

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2020
5:30 PM

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 13, 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 Laura Armstrong, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks and Recreation Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen and Administrative Assistant Amy Graves.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Calabrese and seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2020, as presented.

Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Karen Olson welcomed Laura Armstrong to the meeting. Armstrong has been selected to serve as the City Council Liaison. Armstrong said she is looking forward to serving as the liaison for the board and stated that she will follow-up on issues or questions that are brought to her attention.

Liaison Reports

Biegler said the Beautification Committee met on August 6th. The committee reviewed current City and SDDOT sidewalk, road and park projects. Biegler said the committee submitted an application to the Gwendolyn Stearns Foundation for their 2020 grant program. If approved the funds will be designated to add additional trees in LaCroix Park.

Biegler reported that the Urban Forestry Committee also submitted a grant application to the Gwendolyn Stearns Foundation for tree replacements in Robbinsdale Park, Wilson Park and Halley Park.

The Urban Wildlife Committee and the Urban Forestry Committee did not meet in August.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler said the CDC guidelines regarding Covid related quarantines have been updated. The Human Resources Department plans to summarize the guidelines and will share the updates with city employees. Biegler will have additional information at the September meeting.

Biegler told the board that the Mayor will present the 2021 budget proposals to the City Council on August 17th.

Recreation Division Manager Report

Lowe presented the Covid-19 reopening plans for the Roosevelt Swim Center and the Roosevelt Ice Arena. Lowe stated the plans can be adjusted if there are necessary changes that need to be addressed.

Lowe reported that plans for the NA3HL (North American 3 Hockey League) are moving forward. A Conditional Use Review application has been submitted to request the approval of operating a beer garden at the ice arena during league games. Currently the league is planning to begin in the fall of 2021.

Parks Division Manager Report

Anderson presented the current Memorial Donation and Gift Policy and asked the board to offer ideas on updating the policy. Discussion was held on the history of memorial donations. There are approximately 100 memorial benches throughout the parks, with several of them located in Canyon Lake Park. Anderson would like to see the memorial policy expanded to receive other items that would benefit the park system. Items to be considered would be open air shelters, permanent picnic tables and playground equipment. Discussion was held on the options for donations and providing a catalog of items that the public could view. Discussion was held on the maintenance procedures for donated items. Anderson stated that he would like to see the new policy in place by 2021 and that he will have an update at the September meeting.

Landscape Designer, Melissa Petersen gave a report on the Parks and Recreation projects. Petersen reported on the updates to the waterslides at Sioux Park, Parkview and the Roosevelt Swim Center, the Meadowbrook Golf Course cart path and bridge improvements. Petersen mentioned the projects at Fitzgerald Stadium, East Blvd and the sidewalk in West Memorial Park along the north side of Omaha St.

Petersen mentioned the approval of the addition to the bike path along the east side of Cambell St. between Rapid Creek and E. Omaha St.

Petersen said she is working on options to upgrade the pond walls in Canyon Lake Park.

Biegler reported that a park maintenance employee drove over a person sleeping under a bridge on the bike path. Discussion was held on the increase of homeless activity in the parks. Parks and Recreation staff has met with the Rapid City Police Department staff to address maintenance and safety issues on the bike path and park locations.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Willock, seconded by Calabrese and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.