

MINUTES  
PARK & RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
May 21, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mel Dreyer, Van Lindquist, Robert Schlotman, Bob Scull, Crystal Thompson, Sheri Zimmer

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry Godfrey, Joyce Godfrey, Bruce Brugman, Chuck Yarbrough, Jim Phoenix, Diane Dahl

Call to Order

Zimmer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with an introduction of the committee members and staff.

Approval of Minutes

**Dreyer moved, Lindquist seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2002 and March 11, 2002 meetings.**

Enchanted Hills Property Transfer Proposal

Elkins provided a brief overview of the request from the Enchanted Hills Homeowners Association to transfer a 53-acre open space to the City for park land. Elkins outlined the conditions and restrictions of transfer proposed by the Homeowners Association. She then addressed the issues and concerns outlined by the Fire Department with regard to the site.

Elkins advised the Enchanted Hills representatives that the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee was a recommending body only noting that recommendations from the committee are presented to the City Council for formal action.

Yarbrough indicated that area serves as an open space, recreational area for the Enchanted Hills development. Yarbrough indicated that the City's Future Land Use Plan identifies the site as appropriate for park land. He indicated that the on-going expenses associated with the site have prompted the Association's proposal noting that the site provides a buffer zone for the adjacent landowners. He indicated that the adjacent property owners have expressed concerns that the level of development allowed in the park could result in an adverse impact on the residential properties, erosion of the hill sides, and the need for restricting primary access to the site from a location outside of the development. Yarbrough indicated that the Association did not want high-use activities developed in the area.

Elkins indicated that the Future Land Use Plan identifies the pond area as a low impact use. Elkins addressed the Fire Department's concerns regarding access to the site. She indicated that providing access other than through the Enchanted Hills Subdivision would require acquisition of the adjacent property.

VanDeusen indicated that access to the site for maintenance purposes was also a concern of the Parks Department. Discussion followed regarding the development of on-site parking for recreational uses, the terrain issues, the impact the surrounding private property would have on the site and the need to acquire additional lands in order to secure access to the site.

In response to a question from Phoneix, Elkins indicated that the section line is inaccessible due to the grade. She indicated that it would be necessary to address the access issues with the adjacent landowner. Discussion followed regarding terrain and access issues. Elkins indicated that the park development would need to focus on low impact uses as the terrain prohibits development of organized sports facilities.

Godfrey expressed concern that the area would become an abused, problem area due to its secluded and isolated location.

R. Johnson indicated that a Catron Boulevard access would make the site more accessible to the general public but could also promote negative activities in the area. R. Johnson indicated that the property to the north provides the only viable access to the area. Discussion followed regarding providing a buffer zone between commercial and residential development and policing the area to discourage negative activities. R. Johnson suggested that development of the area and introduction of new activities and uses could assist in deterring the negative uses.

Elkins clarified the boundaries of the open space being considered for transfer. Discussion followed regarding the types of traffic that could be anticipated with development of the area, erosion protection, location of existing water and sewer lines and long range projection for providing water and sewer to the subdivision.

In response to a question, Elkins indicated that the property could be posted but there is no assurance that the negatives uses will not occur. Brugman indicated that the Association is not in full agreement on the transfer proposal noting his preference to retain the site for the protection of his privacy.

Elkins suggested that the Committee may wish to tour the site prior to taking action on the request. Lindquist requested that staff provide a draft proposal as to the uses that could be developed on the site.

VanDeusen indicated that once the site becomes public land, the public will then drive its development referring to the development issues experienced at Mary Hall Park. Elkins indicated that exclusionary and restricted uses could be identified on the deed.

R. Johnson commented on the undeveloped land within the City limits and the impact on City resources should the City begin accepting these types of land transfers. He recommended considering the management and liability issues associated with these types of requests.

Zimmer recommended that the Committee tour the property. Dreyer requested that staff contact the adjacent landowner regarding securing access to the site. Discussion followed regarding rezoning activity in the area and the proliferation of cellular towers in the area.

Yarbrough indicated that a two-thirds majority vote is required to approve the transfer noting that the City's recommendation on the proposal is required in order to proceed with the proposal. Discussion followed regarding removal of the pond and the associated wetlands issues.

