

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
January 13, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2022. The following members were present: Roger Heacock, Keryn Rowland, Karen Olson, Michael Calabrese and Tony Marshall. The following members were absent: Shon Hanczyc and Jessica Ries. Others present: Assistant City Attorney Kinsley Grote. Staff: 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. Visitors from the public were Robert Pesek and Brandon Zelfer.

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

The board heard an appeal from Robert Pesek regarding a six-month suspension he received for a violation to the Parks and Recreation Behavior Policy.

The suspension was issued on October 27, 2021, for all Rapid City recreation facilities until April 27, 2022, following a confrontation and verbal harassment with a city lifeguard and management on October 26, 2021 at the Roosevelt Swim Center.

Staff presented a timeline of incidents for Mr. Pesek between March 9, 2015, and October 26, 2021. Mr. Pesek stated the previous incidents were resolved and he felt they should not reflect on the current suspension because he has changed his behavior. Mr. Pesek said he was not aware that his conduct on October 26th was considered to be verbal harassment. Mr. Pesek said he tried to discuss the incident with management prior to his appeal to the board. Doug Lowe, Recreation Division Manager confirmed that he and Scott Anderson, Parks Division Manager met with Mr. Pesek on October 28th to discuss the October 26th incident and agreed at that time the six-month suspension was appropriate.

Discussion was held between Lowe and the board regarding the history and resolutions of the previous incidents with Mr. Pesek. The board reviewed a video of the October 28th incident.

The board discussed the previous and current incident with Mr. Pesek. Marshall questioned if the board had the authority to extend the current suspension beyond the six-month period. Kinsley Grote, Assistant City Attorney said the current behavior policy allowed the board to approve or lessen the suspension.

After further discussion a motion was made by Rowland to affirm the suspension. Second by Marshall and carried.

Discussion was held with staff and Brandon Zelfer regarding a Special Event application for the Rapid City Half Marathon, scheduled on Sunday, July 24, 2022. Mr. Zelfer has

met with staff and has received an approved route for this event. Zelfer would like to modify the route near Executive Golf Course on 12th Street and on the road near the Old Storybook Island shelter. Staff has recommended to deny his request due to safety issues at both locations.

Roger Heacock said he inspected the routes and said he was concerned with the route near Executive Golf Course but was comfortable with the route on the road near the Old Storybook Island shelter. Heacock suggested placing cones along the roadway at the Old Storybook Island shelter to alert traffic and to restrict the runners to a specific location on the road. Discussion continued on the route going over the bridge on 12th Street near Executive Golf Course. Marshall commented that he was in support of the event and was comfortable with the route changes presented by Zelfer. Marshall moved to approve the modified routes presented by Zelfer, Seconded by Olson. The motion failed with 2 yes votes and three no votes from Rowland, Heacock and Calabrese.

Discussion continued and Zelfer did not want to use the alternative route offered by staff near Executive Golf Course. Marshall moved to approve the modified route presented by Zelfer for the Old Storybook Island location and to deny the modified route from Zelfer by Executive Golf Course. The motion was seconded by Rowland and carried. Heacock asked Zelfer to continue to work with staff on resolving a safer route at the Executive Course.

Liaison Reports

Biegler reported that the Beautification, Urban Forestry and Urban Wildlife committees did not meet in January.

Biegler reported for Laura Armstrong. The Vision Fund application from the Farmers Market was denied and she is working with their group to acquire another funding source for improvements at Market Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler gave an update on the Vision Fund application projects. Eleven projects were approved for Vision funds and four of the projects are located on Parks and Recreation property. Funding was received for the tennis courts at Sioux Park, the dome over the outdoor pool at Roosevelt Swim Center, irrigation improvements at the Star of the West Complex and park improvements at the Knollwood drainage area.

Parks Division Report

Anderson presented an amended version of the Memorial & Gift Policy. Discussion was held on the criteria for memorials and the board asked to change the language on the last item to state that donations in headstone nature will not be allowed. Marshall requested Anderson to update the attachment that offers memorial suggestions and to identify options for larger items. Rowland moved to accept the amended Memorial & Gift Policy with the modification in the criteria section to state "headstones in nature will not be allowed". Second by Marshall, motion carried.

Anderson gave an update on the 2022 Deer Management program. Anderson said staff is working on the removal of holiday lights, concrete work and park upgrades.

Employees on the tree crew are attending a tree conference and working on certifications for tree maintenance.

Recreation Division Report

Lowe said the aquatic and ice facilities were busy over the holiday break. The Recreation Division is seeing record numbers in programming.

Biegler said the Dinosaur Park plans are at 95% completion. The bids are expected to be open in March. Biegler said this is a great project and staff is looking forward to the park enhancements.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022.