

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
July 9, 2020

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 9, 2020 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Michael Calabrese, Tom Willock, Shon Hanczyc and Tony Marshall. The following members were absent: Brett Lawlor. 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 Secretary Amy Graves.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Calabrese and seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Minutes of June 11, 2020, as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Anderson reported that the Urban Forestry, Urban Wildlife and Beautification Committees did not meet in July.

Anderson reported that the Beautification and Urban Forestry Committees are planning to submit applications for the 2020 Stearns Foundation Grant. The applications are due on July 31, 2020. Melissa Petersen, Landscape Designer will meet with the Beautification Committee to discuss options for their grant request. Andy Bernard, Urban Forester will work with the Urban Forestry Committee.

Anderson said he has been in contact with Jeff Olson from Sportsman Against Hunger regarding the status of the Deer Management Program. Olson said the organization will be in contact with the City regarding their plans to participate in the 2021 program.

Lowe reported that the Aquatics, Golf and Ice Committees have not met. The committees generally meet twice per year and no meetings are scheduled at this time. Lowe said the Ice Committee has a vacant position for a Parks and Recreation Board Liaison and he asked the members to contact him if they are interested in filling the position.

Parks and Recreation Department and COVID-19 Updates

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeff Biegler:

Biegler said that City Council members and the Department Directors continue to meet weekly to discuss the developments regarding Covid-19.

Biegler reported that the park shelters and amenities were opened on July 1st. The Ice Arena and Swim Center are scheduled to open September 1st.

Biegler said staff members have been meeting through Zoom with Parks and Recreation employees throughout the state. All of the agencies are dealing with similar situations and they are sharing information on how they are managing their facilities and programs.

Recreation Division Manager, Doug Lowe:

Lowe said staff is working on guidelines for opening the facilities in the fall. Lowe will provide a copy of the guidelines to the board and the public when they are available. Lowe will meet with the Rapid City School District to discuss options on programming in the Community Gyms, he said the school district has determined that outside organizations will not be allowed to operate programs on school property. Lowe said the Recreation Division is considering the option to only offer outdoor programs this fall. Lowe will give an update at the August meeting.

Lowe is working on a Use Agreement for the Roosevelt Ice Arena with a team from the NA3HL junior hockey league. Lowe has meetings scheduled with the organization and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Lowe said the Golf programs have been successful this year. Executive Golf Course has recorded record revenues. A junior golf program with more than 100 participants was held at Meadowbrook Golf Course. The program has received positive feedback from parents and participants.

Parks Division Manager, Scott Anderson:

Anderson said complaints regarding the Parks have reduced. The Parks have had a lot of activity and they have seen an increase in trash and maintenance required for repairs, vandalism and graffiti. Staff has been able to catch up on mowing. Weed spraying has been addressed and they have received assistance from Pennington County Weed and Pest. The tree crew has committed the majority of their schedule to mowing. There are several trees at the Parks Maintenance Shop that will be planted in the fall.

Anderson said Melissa Petersen has been working on the Adopt-a-Park program. Volunteers have worked at Wilson Park, Vickie Powers Park and the Skyline Wilderness trails.

Employees from RDO Equipment Company volunteered one week of their time to assist with mowing at the cemetery. A video was shared by RDO which will be made available for the board to view.

The restrooms at Founders Park, Legacy Commons, Skyline Wilderness Park and Vickie Powers Park were opened in late June. The restrooms at the shelters in Canyon Lake Park, Old Storybook Island and Robbinsdale Park were opened when the shelters were made available on July 1st. Anderson mentioned that CIP funds have been designated for future restroom projects. The project will consist of upgrading existing restrooms and adding new restrooms.

The City received \$20,000 for the West Nile Mosquito Grant. The grant will provide funds for chemicals and supplies for parks, city golf courses and storm water drainage areas.

Anderson, Biegler and Petersen met with Nick Uhre, owner of the Grand Gateway Hotel to discuss the need for pathway improvements, lighting and possible amenities in the Knollwood Drainage area.

Discussion was held on grass and weed complaints that are received. Marshall asked about mowing procedures and said a mowing plan would be beneficial for the public to view. Anderson said a map and standards could be made available for the public on the Parks and Recreation web page.

Olson mentioned that she has heard positive comments regarding the parks and the benefits they offer to the community.

Marshall mentioned that the public is invited to participate in the survey for the Transportation, Bike, and Pedestrian Plans. The survey is located on the city web page. Marshall encouraged the board members to review the plan and provide input for the project.

Biegler mentioned that the board has a vacancy. Biegler encouraged the board members to spread the news and ask residents to complete a Citizen Interest Form if they are interested in the position.

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Hanczyc and seconded by Calabrese and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.