#### Financial Report/Project Update

K. Johnson provided a brief review of the current projects noting the expenses for the McKeague project includes design and power service fees. He indicated that the Memorial Park improvement project will be completed by month end noting the project savings. K. Johnson

indicated that the Memorial Park Plan is the design project noting the slight overrun on the project. He indicated that the Star of the West project has been finalized.

R. Johnson indicated that design work on the Canyon Lake project must begin as soon as possible to insure the project will be ready for a fall start. Lindquist indicated that he would meet with the Messinger family within the week and that he would contact staff regarding the results of the meeting.

#### Six Pillars of Character

R. Johnson indicated that the consensus of the review committee was to recommend Halley Park for the Six Pillars of Character Pavilion project. He indicated that the structure would be located west of the Science Center between the building and the Veterans Memorial. He indicated that the Character Coalition is excited with the location due to its visibility and proximity to the Children's Science Center. Discussion followed regarding the parking and traffic noise issues at the site. Elkins recommended reviewing the property deeds to insure there are no use restrictions. She indicated that the proposal must also be reviewed under the Historic Preservation 11.1 Review process and the Planning Commission 11-6-19 SDCL process prior to issuance of the building permit.

**Scully moved, Dreyer seconded and carried unanimously to recommend approval of Halley Park as the location for the Six Pillars of Character Pavilion due to its central location, high visibility and proximity to the Children's Science Center with the understanding that the project must receive approval under the 11.1 Review process by the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission. In addition, the project must be reviewed by the Rapid City Planning Commission pursuant to the provisions of 11-6-19 prior to the initiation of construction.**

#### Bleachers Request

R. Johnson indicated that two additional organizations have approached the City regarding financial assistance with the purchase of new bleachers. R. Johnson reviewed the prior bleacher project in which the City purchased the bleacher materials and the organization provided the installation labor. K. Johnson reviewed the number of bleachers purchased and the total cost.

Lindquist recommended that the item be placed on the Five Year Project List as an unfunded item for budget consideration. Discussion followed regarding utilization of year-end savings to purchase the bleachers for Spring 2003 installation.

#### Other Business

R. Johnson provided the Committee members with current maps identifying the location of the City park facilities.

R. Johnson presented the Hawthorne Avenue street reconstruction project adjacent to Robbinsdale Park. He reviewed the drainage improvements being undertaken in the area including the reconstruction of the park entrance road.

R. Johnson identified the current location of the bike path and suggested that the Subcommittee recommend approval of funding for the project to extend the bike path to Oakland Street. He indicated that the project would include replacing approximately 400 feet of sidewalk with an 8-foot bike path for an estimated cost of \$10,000.

Lindquist recommended limiting Parks & Recreation funding in the project to the oversize costs for expansion of the existing sidewalk to the 8-foot bike path. Discussion followed regarding the amount of sidewalk to be disturbed.

**Lindquist moved, Thompson seconded and carried unanimously to fund the cost of 100 feet of the 8 foot bike path and the oversize costs for 300 feet of sidewalk upgraded to an 8 foot bike path to Oakland Street.**

#### Tour of City Parks

The Committee scheduled the Park Tour for Wednesday, June 5, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.

#### Report from Park Superintendent

VanDeusen commented on the increased activity including preparation for the Air Stream convention, tree trimming, flower bed planting and grass mowing. VanDeusen indicated that he has requested a budget increase to support the increased landscaping maintenance including the I-90/Haines Avenue and I-190 interchange areas. R. Johnson indicated that the majority of seasonal help does not have the training necessary to do landscaping maintenance in high traffic areas.

Zimmer complemented the Recreation Department staff on the Summer Activity Guide. VanDeusen commented on Lowe's Little League coaching.

In response to a question from Scull, Dreyer indicated that the Ice Rink will remain open for the full year with the exception of a 30 day maintenance period. Discussion followed regarding the reduction in ice activities due to the competition from summer activities. R. Johnson commented on the need to develop programming to allow the facility to operate year round.

