

MINUTES
PARK & RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE
April 29, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Campbell, Tim Henderson, Van Lindquist, Crystal Thompson, Sheri Zimmer

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Keith Johnson, Rod Johnson, Sharlene Mitchell, Lon VanDeusen

OTHERS PRESENT: Ray Summers, Watson Parker, Olga Parker, Ann Stanton, Kelly Farrar, Eric Martens, Tommie Leeknecht, Mike Stanley, Eirik Heikes, Bobbi Jean Jarvinen, Helen Wrede, David Strain, Donald Wrede

Call to Order

Zimmer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Founders Park Heritage Project

Zimmer summarized the concerns and suggestions presented at the April 15 meeting.

K. Johnson indicated that he has attended several of the Founders Park Committee meetings and addressed the Committee's commitment to the proposed site given its location and relationship to the original town site.

Zimmer clarified that the proposed location is west of the Rapid Trout sculpture. Zimmer indicated that alternative sites proposed by the Committee at the April 15 meeting included The Journey Museum and the Packing Plant site.

In response to a question from Zimmer, Elkins indicated that there is no current proposal for the purchase and rehabilitation of the Packing Plant site noting that the undetermined status of the site would create a time conflict with the project's progress.

In response to a question from Zimmer, Elkins addressed the floodway issues with regard to the proposed location noting that the proposed surface design is in compliance with floodway construction requirements. Elkins stated that the design and location of the proposed entrance signage would need to be developed in accordance with the floodway and floodplain regulations.

Stanley recommended that the project be reviewed by The Journey Museum Board of Directors prior to the site being presented to the City Council for consideration. Noting that the museum is located on City property, Elkins concurred that, as a courtesy, The Journey Museum should be consulted regarding placement of the project on the museum site.

H. Wrede stated that locating the project at any site but the Rapid Trout site would defeat the purpose of the project. She indicated that the intent of the project is to educate City residents about the City's history not to be utilized as a tourist attraction.

Elkins recommended identifying and ranking the various elements of the three locations in order to provide support for the Committee's recommendation. She indicated that the location would be an important element in the selection of the site. H. Wrede stated that the Rapid Trout location is very visible and accessible.

Summers requested clarification of the rationale for the suggestion that the museum be considered as a possible location for the project. Zimmer indicated that Dreyer felt the project would coordinate with the focus and goals of the museum.

Thompson stated that the museum site appealed to her due to the amenities already available at the site such as parking and restrooms. She continued that the project would complement the focus of the museum and provide easy access for educational groups.

Stanton addressed the amenities currently available at the Rapid Trout site such as parking and area lighting. She noted the accessibility and visibility of the site and its relationship to "Point of Rocks" the original funding camp site. Stanton indicated that they do not want to encourage access to "Point of Rocks" but educate the City residents on its historical value. She also noted the minimal site preparation required at the Rapid Trout site.

Heikes indicated that accessibility is a key feature of the project noting the intent to provide access to the site from the parking area and bike path. He indicated that the Rapid Trout site provides an open, level area which requires minimal improvement noting that the proposed design addresses the floodway development requirements.

W. Parker stressed the value of the Rapid Trout site in order to be as close as possible and retain the history of the original site.

R. Johnson addressed the proposed future improvements for the Rapid Trout site and the floodplain issues associated with The Journey Museum site.

In response to a question from Campbell, Stanton indicated that there are no alternative project designs noting that Committee developed the current design based on the development confines of the Rapid Trout site.

Heikes indicated that had the proposed site been located outside of the floodway a more three dimensional design would have been proposed and would have included elements such as kiosks. Heikes stated that The Journey is a free flowing presentation and the Founders Park project is a more structured presentation noting that the two projects would not complement each other. Summers concurred with Heikes' assessment of the ability of the museum and the Founders Park project to complement each other. He addressed the Journey's long range goal of establishing a botanical garden area and questioned the integration of the Founders Park project into that garden.

VanDeusen voiced support for the Rapid Trout site and the need for interpretation at the historical site addressing the City's founding. Strain spoke in support of the Rapid Trout site noting its historical significance to the founding and development of the community.

Stanton indicated that location and visibility of the Packing Plant site are a concern with regard to safety issues. She indicated that the location could encourage vandalism and loitering. Stanton expressed concern that site preparation costs would increase with the Packing Plant site and that the timbered entrance would be difficult to construct at the Packing Plant site.

