

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Halley Park Board Room  
February 13, 2020

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 13, 2020 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Tom Willock, Samantha Linhart, Shon Hanczyc, and Brett Lawlor. The following members were absent: Michael Calabrese. Also present were City Council Member Greg Strommen, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**Election of Officers**

Motion was made by Linhart, seconded by Willock and carried to defer the election of officers to the March meeting.

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Linhart seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of January 9, 2020 as presented.

**Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

**Liaison Reports**

Biegler noted that the Beautification Committee did not meet.

Anderson reported that the Urban Forestry Board did not meet this morning because there was not a quorum of members present. There were informal discussions on the plans for Arbor Day. Staff will work with Timberline Little League to plant trees at the baseball complex on April 18, 2020. The plan is to have kids from the league help staff plant approximately 40 trees around the complex. Anderson also noted that due to time constraints on Parks Staff there will not be a Tree Care Workshop this spring.

The Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and received a report from Tom Krafka on Chronic Wasting Disease in deer. He provided a handout which contained a lot of information on this disease which has been around for many years. The UWC also discussed the annual deer harvest and expressed concern about the number of urban deer. There is a great deal of property damage that can be attributed to urban deer which includes damage to landscaping and collisions with automobiles.

Terry Mayes, Chairman of the UWC, was present and stated that he appreciates the work the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board does on behalf of the community. Mayes presented a letter to the Board outlining information the UWC has found while studying the issue of car/deer collisions within the city limits. On average, there are 350 car/deer collisions within the city each year. It is estimated that damage to vehicles from these collisions exceeds a million dollars per year which the UWC feels is unacceptable.

The annual deer harvest has not significantly diminished the number of car/deer collisions. The UWC feels increased funding is needed to expand the program significantly to reduce the urban deer population and subsequently, car/deer collisions.

The UWC would also encourage the city to begin to enforce the ordinance banning the feeding of wildlife within the city limits. Currently the fine is \$5 and there is no enforcement.

Mayes requested that the City forward this information to the County and other governmental bodies within the county that may have similar issues with car/deer collisions in the hopes that information can be shared and a solution found for this issue.

Willcock left the meeting at this time.

Van Lindquist also spoke in favor of finding solutions to the urban deer population in Rapid City. He submitted a letter explaining that he lives on Fairlawn Drive and has only had a deer problem the past few years. The deer have eaten his landscaping the past several years and it is costly to replace. Lindquist presented photos showing the bushes he planted which were either eaten by the deer or completely pulled out of the dirt within about 3 weeks.

Biegler noted that the SD GF&P Department is in charge of deer issues in South Dakota. The City operates an annual deer harvest under their supervision. They will have to be an integral part of any discussions to reduce the deer population in and around Rapid City. He noted that availability of funds will also be an issue for the City when discussing options to reduce the urban deer population.

Anderson presented a report showing the costs of the FY2020 Deer Harvest for the Advisory Board's information. He also noted that the Department is grateful to the Sportsman Against Hunger and BH Sportsmen organizations for the donations they have made to the processing costs for the deer harvested through this program. The meet is donated to Feeding South Dakota.

### **Director's Report**

Lowe reported that Recreation programs are running smoothly with record numbers of participants in basketball and volleyball. The Recreation Division's Summer Day Camps were opened for registration last week and are 1/3 full already. Hockey is in full swing at the Ice Arena and the Gold Rush Figure Skating Competition will be held on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Competition will include participants from 5 different states. The first Golf Committee meeting was held and some things will be changed to increase numbers and revenue for the course. Lowe noted that Kristy Lintz will be the Recreation Specialist running the Pro Shop and everyone is anxious to get this new phase of Meadowbrook Golf Course up and running.

Anderson reported that Parks staff worked to rehab the former clubhouse at LaCroix Park and it will now house the Recreation Division's Young Athletes program as well as the art in the park activities. All the supplies necessary to run the programs will be housed and stored at his location rather than moving them around all summer. Staff is also working on upgrades to restrooms in the park system and purchasing video cameras for the Maintenance Shop and yard area. Seeds and plantings have been ordered for the greenhouse.

Anderson also noted that the Cemetery will soon have an online directory to assist with location of graves and this will be a good feature for the cemetery to offer.

Anderson also noted that staff has been using some of the wood from trees that are removed to replace planks on picnic tables and it has been working out well. This has been a good use of recycled wood for the community. He noted that staff is going to try to use some of the planks on one of the walls in the lobby of the Administration Building also.

Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen reported that the community is officially a Bee City USA and we did receive a lot of media coverage on this issue.

The two bridges for Meadowbrook Golf Course have been delivered and will be installed soon. The project is scheduled to be completed in May.

Biegler reported that he and staff from the City Attorney's Office, Engineering and Public Works are working on a policy to deal with hanging banners on the light poles in the downtown area. The policy will determine who is responsible for the banners and the light poles.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.