#### Other Business

R. Johnson invited the Committee to the dedication of the Sioux Park stadium. Lindquist requested that staff address the issue of automobiles being driven to the top of the bleacher area with the school system.

Elkins commented on the water ponding occurring on the tennis courts. Discussion followed regarding grading of the courts and the resulting ponding.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

MINUTES  
PARK & RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
August 6, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Campbell, Mel Dreyer, Van Lindquist, Robert Schlotman, Crystal Thompson

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Pelly, Doyle Estes, Roger Naber, Ken Woods, Betty Woods, Michael Bender, Michael Stanley, Jacqueline Allen

Call to Order

Lindquist called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Financial Report

R. Johnson briefly reviewed the current projects noting the additional expense to install new conduit to the McKeague Field score board. R. Johnson indicated that the North Middle School, Memorial Park Improvement Plan, Robbinsdale BMX and Star of the West projects are completed.

Report from Park Superintendent

VanDeusen commented on the continuing cleanup from the recent wind storm. VanDeusen indicated that work is continuing on the Dutch Elm Disease survey noting that private property owner's are being notified to remove infected trees.

In response to a question from Dreyer, VanDeusen reviewed the City's weed spraying program. Dreyer requested that spraying be performed in the area adjacent to Fisher Furniture.

In response to a question from Lindquist, VanDeusen indicated that the pool activity report is being prepared for the Pool Committee. R. Johnson indicated that revenue and attendance for the season has exceeded 2001 numbers.

Standards utilized in determination of Park Development

R. Johnson indicated that application of the National Park & Recreation Association standards to the City park lands indicates that the City facilities exceed the national standards. R. Johnson commented on the impact the undeveloped greenway has on the overall ratios.

R. Johnson indicated that the park statistics would be updated and provided to the Subcommittee. Lindquist requested that the City's undeveloped park land be reflected in the final report. A brief discussion followed regarding passive open space requirements.

Schlotman entered the meeting at this time and a quorum was seated.

Approval of May 21, 2002 Minutes

**Dreyer moved, Thompson seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2002 meeting.**

Six Pillars of Character Location Recommendation

Pelly indicated that he has been working with staff to identify alternative sites for the project. He requested approval to place the project in the northeast corner of West Memorial Park.

Lindquist clarified that the Historic Preservation Commission had denied the Halley Park 11.1 Review and that the Planning Commission had tabled the application.

Bender indicated that the Commission felt the project would be an adverse impact on Halley Park, the City's oldest park. He continued that the Commission was also concerned with site accessibility noting the lack of pedestrian access and the high traffic volume in the area. Bender clarified that the Commission supports the Character Counts concept but can not support the Halley Park site. Discussion followed regarding the Halley Park site.

R. Johnson presented the West Memorial Park Master Plan noting the proposed location of the pavilion. Discussion followed regarding development of the Master Plan elements in conjunction with the Omaha Street reconstruction project.

In response to a question from Dreyer, R. Johnson indicated that the undeveloped areas of Sioux Park are floodway. In response to a question from Campbell, R. Johnson indicated that access to the proposed site would be from the Eighth Street parking lot via the bike/pedestrian path.

In response to a question from Allen, Pelly indicated that visual access of the structure was also a consideration in site selection. Pelly indicated that he would work with the Parks Department and the Beautification Committee regarding appropriate landscaping at the site.

Dreyer expressed concern with the West Memorial Park site due to the reconstruction of Omaha Street and suggested incorporating the project into Roosevelt Park. Discussion followed regarding the visibility needs of the project.

Discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages of other locations.

Bender indicated support for the West Memorial Park site due to its proximity to the High School noting that the visibility of the location would help to deter vandalism. Discussion followed regarding maintenance of the drainage channel through West Memorial Park.

Elkins indicated that the City Council has authorized staff to pursue a TEA-21 grant for the Master Plan improvements to West Memorial park and that would likely be submitted in 2003. She indicated that the Character Counts project could provide the necessary impetus to improve this major City entryway.

In response to a question from Elkins, Bender reviewed the Historic Preservation Commission's concerns with the Halley Park site. He indicated that the Commission has recommended requesting the City's permission to nominate the park to the National Register of Historic Places due to its status as the City's first park and its age at almost 100 years old. Discussion followed regarding the continued utilization of the park building at the Children's Science Center.

