

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
April 13, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 13, 2023. The following members were present: Roger Heacock, Tony Marshall, Shon Hanczyc and Karen Olson. Members absent: Jessica Ries and Riley Winter. Others present: City Council Liaison Pat Roseland, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Landscape Designer Melissa Petersen, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Recreation Specialist Jeff Richardt and Administrative Coordinator Amy Graves.

Chairman Roger Heacock called the meeting to order.

Brian Maschino, addressed the board during Public Comment to discuss options to place beehives in a park for Hives for Heroes. The group is open to all US veterans and is centered around mentorship through beekeeping. The group has a website hivesforheroes.com and a Facebook page. Maschino is a military veteran and is a mentor for the organization in Sturgis, SD. Maschino said there are 5 veterans in the Rapid City area that would like to be involved in the program and he is looking for an area to accommodate up to 5 beehives. Discussion was held on the safety impact to the community and options for sites. Maschino said the best location would offer good access for the Veterans and water for the bees. The committee referred Mr. Maschino to the Rapid City Sustainability Committee to see if they could offer assistance. Anderson said he would be available to assist Mr. Maschino and the Sustainability Committee.

A motion was made by Olson, second by Hanczyc and carried to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting.

The board received a request from Ted Mead to place a memorial park bench in Sioux Park. Scott Anderson provided a map of the proposed location and said the bench would be installed along the bike path on the south side of the creek, east of Sheridan Lake Rd. A motion was made by Marshall, second by Olson and carried to approve the Memorial Donation Agreement from Ted Mead to place a memorial bench in Sioux Park.

Discussion was held on a Memorial Donation Agreement received from Hannah Manzano to place a granite memorial bench in Skyline Wilderness Area. Anderson said he recommended a metal frame bench with recycled lumber for the location in place of the granite bench. Karen Olson asked for more information regarding this request and asked to continue the discussion at a future meeting. Chairman Roger Heacock said he is a member of the Skyline Preservation Board and said when the property was donated to the City of Rapid City the intent was to have the area remain as undeveloped and natural. Structures and improvements for nature and environmental purposes may be permitted but the board requested minimal structures to be placed in the area. Heacock

said he is concerned about setting a precedent for future development in the area. Discussion was held on the consideration of other memorial options such as a monetary donation to use for maintenance of the area. Anderson requested a recommendation from the board to regulate the number of benches allowed in the area. Discussion was held on placing a memorial bench in Dinosaur Park instead of the proposed area. A motion was made by Marshall, second by Olson to deny the Memorial Donation Agreement from Heather Manzano to place a memorial bench in Skyline Wilderness Area. Motion carried.

Anderson requested to have further discussion regarding the memorial agreement process. Hanczyc recommended a maximum number of memorials per park and Marshall asked staff to identify locations suitable for benches and memorial donations. The discussion will continue at a future meeting.

The Beautification Committee requested the board to discuss and acknowledge the Beautification Master Plan. The plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board by Randy Fisher of Designworks Inc. in December, 2021. The Beautification committee would like feedback from the Board and would like to enact the plan. Discussion was held on the recommendation to place the Beautification Committee under the direction of the Community Development Department. Olson said the board needs more information before offering a vote of support on the master plan. Steve Doshier, chairman of the Beautification Committee said he will ask Randy Fisher to give one more presentation in May. It was recommended to invite a representative from Community Development to the May meeting.

Liaison Reports

Pat Roseland, City Council Liaison gave an update on recent action by the City Council. The council approved a resolution to oppose the Social Studies Standards and approved the design of the City logo. Daniel Ainslie was recently appointed as the Finance Director and the Police Department retention package was approved. Roseland said Visit Rapid City has purchased the three city trolleys and they will resume the City View Trolley program.

The Urban Forestry Committee met in April. Discussion was held on the grant that was received from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture to purchase a tree plotter software program. The software will hold a complete inventory of the city trees and staff will update the inventory during tree removals and plantings. A tree planting workshop will be held the week of May 17th through May 20th. The workshop will teach proper tree planting and tree care techniques. The 2023 Arbor Day celebration will be held on April 28th at Wilson Park and students from Wilson school will assist with the tree planting. Discussion was held on the damage to trees created by the beaver population along Rapid Creek. Anderson said it is a difficult problem to address and there are no good solutions to control the damage to the trees.

The Beautification Committee met on April 6th and discussed the Beautification Master Plan and the SDDOT bridge replacement at Anamosa street and I-190.

Olson excused herself from the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Parks and Recreation Director Report

Biegler gave an update on the 2024 budget process and said the budget requests will be sent to the City Finance Office in May. Biegler said a request to fund a Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be included in the Parks and Recreation Administration budget request. If approved, a consultant selection process will take place in 2024.

Biegler said the City Council will receive a recommendation to appoint Chris Zian to the Parks and Recreation Board on April 17th.

Biegler said the city-wide cleanup week will be April 17th through the 21st. A Rapid City Earth Expo Day will be held at Western Dakota Tech on April 22nd.

Division Reports

Scott Anderson said three new positions and two replacements have been filled at the Parks Maintenance Division. Staff is preparing the landscape beds and rose garden beds for the spring. Staff is working on the park irrigation systems and plumbing at the restrooms. The park restrooms will be open on May 1st.

The tentative date to install the new playground at Sioux Park is April 26th. Artificial turf will be installed around the playground and the site should be available to the public on June 1st.

The installation of the new fence at the cemetery should be completed by May 15th.

Doug Lowe said the aquatics center is holding their last session of swim lessons and hiring for seasonal staff at the pools is going well. The golf courses are open and the tennis programs have been moved to Parkview Park during the construction at the Sioux Park tennis courts.

Lowe introduced Jeff Richardt, Recreation Specialist. Richardt has been a fulltime employee with the Recreation Division for 20 years. Richardt manages Executive Golf course and is involved with the tennis program, the community gyms and assists with facility programming. Richardt shared revenue documents from his facilities with the board and they discussed the use of the facilities.

Melissa Petersen gave an update on the department projects. Petersen said the Sioux Park tennis court reconstruction project is going well and is planned to be completed in November.

Petersen told the board she created a Facebook page to post updates on the Dinosaur Park construction. Petersen said the park will be open in May with limited access to the dinosaur structures. The park will still have an active construction site during the summer and safety measures will be in place for visitors.

Petersen said Wyss Associates has been selected to design the irrigation plans for the Star of the West fields and Executive Golf Course.

The construction of the pickleball courts at Wilson Park will begin in May, pickleball lines will be painted on half of the basketball court at Red Rocks Park. The basketball lines at West Omaha St., Scott Mallow Park and Willow Park will be updated.

Petersen said the community gardens plots at Lacroix are filling up for the spring planting season.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.