Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
April 8, 2021

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021, with the following members present: Karen Olson, Roger Heacock, Shon Hanczyc, Jessica Ries, Keryn Rowland and Tony Marshall and City Council Liaison Laura Armstrong. The following members were absent: Michael Calabrese. Staff present: Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen and Administrative Assistant Amy Graves.

Public Comment.
There were no public comments.

Jessica Ries and Keryn Roland were introduced as the new members appointed to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Minutes
The draft minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Heacock, second by Hanczyc and carried to approve the minutes from March 11, 2021, with corrections to change Bill Keck to Bill Kessloff and ECHL to NA3HL.

Agenda
The agenda was approved as presented.

Bill Casper presented an update to the board on the Veterans Honor Banner project. Casper said the program has been active since 2018 and he expects 230 banners to be displayed in 2021. Casper would like to see more spaces available in the future and would like the display time to be changed to August through Veterans Day. Casper plans to present an update to the City Council at a later date. Discussion was held on a city banner policy that will be established by the City Attorney's Office. The policy will address regulations for all banner spaces located on city streets and city property.

Doug Lowe, Recreation Director gave an update on the NA3HL Badland Sabres hockey league. Team owners Vern Burress and Brendan Hodge were present at the meeting. Both men discussed their involvement with the hockey league and the community. The Resolution of Intent for the Facility Use Agreement at the Roosevelt Ice Arena will be presented to the City Council on April 19th and May 3rd. If approved the league plans to begin their season the second week of September. The league will move from Missoula, MT. The league consists of hockey players throughout the United States and Canada ranging in ages between 17 and 24.

Lowe said the league will be a great asset to the community and the Roosevelt Ice Arena. The arena has a seating capacity of 650 people. Lowe said the league will not interfere with current ice groups and public use.

Liaison Reports

City Councilperson, Laura Armstrong said the naming agreements for Fitzgerald Stadium were approved by the City Council.

Armstrong said she met with Jason Olson at the Sioux Park tennis courts. Olson provided a history of the mural and discussion was held on options for updates to the mural.

Armstrong reported the Council is looking into policy changes on feeding wildlife in the city limits. Armstrong also mentioned the Council will meet with the city department directors to review options for the Covid-19 Surplus funds.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson said the Urban Forestry committee did not meet in April. Arbor day will be partnered with BH Energy and a tree planting event will take place at Stevens High School.

Jeff Biegler, Parks and Recreation Director said the Beautification Committee met on April 1st and discussed plans for a Beautification Master Plan and a direction for the committee. Randy Fisher from Designworks has been selected to prepare the master plan. The committee will meet with Fisher at a later date to review the plan.

The Urban Wildlife committee met on April 7th for the first time since February, 2020. The committee received an update on the 2021 deer harvest and discussed issues with beavers and the beaver management policy. Melissa Petersen discussed the Bee City USA program with the committee. Petersen is working on pollinator efforts, habitats and events with local organizations.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler said the Black Hills Tennis Association and Dr. Thornburg from the Rapid City Medical Center are working on a proposal for upgrades to the tennis courts at Sioux Park. The group is looking at grant options from BH Energy to convert lights to LED at both Sioux Park and Parkview tennis courts.

Biegler reported the CIP funds that were cut in 2020 due to Covid will be returned to the Parks and Recreation Department. The department will receive approximately $810,000 to reinstate into the CIP project funding.

Division Manager Reports

Anderson reported that the park maintenance staff is preparing for spring. The park restrooms are scheduled to be open on May 1st. A contract for custodial services has been approved with BH Works, they will begin cleaning restrooms on May 1st. The greenhouse staff will begin planting flowers after Memorial Day.

Lowe reported the summer season program guide is available to view on the city website.

Landscaper Designer Report

Peterson said the Lacroix Community garden plots are all reserved and they will be open for planting in April.

Hanczyc said he would be interested to have a tour of the city parks and properties for the board this summer.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Hanczyc, second by Ries and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021.