Pelly addressed the work of Character Counts with the K-6 grade levels noting the intent is to place the structure where it is visible in order to remind everyone of its message. He then addressed the advantages and disadvantages of other possible sites. Pelly indicated that the project is a cooperative effort of various groups and committees throughout the City.

The proposed six site locations were then ranked utilizing the following characteristics: visibility, central location, access, parking, kid friendly, ambience (noise), compatibility and educational value.

Characteristics	West Memorial Park	Halley Park	Wilson Park	Roosevelt Park	Old Frisbee Golf Course	Old BH Harley property
Visibility	+	+	null	+/-	+	+
Central Location	+	+	-	null	+	null
Access	+/-	-	+	+	null/-	null/-
Parking	+	-	-	+	+	+
Kid Friendly	-	null	+	+	-	-
Ambience (Noise)	-	null/-	+	+	-	null
Compatibility	+	+	+	+	+	+
Educational Value	null	+	+	null	null/-	null/-
<b>Final Ranking</b>	<b>2nd</b>			<b>1st</b>		<b>Eliminate</b>

Discussion followed regarding the project's visibility within Roosevelt Park upon completion of the Master Plan elements. Discussion followed regarding incorporation of the pavilion into the proposed pond project at Roosevelt Park.

**Dreyer moved, Campbell seconded and carried unanimously to recommend approval of Roosevelt Park as the preferred location and West Memorial Park as the second preferred location for the Character Counts, Six Pillars of Character pavilion project.**

Proposed Park Sites - Rapid Valley

Estes outlined the available property in Rapid Valley that could be utilized for park sites. He proposed utilizing a seven acre drainage lot as a neighborhood park. Discussion followed regarding physical access to the drainage lot. Naber indicated that a neighborhood park would benefit the community. Discussion followed regarding development of the drainage site noting the issues associated with the development of the Knollwood drainage site.

Discussion followed regarding the development of the new school site. Dreyer recommended that the land purchase be presented to the City Council and that staff review the City's liability with regard to City development of County owned property. Elkins indicated that the area Future Land Use Plan identifies the school property as appropriate for park use due to its proximity to the school noting the ability to do joint development with the School District.

Elkins requested that the detention site as-built plan be provided to allow the Public Works staff to review the drainage issues in conjunction with park land development of the site. Discussion followed regarding maintenance of the site, the impact on existing park maintenance staff with the expansion of park facilities and annexation of the area.

Proposed Park Sites - East Boulevard

Estes indicated that a five acre detention site located at the south end of East Boulevard was also available for possible park land development. Discussion followed regarding physical access to the site. Elkins recommended that the drainage information also be provided for the East Boulevard site.

Lindquist recommended that all requested information be reviewed by the Subcommittee.

Enchanted Hills Property Transfer Proposal

R. Johnson indicated that he has not contacted Black Hills Power & Light regarding utilization of their property as access to the Enchanted Hills property. Lindquist requested that staff contact the Enchanted Hills Homeowners Association regarding their final action on releasing the property.

Other Business - Noordermeer Fencing

R. Johnson addressed the damage to the original Noordermeer soccer field noting his discussions with the Soccer Rapid City regarding fencing the area to deter the vandalism. He indicated the fencing would cost an estimated \$15,000. Discussion followed regarding methods to deter vandalism and prosecute the vandals.

**Dreyer moved, Campbell seconded and carried unanimously to recommend purchasing and installing a motion detector camera at the Noordermeer field for use in identifying and prosecuting the vandals.**

Lindquist recommended that the Soccer Rapid City organization be advised that the Subcommittee's intent is to protect the fields and will pursue fencing should the motion detector fail to achieve the desired results.

Other business - Pete Lien Field

R. Johnson advised the Subcommittee on the concerns expressed by the Beautification Committee with the visual appearance of the back sides of the billboard fencing at Pete Lien field. Discussion followed regarding the utilization of landscaping to camouflage the billboards. Dreyer requested that landscaping costs be provided for the project.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.