



CITY OF RAPID CITY

300 SIXTH STREET
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Jerry W. Cole,
Director
(605) 394-4157

Lon VanDeusen,
Parks & Cemetery
Manager
(605) 394-5307

Doug Lowe,
Recreation Manager
(605-394-6161

James (JJ) Walraven
Golf Superintendent
(605) 394 4199

Parks and Recreation Memo

Date: June 4, 2004

To: City Council

From: Jerry W. Cole, Director of Parks and Recreation

Subject: CIP Facility Grants

Summary: On May 21, 2004 the CIP Committee unanimously voted to direct the Parks and Recreation Director to develop a funding policy to handle requests from organizations that needed help in updating or renovating City owned facilities. This policy was to be presented at the next Legal and Finance Committee meeting Wednesday, June 2, 2004. The attached documentation is the results of that policy research.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that \$50,000 per year be appropriated from the Parks and Recreation CIP budget to establish a grant program which would provide a funding source to organizations that lease City owned property. This grant program would be implemented in 2005 and carried through each year thereafter as long as funds were available in the CIP budget.

Analysis/Background: In looking over the history of funding projects at the City owned/leased facilities it was recognized that there were two types of distinct projects that were being funded in the past.

The first type of project was a renovation/update of existing infrastructure facilities. Projects funded under this distinction were usually parking lots, water mains, sewer lines, major field reconstruction, and lighting costing more than \$50,000.

The second type of project was under \$50,000 and usually included fencing, irrigation, building updates or renovations. These projects according to the lease were the responsibility of the organizations to fund.

Although history has shown that some of the funding for these updates and projects came from the City through the CIP budget.

What has happened in some of these facilities is that the organizations have run short with fund raising and have put off some of the projects in order to provide the basics to play. In short there are facilities in Rapid City that are do for major renovations which could have been avoided if money was available to fix some of the smaller problems earlier in the process.

The City of Rapid City holds contracts with more than twenty-four (24) organizations for City owned facilities. Some of these facilities have been in use in Rapid for many years. Some, for only a short time, but what they all have in common is that they are getting heavy use.

Rapid City is fortunate to be home to many excellent sports facilities. Public investment in such community projects is important because they help to bolster community development.

Sports facilities provide economic stimulus by:

- Creating economic impacts;
- Encouraging consumer spending;
- Serving as tourist attractions;
- Reducing crime and delinquency;
- Providing youth, adult and seniors with vital, physical activity that greatly benefits the quality of life.

Over the years organizations change, as they change people and sometimes change focus they can't keep their leased facility in top shape. As expenses increase and funds become tight, decisions to hold off spending for that broken fence or run down building will take a back seat to just providing the kids with uniforms. What we would like to do is to allow these sports organizations to concentrate on what they do best but also provide them with the incentive to develop that renovation project they have been holding off on and to be able to again take pride in all of our facilities.

With the hundreds of park and recreation facilities in Rapid City, the City can no longer stand by and allow these precious commodities to be rundown to a point where only major hundred thousand dollar renovation projects are the norm. We must look ahead and be proactive with our policies and this policy establishing a grant funding component to the CIP budget will do just that.