

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
February 11, 2021

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021 with the following members present: Karen Olson, Roger Heacock, Michael Calabrese, Shon Hanczyc and City Council Liaison Laura Armstrong. The following members were absent: Tony Marshall. Parks and Recreation staff present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen, Parks and Recreation Specialist Lindsey Myers and Administrative Assistant Amy Graves. Chad Lewis, Bonny Fleming, Nick Uhre, City Council Member Lance Lehman and Mark Eisenbraun from the Rapid City Police Department were also present.

Public Comment.

Bonny Fleming was at the meeting to discuss the need for a fenced dog park in Rapid City. Fleming shared a Fenced Dog Park Proposal that she created. The proposal referenced benefits, locations, budget and funding opportunities and community support for the project.

Anderson said the department is working toward creating a fenced off-leash area and said that staff would be interested in meeting with Fleming to review her proposal.

Chad Lewis addressed the board regarding the Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club and their plans to host the 31st Annual Rushmore Cup soccer tournament June 11th through the 15th. Lewis said the tournament will have a minimum of 300 teams with up to 8,000 participants. The club is looking for support from the City and needs to secure additional soccer fields. The soccer club would like to work with staff to make this a successful tournament and Lewis stated this event will offer a large economic impact to the community. The club is working with the Rapid City Are School District, Visit Rapid City and area businesses for assistance for the tournament. Additional information can be found on their website at blackhillsrapids.com and [#soccerwereonit](https://twitter.com/soccerwereonit).

Olson introduced Roger Heacock and announced that he was appointed to fill a vacant term on the board that will expire December 31, 2021. Biegler said there are two vacancies on the board and he has asked the Mayor to approve appointments for two individuals to fill those positions.

The board approved appointments to the Beautification and Urban Forestry committees.

Hanczyc moved, second by Heacock, to approve the appointment of Connie Hobbs to the Beautification Committee for a three-year term to expire 12/31/2023. Motion carried.

Heacock moved, second by Calabrese, to approve the re-appointment of Victor Gust and Marcus Warnke to the Urban Forestry Committee for a three-year term to expire 12/31/2023. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Calabrese, second by Heacock, to appoint Karen Olson as the board Chairperson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Heacock, second by Calabrese to appoint Shon Hanczyc as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried. No other motions were made for the positions and the board voted to approve the nominations.

Minutes

Motion was made by Hanczyc, second by Calabrese and carried to approve the minutes from October 8, 2020, as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Laura Armstrong announced that plans are taking place for the 50th anniversary of the 1972 flood. Armstrong said the Journey Museum will be in charge of the event and the Friends of the Park will also be involved in the event. Biegler said the Mayor has notified the departments to begin making plans for the event. There will be more information available in the future.

Armstrong said she was approached by a constituent regarding the need for upgrades to the mural at the Sioux Park tennis courts. Armstrong asked about the process for a cost assessment and to have a local artist involved. Olson suggested that Armstrong should have a discussion with the Rapid City Arts Council before any changes to the current mural are made.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler introduced Lindsey Myers to the board. Myers was recently hired as the Parks and Recreation Specialist for the department. Myers primary duties will be working with Special Events, managing the department leased facilities and she will work on obtaining grants for the department.

Biegler opened discussion on the Knollwood Drainage Area. Biegler said that he and his staff have met with City Councilman Lance Lehmann, staff from the Rapid City Police Department and local hotel owner Nick Uhre regarding requests for upgrades in the Knollwood Drainage Area. Uhre told the board that this location was previously discussed with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and staff in 2007 and improvement plans were halted due to the Public Works Department requiring the completion of a drainage study. The area is located east of East Knollwood Drive, Brentwood Street, and Herman Street cul-de-sacs. Biegler said the area is currently listed as a stormwater drainage location and is used as an off-leash area for dogs. Uhre shared a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design evaluation that was prepared in 2007. The document identifies measures to make improvements at this location and Uhre would like to open this discussion again. Uhre told the board that he would be available to walk through the area with them and Heacock said he is interested in looking at the location. Discussion was held on taking the next step to

create improvements. Uhre would like to see improvements to the walking paths and lighting in the area and he would like for the Parks and Recreation Department to resume the discussion with Public Works to determine what studies would be required to proceed. Discussion was held on funding. There is no dedicated funding source at this time but Uhre said improvements for this area could be supported by grant funds. Uhre and Lehmann indicated there is support within the Knollwood neighborhood. Olson said the board would be interested to see what can be done.

Division Manager Reports

Recreation Division – Doug Lowe gave an update on the aquatic, ice and recreation facilities are said that staff is preparing for the 2021 season and they are ready to get the momentum of usage back to normal. Lowe said that participation for swim lessons has increased 85% from 2020. Participation in the programs at the ice facility is good and an ice skills competition is scheduled for February 13th.

Adult programming is strong. There are currently 38 basketball teams and 120 volleyball teams registered for the leagues.

Lowe said the 2020 golf season was successful and that revenue was larger than previous years. Lowe mentioned that the golf committee has a vacant position for a liaison from the board and Roger Heacock volunteered to be on the committee. The next golf meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th at 4 p.m.

Lowe said the plans for the hockey league are moving forward. The team is waiting for approval from the league owners group. Updates will be available at the March meeting.

Parks Division – Scott Anderson gave an update on the memorial policy. The inventory of the memorials in the parks has been completed and the information will be placed on the GIS software. Anderson is reviewing different options for memorials and will attend a virtual meeting in April with other state agencies and the University of Sioux Falls to discuss memorial options in public spaces.

Anderson announced that Jason Preble was recently promoted to the Forestry and Landscape Supervisor position to replace the vacant Urban Forestry position. The tree crew has been working on removal of hazardous and ash trees on park property.

Staff at the Cemetery and Parks Division have been busy and they are preparing for the spring and summer season. The greenhouse crew is preparing for planting the gardens.

Anderson gave a report on the 2021 Deer Management Program. The city received 250 permits from the Game Fish and Parks for the 2021 season. The program consisted of six employees from the Parks Maintenance Division and the harvest was held between January 3rd and February 8th. During that time 249 Whitetail and one

Mule deer were harvested. Anderson said the harvest was successful and he praised the staff for their work during the program.

Discussion was held on the plans for restroom upgrades in the parks. Anderson reported that the shelter and restroom in Thomson Park were recently removed.

Landscaper Designer Report

Melissa Peterson gave an update on the Dinosaur Park renovation project and said the construction is scheduled for 2022.

Petersen said the Cambell Street sidewalk project is scheduled for construction in 2022.

Petersen said she has worked on the pet memorial project at the Braeburn off leash area and a sidewalk with memorial pavers is being considered.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Heacock, second by Hanczyc and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2021.