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MINUTES OF THE  
RAPID CITY SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
TRAINING SESSION ON PARKS AND RECREATION ISSUES  
September 5, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Etter, Dennis Landguth, Andy Scull, Peter Anderson, Mike Derby, Gary Brown, and Julie Gregg.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve McCarthy, Ron Kroeger and Mike Kenton

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Bob Dominicak and Monica Heller

Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Elkins provided an overview of the Council's request to have the Planning Commission review the possible implementation of park and school land dedication. She explained that Jerry Cole, the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Director was invited to provide an overview of the recently completed Park and Recreation Plan.

Jerry Cole reviewed the Parks and Recreation plan which began in 2005 and was recently completed. He discussed the public input, questionnaires, stakeholder meetings, youth recreation groups and staff input into the plan. He reviewed some of the key elements of the Parks and Recreation Plan and the priorities identified in the plan.

Derby entered the meeting at this time.

Cole outlined the staffing issues facing the Parks and Recreation Department and the growing land area and facilities in the community. He updated the Commission on the status of the playground replacement program. He noted that the playground equipment needs to be replaced every 15 years and that the individual Park Master Plans need to be re-evaluated every 30 years.

Cole reviewed the District maps and the needs of the various districts based on national recognized standards in detail.

In response to a question from Scull, Cole indicated that he had met with an Archery group regarding a 3-D archery range; however, the Parks and Recreation staff could not identify an appropriate City owned property for the facility.

In response to a question from Landguth, Cole indicated that while it would be desirable to update the individual master plans more often; however, due to staffing constraints that more often updates are not realistic. He indicated that if there are significant changes in an area, the plan should be re-evaluated sooner.

In response to a question from Brown, discussion followed regarding the staffing needs for maintaining the expanded and improved park facilities.

Heller distributed a memorandum regarding the Parkland and School Land Dedication

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outlining the options for requiring park land and school land dedication. She reviewed the land dedication requirements, the fee in lieu requirements and impact fee requirements. She provided a brief over view of the current City requirements.

Kenton outlined the needs of the School District and the benefits of coordinating those efforts between the City and the School Districts.

Discussion followed on the increased costs of development associated with requiring the dedication of park land, benefits of parks and schools to development, the changing needs of the community, tax increment financing, partnerships with developers and the economic development benefits of park land in luring businesses to Rapid City based on the improved quality of life. Discussion continued on the quality of life issues particularly related to schools, parks and recreation and the relocation of empty nesters to the community and the changes in the school district attendance patterns.

**Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:48 pm.**