

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
May 12, 2016

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 12, 2016 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Rick Askvig, Chuck Tinant, Shon Hanczyc and Domico Rodriguez. The following members were absent: Karen Olson and Greg Oleson. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Maintenance Chief Scott Anderson, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt, Urban Forester Andy Bernard, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of April 14, 2016 as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

The Beautification Committee met on May 5 and reviewed the list of projects they are monitoring. Approximately 90 trees were planted at the Parkview Tennis complex and this will close out the Stearns Grant received for that project. It was noted that shade structures will also be installed near the tennis courts at Parkview.

The Urban Wildlife Committee met earlier today and discussed the Dead/Diseased Tree Replacement Program. Staff noted that the City Council rejected the program in its present form. Staff will work on modifications to the program for future consideration. It was also noted that staff is working to prepare a list of trees recommended for planting in the Rapid City area. The 2016 Arbor Day celebration is planned for May 14th at 9:00 AM. Trees will be planted in Jackson Park.

Robbinsdale Park Master Plan

Tonya Olson from Tall Grass Landscape Architecture presented information on the status of the Robbinsdale Park Master Plan. The last public input meeting was held on April 21st. Based on the input from all the public meetings, three concepts were developed. Olson presented the different concepts and answered questions about each. One additional public meeting will be held and based on input from that meeting a final concept plan will be prepared. No action was taken on this item.

Rushmore Lions Nature Park

A proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Rapid City and Rushmore Lions Club Charities, Inc. relating to operation of Rushmore Lions Nature Park was presented. Biegler explained that staff has been working with this group for quite some time and they have been very helpful in the development and maintenance of the nature

park. Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Tinant and carried to recommend approval of the MOA with Rushmore Lions Club Charities, Inc.

Memorial Tree Request

A request was submitted from Wanda J. Kincaid to plant a tree along the Bike Path between Central Boulevard and Argyle St with a marker stating "In Loving Memory Calvin 'Cal' Kincaid". No one was present to speak on the request. Van Deusen explained that he has been in contact with the family and discussed this request. They have lived in the area for many years and staff has no issues with the proposed location. The marker accompanying the tree will be flat and not cause issues with mowing. Motion was made by Tinant seconded by Rodriguez and carried to approve first reading of the request. Second reading will be held on June 9th.

Liaisons for Recreation Committees

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe requested that an Advisory Board member agree to serve as a liaison to the Aquatics, Ice and Golf Committees. Each of the Committees meets quarterly. Rodriguez volunteered to serve on the Golf Committee. Nick Stroot volunteered to serve as the liaison to the Ice Committee and Shon Hanczyc volunteered to serve as the liaison to the Aquatics Committee. Motion was made by Tinant seconded by Askvig and carried to approve of the liaison appointments as noted.

Lease Polo Field property

A letter was received from the Central States Fair requesting that the City consider leasing them the area known as the Polo Grounds which is adjacent to the Fairgrounds property. Ron Jeffries, General Manager for the Fair, stated that their organization has always had a good working relationship with the Parks Department in relation to other parcels that are leased. The Fair Board intends to use the property for parking during the Fair. Jeffries added that they have the equipment and personnel to maintain this large grass area which would be a challenge to many smaller organizations. He added that they will be more than willing to work with other organizations who would be interested in using the property. Jeffries added that the Fair Board is also interested in renewing leases for smaller parcels in this area. The smaller parcels were previously leased to the Fair Board but the leases expired. Jeffries stated that parking will be limited to the asphalt areas; there will be no parking on the grass. Don Frankenfeld, representing Friends of RC Parks, read a letter from that organization noting that they have no objections to the lease proposal. Jeffries added that he feels the Fair has been a good neighbor and will be good stewards of this property.

Bart Banks also spoke in support of a lease to the Fair Board. The Fair has always worked very well with other organizations who are interested in using these facilities.

Biegler noted that Black Hills Lacrosse and BY Youth Football have also requested use of facilities that may become available and there is interest from other organizations for field space. Askvig stated that he feels the Fair will be able to maintain the property better than the smaller organizations that are looking for field space. Jeffries reiterated that they are more than willing to work with all other organizations who may be interested in using this space. Rodriguez added that other fields have been released by the Soccer organization so there is space available. Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt noted that the Polo Field property is zoned Floodway. A Conditional Use Permit will be

required for any “structure” larger than 200 square feet (including tents). Motion was made by Askvig and seconded by Tinant to approve the request from the Central States Fair to lease the Polo Grounds property. DeSmidt added that the City is capable of maintaining this property and leaving it as open space for use by the public. We don’t have to lease it just because a request has been made. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Memorial Benches in the Park System

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen explained that he contacted several other communities to see how they handle requests to locate memorial trees and benches in the park system. In most communities the city collects a fee from the individual and purchases the item. In many communities a flat rate is collected which covers the bench and plaque. It is also common in other places that the City identifies locations that would be appropriate for a bench or a tree. Stroot stated that is the direction he would like to see Rapid City go. We could develop a map showing the locations available and it is up to the City where the bench or tree will be located. Askvig concurred noting that this would give the City control over what is put in the parks. Rodriguez stated that he would also like to see the City standardize the items placed in the park system and be consistent throughout. Stroot asked about the next step in the process. Biegler stated that staff could put something together for the Board’s consideration at a future meeting. No action was taken.

Advisory Board Park Tour

Stroot stated that he has found the annual park tours very valuable and he encouraged staff to organize one for the Board within the next couple months. Biegler stated that staff will send out several times to see what will work best for board members.

Director’s Report

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe distributed a copy of the 2016 Summer Program Guide to the Board Members. The Guide describes all the recreation, ice, golf and aquatic programming available throughout the summer months. He also noted that the new Horace Mann swimming pool will open for the season on May 27th and the other pools will open on May 29th. Registrations for recreation programming have been fantastic for the Summer Blast Camps. There were 465 openings for these programs throughout the summer and as of today only 29 spots remain. Lowe added that the golf courses are open and looking great. There are many new programs being implemented to boost attendance. For example there is a “Bring your Kid to Golf” event and the new “Purple Tee Program” to encourage parents to golf with their kids.

Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported that Parks staff has been very busy activating and maintaining sprinkler systems throughout the park system and at all the recreation facilities. Staff is also replacing the irrigation system in Canyon Lake Park that was damaged during the Jackson Boulevard reconstruction project. A new play structure was installed in Horace Mann Park and the greenhouse staff is working to get the flowers ready to plant in flower beds throughout the city. Trees are also being planted throughout the park system.

Biegler noted that the tennis court resurfacing project is underway. The contractor will start at the Parkview complex and proceed to the other courts as quickly as possible.

Biegler added that a change order was approved for the Parkview court resurfacing so that the existing surface is removed down to the concrete. This will ensure that the new surface will adhere properly and last for some time. Work on the courts in Sioux Park will begin after the 4th of July.

Biegler also reported that the Public Parks Foundation is sponsoring Dino's Birthday on June 5th at Dinosaur Park. There will be activities for kids and refreshments from 11:00 to 3:00.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.