

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

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Roger Heacock at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021. The following members were present: Roger Heacock, Jessica Ries, Keryn Rowland and Tony Marshall. The following members were absent: Karen Olson, Shon Hanczyc and 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. Visitors from the public were Ed Manzano.

A motion was made by Rowland, second by Ries and carried to approve the minutes from June 10, 2021.

Biegler asked to pull item # 4 from the agenda due to changes to the document. The item will be presented at the August meeting.

Melissa Petersen reported that staff applied for a grant from PetSafe Bark for Your Park. The grant provides funding for a dog park. If awarded there is a requirement to add the PetSafe name to the designated park. The application is in the first phase. If awarded, staff is expecting to receive \$25,000 which will go toward improvements at LaCroix Park for fencing, a sidewalk, a water fountain and an obstacle course for the dog park. Staff will provide an update on the application process at the next meeting.

Ed Manzano from the Black Hills Veteran's Monument organization gave a presentation on a proposed veteran's memorial wall in Memorial Park. The group would like to place a memorial wall with names of soldiers from the Black Hills region that were killed in action during previous wars and conflicts. Manzano shared a computer-generated design of the memorial and stated they would like to place the memorial and service flags in the center of the 6th Street corridor in an existing flower bed near the current veteran's memorial. Manzano said they are in the early stages of planning and they are working on estimates for the project. Manzano said they want the monument to be visible from Omaha St. and would like to upgrade the banner sign near the park entrance to read Black Hills Veteran's Monument. Manzano will work with Community Planning on the appropriate applications and said it could be eighteen months before the project is finished.

The board members expressed their support for the idea of the monument. Discussion was held on the size and placement of the monument. Biegler suggested that Manzano and the organization should approach the Friends of the Parks and also visit with the Mayor and City Council to discuss their thoughts on the project. Manzano will return to the board at a later time with updates to the project.

Liaison Reports

The Urban Forestry and the Urban Wildlife Committees did not meet in July. Biegler said the Beautification Committee voted to apply for a Stearns Grant for plant material in

Halley Park to replace landscape material removed during the sewer reconstruction project.

Biegler reported for City Council Liaison Laura Armstrong and said she was grateful for the support from staff for the Knollwood Block Party. Armstrong is working with the Raider Park group and said they need a chipper for tree maintenance and said they asked for donations of trees for planting in the fall. The group is looking at future plans for a trail extension from Raider Park to Mary Hall Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler said the fireworks display on July 4th was a big success. The municipal band gave a concert to a large crowd at the bandshell prior to the fireworks. The city received several positive comments regarding the event.

Division Manager Reports

Parks Division - Scott Anderson said the landscape crew is working on maintaining the medians and pulling and spraying weeds.

Shelter reservations are in high demand, the reservation requests and revenue are higher than the same time in 2019. Staff is preparing for the Black Hills Pride Festival and Hills Alive in Memorial Park in July. Hills Alive is expecting a gathering of more than 40,000 people at their event.

Anderson said he is working on plans to submit a Vision Fund application for a fenced dog park at Vickie Powers Park. The space available at the park is 5.5 acres and will include fenced in areas, shade structures and a walking path.

Anderson said the Mountain View/Mount Calvary is in great shape and praised staff for the work they have done this season.

Recreation Division – Doug Lowe reported that aquatics had a record month in June for attendance and revenue. The golf season has been successful, they are hosting up to 2 tournaments each month at Meadowbrook and he said both of the courses are in great shape.

The recreation programs are going well. The tennis program is hosting the USTA National Tennis tournament at the Sioux Park tennis courts. The athletes will range in ages between 12 and 18 they are expecting more than 90 participants.

Registration is currently open for the fall Youth Flag Football and the Adult Football league.

Lowe said the ice arena will be closed for annual maintenance between July 18th and July 31st. The schedule for the BH Sabre ECHL hockey league will be available soon, Lowe said planning for the league is going well.

Discussion was held on the condition of the tennis courts. Lowe said the courts have been crack sealed and were approved by the USTA prior to their tournament. The tennis group is planning to submit a Vision Fund request to rebuild the courts.

Landscape Designer Report – Melissa Petersen gave an update on the Dinosaur Park project. Designers are looking at options for lighting. The designers will give a presentation to the board at the September meeting.

Petersen said there was a pollinator presentation at the farmers market on July 3rd.

Petersen is working on the Stearns Grant application for the Beautification Committee and the Vision Fund applications for Knollwood Park and the Canyon Lake pond walls. Vision Fund applications will also be submitted for an upgraded irrigation system and concrete at the Star of the West complex.

Discussion was held on using park locations for feedings. Staff said there are still groups offering food and there is additional trash but they have seen improvements at the bandshell in Memorial park.

Heacock praised staff for their commitment and said he receives many positive comments regarding Parks and Recreation.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021.