

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room

April 13, 2017

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 13, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Greg Oleson and Chuck Tinant. The following members were absent: Shon Hanczyc, Domico Rodriguez and Rick Askvig. Also present were Alderman Jason Salamun, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of March 9, 2017 as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

DeSmidt reported that the Beautification Committee met and voted to allocate funding to four different projects: 1) Founders Park North, 2) West Chicago Street, 3) West Memorial Park, and 4) Robbinsdale Park.

Anderson reported that the Urban Forestry Board met earlier today and there was discussion on the treatment of the trees located along West Chicago Street. The treatment has really helped the trees recover from fire blight. Staff has also done some pruning in this area so the trees don't look particularly good now, but they will look much better in a couple months. Anderson added that Marcus Warnke attended a conference in Omaha, NE dealing with the Emerald Ash Bore and the different ways communities are dealing with this pest.

The City's 2017 Arbor Day Celebration will be held on May 3rd at the Rapid City Club for Boys. Bernard noted that city staff will plant trees in the right-of-way and the Club for Boys has agreed to maintain them.

Biegler reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and discussed the installation of bat houses in the near future. One will be located on the fairgrounds and three will be located in the park system.

City Council Liaison Jason Salamun commended City staff noting that they did a great job with the Robbinsdale Park Master Plan process. He added that the park rules are being reviewed and he appreciates Director Biegler's willingness to work with various groups that use the park system. People in the community love the parks and that gives them value.

Founders Park Foundation Removal

DeSmidt submitted pictures of the location and foundation in question which was formerly the BH Power Hydro Plant. He noted that several months ago the Advisory Board approved the Founders Park North Concept Plan which included removal of this foundation. The building was removed in 2006 and all that remains is the concrete pad which is creating safety and aesthetic issues. The city has a quote in the amount of \$1,750 for removal of the foundation and a quote in the amount of \$1,210 to have an archeologist on site. Motion was made by Olson seconded by Tinant and carried to authorize the removal of the foundation in Founders Park North.

Meadowbrook Golf Course

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe explained that staff is looking into the possibility of using a drone at Meadowbrook Golf Course for goose management. He noted that it is informational at this time and he wants to get the Advisory Board's input before he proceeds any further. If the Advisory Board thinks this should be pursued, he will send notification to property owners near the golf course and discuss it with user groups as well.

Usage of a drone is a new concept to try and manage the goose population which causes issues at the golf course. The drone is programmed with the layout of the course and operates on its own; it is not manually operated. It can be programmed with 6-7 different routes so it might be something we could lease out to other organizations with this problem. Lowe added that the drone emits a noise which mimics the sound of an eagle which is a natural predator for geese. Golf Superintendent Walraven has contacted other golf courses that use a drone and they have had success with this method. Lowe explained that the City currently spends approximately \$5,000 each year dealing with the mess made by the geese. The drone would cost \$7,500 so the payback would be relatively quick. Van Lindquist urged the Advisory Board to do something to take care of the mess made by geese on the golf course. He added that he rode his bike by 6 holes during December and he counted over 1,000 geese on the course. It is a real problem and needs to be addressed. Chris Stover noted that if the City pushes them off the golf course, they will go to another location and create the same mess there. Biegler suggested that staff contact the experts at the Game Fish & Parks Office to see if they know where the geese will go if they are hazed at the golf course. DeSmidt suggested that the Urban Wildlife Committee be asked to weigh in on this issue. Several Advisory Board members expressed concern about the sounds that the drone would make and how that would impact the surrounding residential areas. Motion was made by Olson seconded by Tinant and carried to direct the Urban Wildlife Committee to work with staff on the proposal to use a drone to haze geese at the golf course.

Urban Forestry Board Appointment

Motion was made by Olson, seconded by Tinant and carried to appoint Steve Vedder to the Urban Forestry Board for a three year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Director's Report

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that he continues to work to fill vacant positions within the parks division. Staff is working to uncover rose beds throughout the community and a large load of wood chips is being delivered to Vickie Powers Park to

be used on the playground. Staff is also working to have all the restrooms in the park system open by May 1st. An agreement with Pennington County to spray noxious weeds is being approved as well as a contract with Warne Chemical for weed spraying along sidewalks and other areas in the community.

Biegler reported that the Parks & Rec ordinance revisions will go to the Council for consideration and there have been questions about the use of remote controlled airplanes in the park system. He has been working the Clancy Kingsbury of Who's Hobby on revisions which would define certain types of vehicles that would be allowed in the parks.

The hockey program just finished up at the Ice Arena and scheduling of summer camps is happening at this time. The maintenance staff is getting the pools ready to open for the summer the first weekend in June. It was also noted that the Swim Center flooring replacement program is underway in the locker rooms and the party room and the carpet will be replaced during the shutdown at the end of the summer.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.