

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
December 9, 2021

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order by at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021. The following members were present: Karen Olson, Roger Heacock, Keryn Rowland, Jessica Ries, Michael Calabrese and Tony Marshall. The following members were absent: Shon Hanczyc. Others present: City Council Liaison Laura Armstrong, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen and Administrative Assistant Amy Graves. Visitors from the public were Aaron Ude representing the RC Racers and Great Sharks, Randy Fisher from Designworks and Pat Wyss from Wyss Associates.

A motion was made by Rowland, second by Marshall and carried to approve the minutes from September 9, 2021.

Biegler announced that Shon Hanczyc and Roger Heacock were reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Their new terms begin on January 1, 2022 and expire on December 31, 2024.

Discussion was held on the election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2022. Marshall nominated Karen Olson as the Chairperson. Olson declined the nomination. A motion was made by Marshall to nominate Heacock as the Chairperson, Second by Rowland. Motion Carried. A motion was made by Marshall to nominate Rowland as the Vice Chairperson. Second by Ries. Motion carried.

Randy Fisher from Designworks presented the Beautification Master Plan to the board. Fisher shared the history of the Beautification Committee and discussion was held on implementing the Master Plan. Fisher is meeting with local groups to discuss the plan and is looking at options to place the committee where it will benefit the entire community. Considerations have been made to move the committee to Community Development, Elevate Rapid City or to keep the committee under the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Aaron Ude presented the Vision Fund request from the Rapid City Racers and Great Swimming for the Rapid Air Dome to be installed over the outdoor 50-meter pool at Roosevelt Swim Center. Ude said the presentation will be presented to the City Council at their meeting on December 13th.

The board approved the reappointment of Eric East to the Urban Forestry Board and the appointment of Lysann Zeller to the Urban Wildlife Committee.

Pay Wyss with Wyss Associates presented a Master Plan from Phillip and Yvonne Weger for Highland Park. The Wegers wish to gift their property located in Signal Heights to the City of Rapid City to be developed into a public park for perpetuity and to be identified as Highland Park. The property consists of 14.9 acres. The master plan identifies a site location, conceptual park plans with nature trails, interpretive displays,

picnic areas and more. A motion was made by Marshall, second by Calabrese and carried to approve a recommendation to the City Council to accept the gift of Highland Park from Phillip and Yvonne Weger. The item will be placed on a future Public Works and City Council agenda for further discussion.

Liaison Reports

Biegler said the Beautification Committee met in December and will meet again in April, 2022. Biegler said the term for Cathy Robeson will expire on December 31, 2021 and Robeson has announced she will not seek another term. Robeson has served on the committee for more than 10 years and would like to give that option to another community member. Robeson was commended for her service.

The Urban Forestry Committee met in December and will start plans on a community tree event to be held in the spring of 2022.

The Urban Wildlife Committee met in December and discussed the 2022 deer harvest program. The program was approved by City Council and will begin in January. Staff has received approval to harvest 250 antlerless whitetail deer. The committee also discussed the pollinator efforts in Rapid City and will support a No Mow May program in May to assist pollinator efforts in Rapid City.

Laura Armstrong mentioned the Train Quiet Zone application to the Vision Fund. The item will be presented to the City Council during the Vision Fund presentations. The location includes the train zone between Maple St. and 11th St.

Armstrong mentioned she is working with constituents regarding the discussion of meals for the homeless population at the bandshell.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler said staff will present the Star of the West Irrigation project and the Knollwood Drainage Redevelopment projects to the City Council at the Vision Fund presentation on Monday, December 13th.

Division Manager Reports

Parks Division – Scott Anderson said staff has been working on concrete and irrigation projects. Two restrooms will remain open during the winter. The restrooms are located at Founders Park and Canyon Lake Park at the west parking lot.

Staff has been working on the installation of Christmas lights in Halley Park, Wilson Park and the downtown area.

Staff has been working on hazardous tree removals and will place a tree order for 2022.

The road and irrigation projects at the Cemetery have been completed. Staff is working on the fence removal and is planning for an additional ossuary.

Anderson is working on the memorial donation policy and will provide further information at the meeting in January.

Recreation Division – Biegler said the winter volleyball program has 140 teams and the basketball league will begin in January. Lowe will present a year-end report to the board at the meeting in January.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Calabrese and seconded by Rowland to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022.