

RESOLUTION TO NAME THE RAPID CITY BIKE PATH “THE LEONARD
“SWANNY” SWANSON MEMORIAL PATHWAY”

WHEREAS, Leonard “Swanny” Swanson worked for the City from 1952 until his retirement in 1987, spending 34 years as the City’s Public Works Director and as the City’s Urban Renewal Director immediately following the 1972 flood; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City experienced a tragic flood on June 9, 1972, which claimed the lives of 238 people and destroyed many homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, immediately following the flood, Swanny took on the additional responsibility of Urban Renewal Director for the City and coordinated housing for several hundred families; and

WHEREAS, negotiating and purchasing flood-ravaged properties from people who had lost loved ones and businesses was a difficult and emotional duty for Swanny, but he undertook that duty with resolve and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Swanny and his staff surveyed and defined the floodplain to guide development in the future; and

WHEREAS, Swanny was passionate about preventing future loss of life and urged the City Council to protect the floodway from development; and

WHEREAS, Swanny was instrumental in leading the effort to maintain the floodway as open space and to create the recreational greenway that stretches from one end of the City to the other, including a pathway that is heavily used by the public for biking, jogging, and other recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, Swanny’s efforts to help the City recover from the damage caused by the 1972 flood were widely recognized, including:

1974, HUD recognized Swanny and the Urban Renewal Department with a special urban design concept award for the flood recovery program;

1975, the American Institute of Architects issued a special award to the City for excellence in designing the urban floodplain;

1983, Swanny received a Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota State University alumni association for his leadership after the flood; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Swanny once again stepped forward as Chairman of the “Survivors to Save the Floodway” group in a successful effort to defeat an initiated measure that would have allowed private development in the greenway floodplain; and

WHEREAS, Swanny passed away on April 16, 2008, but his vision and commitment to preserving the integrity of the floodway is a legacy that will benefit and protect the people of this community for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council finds that naming the pathway in honor of Swanny is fitting tribute to a man whose selfless work should always be remembered; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City Common Council finds that it is in the best interest of the City of Rapid City that the pathway be named "The Leonard "Swanny" Swanson Memorial Pathway."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the pathway through Rapid City is hereby named "The Leonard 'Swanny' Swanson Memorial Pathway."

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer

(SEAL)