

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
December 12, 2019

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 12, 2019 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Michael Calabrese and Tom Willock. The following members were absent: Brett Lawlor, Samantha Linhart and Shon Hanczyc. Also present were City Council Member Greg Strommen, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Calabrese seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of November 14, 2019 as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met on Dec. 4th and discussed the deer management program. Anderson noted that City staff developed a set of specifications for processing of the deer carcasses which will be delivered to a local processing plant. The Department received three quotes of which Cutting Edge was the lowest at a cost of \$75 per deer.

Anderson noted that the UWC also approved a request from staff to sponsor the BEE CITY USA proposal. There are certain things that must be done annually, similar to the Tree City USA Program. A Resolution Designating Rapid City as a Bee City USA affiliate will be considered by the City Council on January 20, 2020.

Strommen noted that at the last Urban Forestry Board it was brought up that beavers are causing issues with trees along the creek. Anderson stated that he is aware of the issues and will bring them to the UWC for consideration.

Anderson also reported that the Urban Forestry Board discussed tree plantings that will be done next year. The City received \$15,000 in funding which will be used to replace trees that have been removed throughout the community the last two years. Staff intends to introduce a variety of trees to the area with the purpose of creating a more diverse urban forest.

Beautification Committee Enhancement Program

Steve Doshier, Chairman of the Beautification Committee, explained that the committee members have updated the Enhancement Program which was originally prepared in 2012. He provided copies and went through the Program with the Advisory Board members. He stated that he feels it is important that the City Council understand what beautification does for the community and that improvements are needed. Doshier added that he has a meeting with the Mayor scheduled and will present the enhancement Program to him also. No action was taken.

Appointments

Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Calabrese and carried to appoint Tom Krafka to the Urban Wildlife Committee for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Motion was made by Willock seconded by Oleson and carried to re-appoint Jim Good to the Urban Wildlife Committee for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Director's Report

Anderson reported that parks staff has been putting up Christmas decorations throughout the park system and there are new decorations along Main and St. Joe Streets in the downtown area.

The latest big snow event brought up some issues with the Department's snow routes and how these large events are handled. We have purchased some better equipment over the past few years which allow us to clear paths from 4" wide to 10' wide. Staff continues to work on snow removal procedures and routes during major weather events.

Anderson also reported that the LaCroix Sidewalk and Disc Golf project has been completed and he anticipates that a few small improvements will be made this summer.

Landscape Designer Melissa Peterson reported that she is working on creation of a community garden area at LaCroix Park and anticipates that it will be created in a fashion that won't require a lot of maintenance. The City is assisting with the original design and the hope is that it will run as a community volunteer activity.

Petersen also noted that a citizen approached her about the possibility of adding an obstacle course to the off-leash area in Robbinsdale Park which could be an interesting idea.

The fire suppression project continues in the Halley Park Office, Dinosaur Park concession building and Meadowbrook Golf Clubhouse. The project is complete at the Executive Golf Course Clubhouse building. There are challenges that will have to be resolved for the Dinosaur Park and Meadowbrook locations.

Biegler reported that the following items were approved at the last City Council meeting:

- Authorized the harvesting of 250 deer and the program will begin in January. The shooters are members of our staff, have qualified and are now approved to participate in the program.
- Approved a proposal from Community Development to commence a study of the 6th Street Corridor which would provide pedestrian access from the Civic Center to the Performing Arts Center on Columbus Street. The project will include some type of crossing of Omaha Street. No funding has been identified for implementation of the plan.

Biegler also reported that there is a meeting scheduled next week in Pierre to present proposals to purchase rail banked property. The city intends to submit a proposal to purchase some of these properties to continue the bike path to the east portions of the community.

The City has also accepted a proposal from Pyrotechnic Display for a fireworks display in 2020, 2021 and 2022. This is the same company we have used the past 3 years.

Biegler reported that he met with individuals working on a proposal to change the name of Founders Park and it now seems apparent that changing the name of the park is not a good idea. However, a master plan for Founders Park has been done and includes the area north of the creek that could be developed into a new area that would honor the historic Native American use of this area. The group working on this idea will continue to discuss the project.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.