Stanley addressed the emergence of "heritage land marking" where a community's significant historical sites are denoted by detailed information provided at the site.

Jarvinen clarified that the timbered entrance will be located outside of the floodway. Elkins addressed the building requirements for the 100 year floodplain.

Elkins reviewed the maintenance agreements approved by the City Council requiring a responsible group to be identified to maintain the site. Elkins addressed the Council's concern with the additional work projects such as these and the downtown sculptures place on existing City resources.

In response to a question from Zimmer, VanDeusen indicated that the proposed design would require a minimal maintenance commitment noting that the site landscaping would create a higher maintenance commitment.

In response to a question from Campbell, Elkins indicated that previous maintenance agreements have indicated that should the site not be maintained the City reserves the right to remove the structure. VanDeusen indicated that the current maintenance agreements are with formal groups. He stated that there have been no problems experienced to date with the existing projects noting that they are relative new installations.

Noting that the project has not been presented to the City Council, Zimmer cautioned that the projected October 2003 installation date may not be possible.

Elkins reviewed the site rankings based on the elements reviewed:
 Ranking Code:

+	=	1
0	=	0
-	=	-1

Element	Rapid Trout Site	Journey Museum Site	BH Packing Site
Vehicular Accessibility	+	0	-
Proximity to original site/historical	+	-	-
Bike Path accessibility	+	+	0
Parking facilities	+	+	-
Timing	+	+	-
Restrooms	0	+	-
Lighting	+	+	-
Floodplain	0 Floodway + 100 Yr	+	0 Floodway + 100 Yr
Maintaining	(Must be addressed prior to construction for any site)		
Total	6	5	-6

Elkins indicated that while the Packing Plant site may have long term potential it is not a viable location at this time.

Jarvinen indicated that the October completion date is a concern as it relates to project funding. She noted the formal groups that have been approached regarding funding of the project. She indicated that they are looking to involve the Rapid City Leadership classes and the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce. Jarvinen indicated that they have also contacted a number of the original businesses in Rapid City noting they have expressed interest in sponsorship of the project. Jarvinen indicated that timing is the current problem not fund raising. She indicated that fund raising efforts have been placed on hold pending receiving City Council approval of the project.

Discussion followed regarding the estimated costs of the project. Stanton indicated that the \$30,000-\$40,000 estimated cost is for the structure only and does not include the bronze plaques and landscaping costs. Stanton encouraged interested individuals to view the sample structure installed at the School of Mines.

Zimmer encouraged the committee to prepare a firm budget and fund raising outline for presentation to the City Council. Elkins recommended that the final design plans, maintenance budget and construction costs be included in the City Council presentation.

In response to a question from Lindquist, Stanton provided an example of the proposed site entryway.

In response to a question from Zimmer, K. Johnson indicated that the Five Year Plan reflects the Founders Park project in year 2004 and includes restrooms, signage and playground equipment with a proposed budget of \$80,000. Elkins indicated that temporary restroom facilities are available year round at the site.

Jarvinen commented on the possibility of future Leadership Rapid City classes or the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce assuming maintenance responsibility for the project.

Lindquist moved to recommend that the City Council approve the potential location based on priority as: #1 the Rapid Trout site; #2 The Journey museum site; and, #3 the Packing Plant site be eliminated due to the negative aspects of the site and to further recommend that the resolution of issues such as the project design, budget, funding and maintenance plan be presented to the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee for review and approval prior to initiation of the project. Campbell seconded the motion.

In response to a question from Henderson, Elkins indicated that the intent of the motion is for the Council to select the final project site allowing the applicant to then finalize the identified issues based on that site. She indicated that there would be two presentations to City Council, the first presentation would address the site selection and the second presentation would address project design, budget, funding and maintenance.

The motion to recommend that the City Council approve the potential location based on priority as: #1 the Rapid Trout site; #2 The Journey museum site; and, #3 the Packing Plant site be eliminated due to the negative aspects of the site and to further recommend that the resolution of issues such as the project design, budget, funding and maintenance plan be presented to the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee for review and approval prior to initiation of the project carried unanimously.

Department of Transportation Enhancement Program

K. Johnson briefly reviewed the program materials noting that the program would be addressed in full at the May meeting. Discussion followed regarding Department of Transportation meeting dates and recommended submittal timetable for the Enhancement program.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.