

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Halley Park Board Room  
July 14, 2017

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 14, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Domico Rodriguez, Greg Oleson, Shon Hanczyc and Chuck Tinant. The following members were absent: Rick Askvig. Also present were Council Liaison Darla Drew, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt, Urban Forester Andy Bernard and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Stroot introduced Darla Drew who will serve as the City Council liaison for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**Public Comment**

Steve Wagner, President of the Expedition Summer Baseball League gave a presentation to the Board on the league he would like to bring to Rapid City. Their inaugural season will be 2018 and they intend to play 64 games between May and August. They are looking for a lease for game time at Fitzgerald Stadium and McKeague Field. Wagner stated that he has been working with representatives of the Post 22 Baseball organization for a way to use that facility. They are looking to have a lease for the park to play 32 home games from late May through August. Wagner stated that he would like the Expedition League to be in Rapid City and they think this would be a great market. Ultimately, they would like to apply for dollars from the Vision Fund to build a stadium. They also anticipate fund raising to update McKeague Field to increase seating capacity and make facility improvements. Wagner added that they have signed a lease for league office space and they will be working in the community in a variety of ways. Stroot urged Wagner to contact staff and get on the next agenda for further discussion at a future meeting.

Dale Lefebvre, President of Canyon Lake Little League expressed concern about other organizations trying to acquire use of the "United Field" which Canyon Lake has been maintaining for several years. They would like this field to be included within the boundaries of the area leased by Canyon Lake Little League. Biegler explained that staff will be evaluating all the leased property later this year and this issue can be discussed at that time.

James Taylor representing Black Hills Baseball stated that they are also looking for field space for their organization which provides baseball opportunities for 144 fourteen year olds. Taylor also stated that he is concerned that the batting cages located adjacent to Jamie Johnson Field are not included in their lease and they do not want to lose control of that facility. Biegler stated that the lease with BH Baseball will also be evaluated later this year. Stroot suggested that Taylor contact staff and be put on the agenda if he wants to discuss this issue further.

**Commuter of the Year Awards**

Biegler presented the Commuter of the year awards to Matthew Blauvelt and Bodhi Linde. Blauvelt bikes to work at Regional Hospital approximately 5 miles each day, in all seasons. Linde has biked to school for 534 straight days and will continue that streak into the next school year.

**Yard of the Month Awards:**

On behalf of the Beautification Committee, Kathy Robeson presented the following Yard of the Month Awards and commended the recipients for their efforts to beautify the community:

- June – Tom Wilson
- July – Randi Roenick
- August – John and Jean Harris

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of May 11, 2017 as presented.

**Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Liaison Reports**

Biegler reported that the Beautification Committee agreed to apply for a Stearns Grant on behalf of the City for additional plant material for West Memorial Park. This project is scheduled to begin in the fall.

**Memorial Donation & Gift Policy**

The final draft of the Memorial Donation & Gift Policy was submitted for the Board's consideration. Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the policy.

**Right of Way Tree Planting Permit**

Staff explained that City code requires that a permit be issued to citizens wanting to plant trees in the right-of-way. A proposed policy and application with guidelines were submitted for the Board's information. Bernard stated that he would do a Public Service Announcement in the spring before planting season. Motion was made by Hanczyc seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the Right-of-Way Tree Planting Permit and Guidelines.

**Smoking around Public Playgrounds**

Director Biegler explained that the issue of smoking near public playgrounds was brought to the Board by Alderman Jason Salamun. Currently the City does not have an ordinance in place prohibiting smoking in the park system or near playgrounds. Biegler suggested that rather than proposing a new ordinance that we voluntarily ask that people not smoke near public playgrounds. He has discussed this with Mr. Salamun and he thought that was a good idea. It was the consensus of the Advisory Board members that the suggested signage was the way to go at this point in time to encourage citizens not to smoke near playgrounds voluntarily. Biegler stated that he will work with Parks staff to have signs installed near playgrounds encouraging people not to smoke near these areas where children are playing.

**Director's Report**

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe informed the Board that the Ice Arena will be closed from July 17-30 for annual maintenance. Also, there is new leadership at the Ice Arena for the Learn to Skate and Hockey Programs. Patty Behnke will head up the Learn to Skate Program and Gary Stanley will be the new Hockey Program Supervisor.

Lowe also noted that City staff is hosting a USTA 14U Level 3 tennis tournament that is going on right now. The tournament will go through the weekend. There were 56 entries and 52 of them were from out of state.

Also, the Recreation Division has had record programming numbers for summer programs and activities. The BH Senior Games is scheduled to begin next week and so far 120 athletes have registered.

Attendance at the aquatics facilities has been crazy so far this summer and golf numbers have been decent. Staff has received lots of compliments about how the course is playing and how it looks. Lowe also noted that Matt Kimball's contract for Golf Pro and Pro Shop services is being extended through 2019.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that they finally have a full staff at the Parks Division; all full-time positions have been filled. Staff continues to remove stumps that remain from Winter Storm Atlas. We are also developing specifications so that we can solicit proposals for security services for the parks and cemetery facilities.

Biegler reported that set-up for the Hills Alive celebration in Memorial Park is going on now with the festival happening this weekend. Markings for the First Nation's Sculpture Garden to be located in Halley Park are being done. Also, the City has received \$20,000 in grant funds for mosquito control in the community.

Biegler also informed the Board that Landscape Architect Alex DeSmidt has accepted a position in Wisconsin so he will be leaving in a couple weeks. An Open House is planned for Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> and the board members are invited to attend.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on August 10, 2017.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.