

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Rapid City Swim Center Multi-Purpose Room
December 13, 2007

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 pm on Thursday, December 13, 2007 with the following members present: Chairman Van Lindquist, Vice Chairman Wes Storm, Jim Smoragiewicz, and Sherri Zimmer. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Cole, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Urban Forestry Board Liaison Steve Hasenohrl, City Council Liaison Karen Gunderson Olson, and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Motion was made by Storm, seconded by Smoragiewicz and carried to approve the Advisory Board minutes of November 8, 2007.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports

Steve Hasenohrl reported that the main topic of discussion at the last Urban Forestry Board was the Tree Care Workshop which will be held in March, 2008. The speaker will be Dr. Hauer and the Board is finalizing plans for the panel discussion that will be held during the afternoon session.

Surplus SD DOT Property

The next item on the agenda was discussion of SD Department of Transportation property located near the northwest corner of I-190 and Omaha Street (formerly Otto's Towing). The property is no longer needed by the State and they will be offering it for sale. Growth Management Director Marcia Elkins explained that various ideas have been presented for use of this property, including: beautification, possible expansion or reconfiguration of the Executive Golf Course, and some type of public/private partnership that would include development of the property. Elkins noted that it is her understanding that the State is in the process of doing an appraisal of the entire parcel at this time. The structure currently on the site will have to be removed because a portion of the building is located in the right-of-way. This may actually detract from the value of the property. It was also noted that the Blackcat Fire Fighting Group is currently housed in this facility. Steve Hasenohrl stated that this group was told they could stay until the end of June at which time the facility would be offered for sale.

Director Cole stated that if the idea is to some day own all the property along Omaha Street for the City park system, then this land would be an integral piece of property, along with the carpet building and Hubbard Mill at some point in time. However, there is no real use for the property except as open space. At one time it was suggested that the Executive golf course club house be relocated, but there are pros and cons for that idea. Lindquist noted that all the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board can do is make a recommendation to the City Council because the Board does not have access to the

amount of funding that would be necessary to acquire this piece of property. Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Zimmer to report to the City Council that it would be good for Rapid City to purchase this surplus property from the SDDOT to protect the integrity of the park system and provide open space, however, there are no funds available from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to assist with this land acquisition. Storm asked about restrictions on purchasing the land. Could the city buy it and then re-sell a portion of it? Elkins noted that it would be a fee simple purchase so she felt the City would be able to work with developers to sell a portion of the property. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Cole reported that two candidates for the Landscape Architect position were interviewed on December 6th and the last candidate will be interviewed on December 26th. He is hopeful that an offer can be made to one of the candidates the first week in January and hopefully someone will be on staff the first week in February.

The first of two public meetings relative to federal greenway funding was held on December 6th at the City/School Administration Center. Approximately 20 individuals attended and many good ideas were submitted. We are still accepting comments via e-mail from the web page and another public hearing will be held at the Swim Center on January 8th beginning at 7:00 PM.

The Parks and Recreation Department will have an all-staff meeting on Friday December 14, 2007 beginning at 11:30 AM. Cole invited the Board members to attend noting that lunch will be provided.

Cole reported that JR Hamblet has requested an early release from the contract he has to provide Pro Shop services at the municipal golf courses. The City has agreed to the early release and beginning January 1st the City will not have a Golf Pro. The Golf Division is soliciting proposals for golf pro shop services and adult golf instruction at Meadowbrook Golf Course. Interested persons should contact Doug Lowe at the Recreation Office for more information.

Tim Rangitsch and Dirk Gustin presented a proposed plan for the dirt jump park area off of Omaha Street. The plan is to create a legitimate dirt jump park for the community. The cost of the proposed park is \$24,000 and they are hoping to begin construction in May, 2008. A major fund raising drive is also planned to raise money for construction costs. The park will be constructed to handle all levels and ages of bikers from very young kids to accomplished jumpers.

Cole reported that he met with a group of people interested in developing a water park in Rapid Creek near Cowboy Hill for kayaking. They have had an expert look at this area and he feels it could be done with the amount of water currently flowing in the creek during irrigation season. Cole added noted that this entire area could be

developed as an outdoor recreation complex because of the different number of activities available in this area.

Director Cole noted that the Skyline Wilderness Area was donated to the City in 2006 and 98% of the mission of Skyline Drive Preservation, Inc. was accomplished. He has asked the Board of Directors of that organization to consider being a non-profit group that will work on behalf of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. There are many organizations and people who won't donate to a city, but they will consider donations to a non-profit organization. Cole thanked Skyline Drive Preservation, Inc. for agreeing to serve the community in that manner.

Election of Officers

Storm nominated Van Lindquist as Chairman and Jim Smoragiewicz as Vice Chairman. Zimmer seconded. Upon vote being taken, a unanimous ballot was cast for Lindquist and Smoragiewicz.

Awards

The following awards were presented:

Volunteer of the Year

Dirk Gustin: Dirk is a member of the Black Hills Mountain Biking Association who was instrumental in organizing the first annual Fat Tire Festival in Rapid City last May. Dirk has also been the inspiration behind the development of Buzzards Roost Trail, Cowboy Hill Trails and the Rapid City Bicycle Dirt Jump Park. He has written and received over \$300,000 in grants for the planning and development of trails in and around Rapid City. Besides writing grants, Dirk has put in thousands of hours of volunteer work on planning, building and teaching how to build trails. Dirk was the lead instructor of the successful mountain biking classes offered by the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department. He was instrumental in getting the International Mountain Bike Association here in May to host a trail building school where several participants came from as far away as Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and Wyoming to learn to build trails correctly. Because of his efforts there are many bicyclists from the Black Hills as well as from other States and Countries who have, and will come in the future to Rapid City to enjoy all the trail amenities available throughout the Black Hills area.

Volunteer Business of the Year: Acme Bicycles – Tim Rangitsch, Owner. In the past year Tim has actively been involved in trail work in and around Rapid City. Tim has been active in the purchase of equipment to use in building a local trail system, including a trail machine, rakes, shovels, and other trail equipment. Tim has also gone as far as to purchase equipment through his shop to help build the local trails. Acme Bicycles was also a very active sponsor for the Fat Tire Festival and brought to the table over \$5,000 worth of volunteer time, sponsorships and donated prizes. Tim Rangitsch has worked diligently to expand trails and riding opportunities in the Cowboy Hill, Skyline Drive Wilderness, Storm Mountain, Buzzards Roost and the new Rapid City Dirt

Jump areas. Tim has created, through his business's web site, a clearing house for information on rides and events in Rapid City and the Black Hills. He has been instrumental in educating Black Hills National Forest staff on the needs of local and visiting riders. Tim is one of the few business owners who has led the way to advocate Rapid City as the new "Mecca for Mountain Biking".

Volunteer Organization of the Year

Skyline Drive Preservation, Inc.: Skyline Drive Preservation, Inc. was founded in 1996 through the efforts of several local citizens who wanted to save the Skyline Drive area of Rapid City from development. The early vision of SDP, Inc was to help the City of Rapid City create this section of the City where no development could take place. The vision was that this land would eventually become a park whereby all citizens and visitors of Rapid City could find solitude inside the City in a semi wildness area. Since its beginning, SDP, Inc has been organized to seek and accept contributions from the public and to encourage community participation to purchase and save the Skyline land from development. Members of the Skyline Drive Preservation group have worked tirelessly for the past 11 years to preserve the natural beauty of the Skyline Drive area by writing grants and raising funds to purchase undeveloped land known as the Skyline Wilderness Area. That property was donated to the City early in 2007 with the intent that it be left in its natural state for future generations to enjoy.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2008

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.