

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
March 12, 2020

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, March 12, 2020 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Shon Hanczyc, Michael Calabrese and Tony Marshall. The following members were absent: Tom Whillock, Brett Lawlor and Samantha Linhart. Also present were City Council Member Greg Strommen, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Election of Officers

Motion was made by Calabrese and seconded by Hanczyc to nominate Karen Olson for the position of Chairman. No other nominations were made. Upon unanimous vote Olson was elected Chairman.

Motion was made by Calabrese and seconded by Hanczyc to nominate Shon Hanczyc for the position of Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made. Upon unanimous vote Hanczyc was elected Vice Chairman.

Olson welcomed Tony Marshall as the newest member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Marshall was appointed by the City Council on March 2nd and his term will expire in 2022.

Minutes

Motion was made by Calabrese seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of February 13, 2020 as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Beautification Committee did not meet since the Chairman of the group is out of town.

Anderson also reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week. Their Chairman is now Terry Mayes and he gave a report of his discussions with the Advisory Board in February relative to issues with the urban deer population. Terry Hafley from SD GF&P reported that 249 deer were taken during the City's annual deer harvest and only 2 tested positive for CWD.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and discussed the annual Arbor Day Celebration being planned for 2020. So far the staff intends to work with members of Timberline Little League and plant approximately 40 trees throughout the baseball complex on April 18th. The backup date will be April 25th.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the next quarterly meetings for the Golf, Ice and Aquatics Committees are scheduled for March 31st. Currently Brett Lawlor serves on the Golf Committee and Shon Hanczyc serves on the Aquatics Committee. Greg Oleson was the liaison to the Golf Committee and since he is no longer on the Advisory Board this position will have to be filled by another member of the Board. Lowe asked the Board members to consider serving on this committee and to contact him if they are interested. The Committees meet about every 3 months for approximately one hour.

Urban Deer Discussion

Scott Zieske presented a letter to the Advisory Board outlining the problems he has been having with the urban deer population and how it affects his property in Countryside North Subdivision. There is a neighbor in his area that is feeding the deer and she will not stop even when she has been told that it is against city ordinance and the covenants of the property. Zieske stated that he feels the current fine of \$5 for feeding deer is ridiculously ineffective. When combined with the lack of meaningful enforcement, people can and do ignore the current law with impunity. Zieske stated that changes need to be made for the safety, property investment and cleanliness of the community and he urged the Board and City Council to address this issue strongly and as soon as possible.

Biegler stated that the current issues with the urban deer population are property damage, vehicle/car collisions and people feeding the deer. We are looking at trying to get a marketing campaign put together to provide public awareness and education on these issues. In the specific issue of a neighbor feeding deer, it may take a letter from the City Attorney's Office and we could check into that. No additional action was taken on this issue.

Memorial Bench Request

Dawn Adams was present to request that a memorial bench be located in Robbinsdale Park in memory of her grandmother. They will pay for all the costs for the bench and a concrete pathway from the current sidewalk to the bench. Anderson noted that he has been working with Adams on this request and submitted a location map for the project. Motion was made by Marshall seconded by Calabrese and carried to approve the request from Dawn Adams for a Memorial Bench and direct staff to work with the family on installation.

Director's Report

Lowe reported that the Covid 19 Virus has impacted many scheduled activities. The remaining games for basketball and volleyball have been cancelled and partial refunds will be issued. Also, the annual Kids Fair has been postponed.

Anderson reported that staff is getting water systems ready to turn on in the parks and at recreation facilities. Wood chips are being added to the playground in Sioux Park and edging is being added to the new playground at Mary Hall Park. Staff is looking to add more recreation facilities to the central control system such as Harney, Timberline, Rushmore and Canyon Lake Little League complexes. The tree crews have been removing Ash trees to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer as well as removing hazardous trees throughout the park system.

The Greenhouse staff has been planting seeds and will begin cleaning up landscape areas to prepare for planting in the spring and cemetery staff is working with an individual who wants to construct a mausoleum at the cemetery.

Biegler reported on the following items on behalf of Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen:

- The vendor is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way done with the fire suppression project at Halley Park, Dinosaur Park, Meadowbrook Golf Clubhouse and Executive Club House.
- New bridges have been installed at Meadowbrook Golf Course but the contractor is waiting for the handrails to be delivered.
- Star of the West restroom project is under construction and should be completed in late spring.
- Community gardens at LaCroix Park are located in a corner of the area that was part of the old soccer field. A community build for this project has been postponed due to the weather,
- Bids were opened for the Water slide Resurfacing Project and the results were beneficial to the city. The outdoor slides will be done first and completed by June. The indoor slides will be done when the Swim Center closes for annual maintenance at the end of the summer.
- There is funding available in the CIP Fund to replace or install new restroom facilities. Staff is currently considering replacing the facilities at Storybook Island and Thompson Park and constructing new restrooms at Market Park and the W. Fulton Trailhead.
- Staff is also looking into doing some work on the rock walls along the ponds in Canyon Lake Park. The next step is to get a scope and design for the project.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.