

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
May 9, 2019

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 9, 2019 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Tom Willock, Samantha Linhart, Bret Lawlor and Michael Calabrese. The following members were absent: Shon Hanczyc. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, 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 Willock seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of February 14, 2019 as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Biegler reported that the Urban Forestry Board did not meet. He added that the Tree Care Workshop sponsored by the UFB was held on May 6th and was very well received however attendance was down from previous years.

The Urban Wildlife Committee did not meet.

The Beautification Committee met last week and discussed various road projects in the community and possible beautification elements that might be available for those projects.

Black Hills Soccer Federation

Roger Tellinghuisen presented a proposed Donor Agreement between BH Soccer Federation and Medical Facilities (USA) Holdings, Inc. that delineated the agreement for Naming Rights at the Dakota Fields Soccer Complex. Per the Agreement MFC will provide \$35,000 in funding each year for five years, said funds to be used for capital improvements at the facility, not day to day operations of the soccer program. MFC will also have an option to renew the agreement for an additional five years at the same donation level. Jack Kaup, CEO of BH Surgical Hospital explained that they have a sports medicine division which provides services to many sports organizations in the region. We provide an athletic trainer to help the kids stay healthy and address injuries that come up. They consider this an investment in the community to continue to make Rapid City a great place to live.

Oleson asked about the makeup of Medical Facilities Holdings. Attorney Kyle Wiese explained that Rehab Doctors, BH Orthopedic & Spine Center, Pro Motion Physical Therapy, and BH Surgical Hospital are all part of MFC. These organizations come together and collaborate to provide sports medicine to a host of athletic organizations, from concussion testing to sideline help. MFC provides athletic trainers at no cost as well as providing the equipment used in the activities.

Biegler noted that this is a great opportunity for BH Soccer Federation and the community to get badly needed influx of funds to make sure this facility continues to improve. The Parks and Recreation Department fully supports the proposed Donor Agreement and the proposed naming of the facility. Biegler encouraged the Advisory Board to approve the Agreement and the proposed name of "Medical Facilities Sports Complex at Dakota Fields "

Lawlor abstained from voting on this issue due to his connection with MFC.

Motion was made by Willock and seconded by Linhart to approve the Donor Agreement and naming rights, as presented. The motion carried with Lawlor abstaining.

Cemetery Regulations

Biegler explained that Department staff worked with the City Attorney's Office to completely update the ordinances and regulations governing the City's cemeteries. The ordinance and new regulations were approved by the City Council on March 18. No further action is needed.

Staff also presented a Resolution Establishing Rates for the Niche Ely Ossuarium in Mt. View Cemetery which was also approved on March 18th. Biegler noted that staff has already sold a number of spaces in the new Ossuarium and there seems to be a lot of interest in this facility from funeral homes and the general public.

West Memorial Park Development

Biegler explained that a Military Appreciation Park project was approved as a Vision Fund project earlier this year at the corner of Mt. Rushmore Road an Omaha Street. There are some questions about if this is an appropriate use of this side and an appropriate project. Funding for the project won't be available until FY2021 so there is time for additional discussion on how the project might look. A conceptual drawing was done, but no design has been started. Willock stated that he is not a fan of the project and he has heard several negative comments about having a bomber at this location. Olson stated that people who have contacted her expressed concern about the size of the plane and what would happen if there were flood conditions in the area. Oleson noted that Bill Eldridge appeared before the Advisory Board and gave a presentation on the concept, but no approvals have been given. Biegler stated that the idea behind the project is military appreciation. The location was chosen because of its high visibility in the community. He added that there will be time for public input on this project before it is finalized.

Director's report

Recreation Division Manager reported that both Meadowbrook and Executive golf courses are open for the season. Lowe added that changes are going to be happening at Meadowbrook. Currently Matt Kimball supervises city employees in the Pro Shop. Legally a contract employee like Matt shouldn't be supervising city employees so there are a couple suggestions for changes that are being considered. Lowe noted that the existing situation will remain in effect until the end of the year when Kimball's contract expires.

The City's outdoor swimming pools will open on the following schedule:

- Swim Center 50M Pool – May 28
- Parkview Pool – May 30
- Horace Mann Pool – May 31
- Sioux Park Pool – June 8

Lowe noted that Sioux Park is opening later than normal because of painting that needs to be done. This project has been delayed due to the current weather conditions.

Greg Oleson commended the City's Ice Arena staff for a great adult hockey program. The season went very well and he commended all who had a hand in it.

Biegler introduced Melissa Petersen who is the new Landscape Designer. She will be overseeing projects that are happening in the park system and at recreation facilities.

Biegler also noted that May is Bike Month and the Department's annual Bike for Bacon event will take place in Founder's parks on Friday, May 17th. The annual Black Hills Mountain Fest is scheduled for Jun 21-23 and there are lots of exciting events happening this year. Check out the web site at bhmtfest.com.

Biegler reported that staff is working with representatives of the Expedition Baseball League to have a team in Rapid City. An agreement is being worked on for them to use McKeague Field for the 2020 season.

It was also suggested that a field trip would be in order at one of the coming meetings to update board members on current projects or facilities. Biegler concurred noting that this could perhaps happen at the July meeting.

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