



# RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Allender, Chief of Police

## RECEIVED

Memo To: Planning Commission

APR 11 2014

Memo From: Karl Jegeris, Asst. Chief of Police

RAPID CITY COMMUNITY PLANNING  
& DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Date: 4-10-14

Subject: "The Eagles" (a gift to the Rapid City Community from the Armstrong and McCandless families)

In November of 2012, The Rapid City Police Department, on behalf of the families of Nick Armstrong and Ryan McCandless obtained preliminary approval from the RC Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to locate a Memorial in Founder's Park. Since that time, a committee consisting of the Rapid City Police Department, The Fraternal Order of Police, The Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department, Community Planning and Development Services, Public Works Department, Artist James Van Nuys, and Beth Palmer have continued to plan for this project to be completed.

It is our request that the Planning Commission provide final approval of the application so we can obtain a building permit and have this in place for our planned dedication ceremony on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. I have included the meeting notes from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, and additional notes below that help describe the reason for this specific location. I intend to be present for the Planning Commission meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, along with Artist James Van Nuys, representatives from the Fraternal Order of Police, and the Parks Department. We will be available for any additional questions.

### Location-

Founders Park has been chosen by the families. The concept is "Eagles taking off for flight" towards the top of M Hill and heaven. M Hill is significant regarding the special time that Nick spent Mountain Biking in the area, and his special appreciation for nature and higher ground. "The Mountains are Calling and I Must Go." Both Nick and Ryan spent many hours patrolling the bike path in this area as part of the department's Street Crimes Unit. Nick's family travels Omaha Street on a daily basis, and they have a special appreciation for this location. Ryan's family lives in Michigan and supports this location.

### Significance-

Eagles are significant in many ways. They are symbolized on the RCPD Badge. RCPD Rules and Procedures describe "The eagle at the top of the badge represents strength in character, courage in the face of strife, and protection of the community." They are also symbolized on the RCPD Patch. RCPD Rules and Procedures "The bald eagle is important for many reasons: It is the national bird of the United States of America; and represents strength and bravery. The open wings of the eagle signify protection for our community, and the out-stretched talons represent the apprehension of evildoers. The bald

eagle is sacred to many Native American cultures, including the Lakota in South Dakota. In many Native American cultures, the bald eagle is believed to be a messenger between the creator and earth.”

### **Aesthetic Considerations-**

The materials used are of high quality and will complement the area. The bronze Eagles will also complement the nature motif of the fish sculpture nearby, along with the creek, bridge, and rock wall backdrop. There is already lighting in place in this location, and there is an opportunity to easily install additional spotlighting to light up the elevated eagles.

*Parks and Recreation Advisory Board November 8, 2012*

### **Memorial Honoring Ryan McCandless and Nick Armstrong**

Police Chief Steve Allender and Asst. Chief Karl Jegeris presented a proposal for a memorial Honoring Ryan McCandless and Nick Armstrong. Allender gave a brief history of the two police officers and their deaths while on duty approximately one year ago. He added that police officers have a unique partnership with community parks; they work throughout the park system while on duty, and enjoy the benefits of the parks system when not working. Allender noted that the proposed memorial is a long-term project that will take approximately two years to complete. The proposed location in Founders Park spoke to Nick Armstrong’s mother because of his affinity for mountain biking and the views of Cowboy Hill and Hanson Larsen Memorial Park. The families of these two fallen police officers have only asked that the Police Department help them get this memorial located in Founders Park. Allender spoke about the symbolism of the eagles in flight which are featured in the statue and how they relate to the Police Department. He added that the proposed memorial is a work of art that the families of these officers would like to commission and then give back to the community. Allender stated that as Police Chief he has a professional stake in this project and his position, and that of his department is to support these families in whatever way he can. Allender requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board help the Police Department help the Armstrong and McCandless families give back to the community.

Artist Jim Van Nuys was present and displayed a scale model of the proposed memorial. The base will be 16’ x 10’ and the statue is approximately 14’ tall.

Tinant asked about the funding source for this project. Allender stated that the entire project will be paid for with private funding that is being raised throughout the community for this purpose. Olson asked about the engineering necessary for the project because of its size. Van Nuys explained that Dale Lamphere is a consultant on this project and there is no one more knowledgeable about putting up a tall structure like this. He will be making the tall plates that support the eagles.

Jegeris explained that part of the request this evening is to ask that Parks and Recreation staff work with other City staff on the issues that will need approval prior to locating the statue in Founders Park. They will be getting all the necessary approvals and permits from the city for the proposed location in Founders Park. If the location in Founders Park is not possible, they will come back with a request for an alternative site.

Schild stated that he has reviewed all the information and feels this is a wonderful project. He added that he doesn't think the article in the RC Journal reflected well on the Advisory Board but he hasn't heard anyone opposing the project.

Lindquist agreed noting that we should not be in any kind of adversarial position because we are working together on this issue. He added that many times the Parks and Recreation Board seems to be on the back end of issues relative to the park system and we are just expected to approve projects. It is good to be involved at the beginning of this project.

Tinant stated that he reviewed the proposed project and it does seem to abide by the criteria in the draft of the public art policy the Board is currently working on. He commended Jegeris on the proposal documents which are very well done and provide the necessary information. Lindquist asked that the on-going maintenance costs be considered as this moves through the approval process. Stroot stated that he feels this is a very good proposal and we want to do everything we can to honor this request. Hopefully the location in Founders Park will work.

Motion was made by Storm and seconded by Askvig to approve the project concept as outlined in the Founders Park location. Storm added that he feels the Founders Park location is more appropriate than anywhere else in the park system. Lindquist suggested that the motion be amended to conditionally approve the project knowing that there are questions that need to be answered as the project moves forward. No changes were made to the motion.

Lewis stated that he feels this is an excellent project brought forward in an excellent manner by people who are aware of the process and the approvals that are needed. Askvig stated that he was never opposed to this project which seemed to be the case in the article in the Rapid City Journal. He added that this is a wonderful project and if he had known it was being presented to the Advisory Board the comments he made to the Journal would have been different.

Upon vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.