City to be nominated for award

Rapid City will be nominated for the "All American City" award by the Environmental Quality Committee of the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce, the group announced Wednesday.

An initial application must be submitted by Sept. 10, for consideration by the "All American City" awards committee.

Dave Bell, assistant manager of the chamber, asked for input by the committee members on the number of applications. Applications were sent to 19 community leaders for their response before the meeting.

The application must name three major successful community projects that were to be included in the past year. The committee discussed possible projects, which included restoration of Storybook Island, passage of the bond issue for the new high school, renovation of Canyon Lake Park, annual cleanup of Rapid Creek, the Easter Seal building, and the main gate at Ellsworth AFB and the Dakota Days Band Festival.

Also to be considered on the application are existing community problems and efforts to find solutions to them.

Bell and committee members will review the suggestions made and prepare the final application. Further questions will be asked if Rapid City is chosen as one of the finalist cities.

Parking board recommends leasing lot

The newly created Rapid City Parking Board made its first recommendation to the city council Tuesday night. Instead of selling some of its council work, the city plan is to rent the land to private enterprises.

Craig Schreiber, chairman of the parking board, recommended the city lease the vacant corner at 500 and 22nd St. S.

"We thought there's a lot of potential for the land," Schreiber said. "It's not being used as it should be."

The land is zoned for commercial use, but it has been unused since the previous lot was occupied by a warehouse.

Mayor Don Barnett said the city would consider leasing the lot for 12 months to the highest bidder.

Harold Schmidt, who recommended the city lease the land, said the lot is too small to build a new building on it.

"I don't think it's a good idea to build any buildings on this land," Schmidt said. "We should use this land for something else."

Other members of the parking board were Earl Moorehouse of Penney's, Dwight Goff of the American State Bank, and Larry Van Buren, an insurance broker. Schmidt is also a member of the chamber board.

Dust storms only temporary

Dust bowl days have not returned to Rapid City, but dust is just one of the many inconveniences residents and visitors must contend with as the city's street projects progress. Barricades, street sweepers, ditches, oil trucks and asphalt equipment are familiar sights along St. Joan Street this week as James E. Simon Co. pushes to complete its renovation project.

Other workers are cutting across intersections around the downtown area, installing new sidewalks. So the word is caution -- both to drivers and pedestrians -- equipment will be moving. And, the dust will continue as sweepers move debris out of the way ahead of the workmen preparing for the asphalt mix. (Photo by Don Pelovitch)

Civic center to include chamber office

By BOB FELL

The chamber has added the chamber office to the civic center, as space for the convention center's facilities is reserved.

The Civic Center Plaza Corp. board of directors voted unanimously Wednesday afternoon to include the chamber office in the civic center.

Chamber President Robert Babich assured members that the chamber is willing to pay the additional costs for the space.

He said the chamber is trying to combine the two facilities in order to provide a better meeting place for the city's residents.

The board also was briefed on the money market for the sale of its corporate bonds for construction of the facility. Willys Jones of the Allison-Wilhams Co., fiscal agent handling the bonds, was not enthusiastic about the market which he said is practically nonexistent because of the tight money situation along with the high interest rate.

While the experts keep saying there is no sign of a sharp turn in the market, "it hasn't happened yet," he said.

When the corporation started talking about the bond issue nearly a year ago, the going interest rate was floating around 8 to 8.5 percent. Today, for a similar type bond issue, that rate is up to 8.5 to 10 percent, Jones said.

"It's a buyer's market." We'll have to think of it as a seller's market, he said.

"It's not a buyer's market," he added. "We've had to think of it as a seller's market." He said the issue could be ready in the next four to six weeks.

"The corporation is looking at a bond issue of between $9 million and $11 million. It's possible the project is estimated at $10 million. The interest rate on bond issue would be 8.5 percent.

"We'll have to think of it as a seller's market," he said.

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