Time hours and swim teams would divide the remaining 50% (77 Hours per week). GREAT would get 60% and the Racers would get 40% of the time allocation.

Scenario 3: City would retain 60% of Prime Time hours and the swim teams would divide the remaining 40% (64 hours per week). GREAT would get 60% of the time and the Racers would get 40%.

Discussions continued on how the number of swimmers is determined and what the actual number of swimmers using the pool is. It is possible for a swimmer to be listed on the roster for a team, but not ever use the pool. Willock asked if there is a more accurate way to assess who is swimming. Lowe stated that our staff could determine the number of swimmers twice per year rather than just on January 1st. We should work to get an accurate assessment of the number of swimmers on each team that actually use the facility. There was also discussion of calculating the time allocated to each based on a daily basis rather than on total time available. Lowe stated that he would like to continue to calculate the usage based on total time available because that is how it is calculated for all the City's recreation facilities (ice arena and community gyms).

Anker added for the Board's information they did submit a Vision Project to put a cover over the 50M Outdoor Pool, but it didn't go anywhere. Oleson asked what the time frame is to make a decision on this issue. Linhart suggested that the Board look at all the information and if we want to make changes they can be implemented for the next contact time frame. That would let the Board really look into this issue and make a good decision for the community.

Motion was made by Willock seconded by Linhart and carried to end discussion for today, proceed with the next time usage contracts for the swim teams under the existing guidelines, and that staff bring this issue back to the Advisory Board soon for continued discussion.

Beautification Committee Awards

The Beautification Committee's Yard of the Month award winners are:

June: Judy Septon

July: Blaise & Carmie Emerson

None of the recipients were able to attend the meeting but the Beautification Committee requested that their names be recorded in the minutes.

Proposed Archery Season

Anderson stated that the Urban Wildlife Committee wanted to go on record in support of the proposal to create an archery deer season in select areas of the city. He submitted a copy of the Resolution Establishing the City of Rapid City Archery Antlerless Deer Access Permit Program for the Board's consideration. The Program will be managed by the Police Dept. and the SD GF&P Dept. Hunters will be required to obtain a license from GF&P and will be required to pass a proficiency test. There will be select areas within the city established as Access Zones and hunters will be required to stay within the boundaries of their zone at all times. Staff noted that this issue is before the City Council at this current time so no action is necessary.

Balloon Release

Willock explained that at a meeting of the Front Porch Coalition, it was reported that there was going to be a balloon release at a special event be held to call attention to the issue of

suicide prevention and efforts that are being made to combat this issue. It was noted that the City has no ordinances that prohibit the release of balloons, but it is well known that they do cause environmental issues when they pop or otherwise come to the ground. No action was taken on this issue.

Director's Report

Lowe reported that the Ice Arena is now open after being closed for annual maintenance. The ice was completely removed and regenerated and it looks great. There were record numbers of participants in the Recreation Division's summer programs. There were also 150 participants in the BH Senior Games which was very good. There were 170 junior golfers in 2019 which is also a great turn out. The annual doggie swim is scheduled for Sept. 3rd at the Hilton Pool in Sioux Park.

Anderson noted that the Parks Dept. did a record amount of mowing this year, and had a record low for water usage for irrigation in the park system. He also reported that there is a new shelter and play area in Canyon Lake Park near the entrance to the park.

Petersen updated the Advisory Board on the following projects:

- 2019 Asphalt Paving Project
- Roosevelt Swim Center Parking Lot expansion
- Pathway at Market Park
- Replace golf cart paths at Meadowbrook Golf Course
- Parking Lot repairs at Parkview, Market and Robbinsdale Parks
- Sidewalk at Willow Park
- Redid basketball court at Scott Mallow Park
- New floor at Park Maintenance Shop
- Fit Lot being developed adjacent to the Swim Center

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