



CITY OF RAPID CITY

Department of Parks and Recreation

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August 11, 2014

Responses to questions regarding No. 14PD019 - Final Planned Development Overlay to construct public park amenities

Hours:

Park hours will be consistent with all other Rapid City Municipal Parks. Signage will identify the Park as open to the Public from 6am to 10pm at each trailhead/access point. Parking will be limited to Park users.

Pets:

Pet-owners will be required to meet the City's Ordinance 6.12.030 related to restraint of dogs and cats while in the Park. Signage will be provided at trailhead locations that remind park users to use a leash while in the park.

6.12.030 Restraint.

No person may allow any dog or cat to run at large. The owner or custodian of any animal shall at all times keep his or her animal under restraint in a manner which avoids bodily injury to the animal. Service animals and animals used in parades are exempt from the provisions of this section. (Ord. 3429 (part), 1998; Ord. 2900 (part), 1991; prior code § 6-12)

Maintenance

Current park maintenance is minimal throughout the Skyline Wilderness Area, Skyline Drive and Dinosaur Park areas and winter maintenance is basically non-existent. Following development of the proposed improvements all trailheads will have garbage cans and the Parks Department is prepared to increase maintenance throughout this area to address the increased use. Garbage and recycling will be emptied regularly and restrooms will be cleaned year-round. The newly developed trail system will require regular trail maintenance and parking lot maintenance will also be increased to ensure the park is safe and well maintained. The park's department staff presence will go from sporadic to regular and provide a steady daily presence of monitoring for this area.

Enforcement:

Skyline Wilderness Park and Skyline Drive are in an under-developed state which has created an opportunity for extra-curricular activities that do not fit with the recreational wilderness aspects for which the park is intended. Many factors have exacerbated this issue no centralized access points, lack of signage, lighting, and public amenities, as well as a minimal presence of park maintenance and police.

The proposed development has addressed these concerns in the following ways.

By improving the gravel areas where much of the activity is occurring and establishing three (3) main trailhead and access points to the park the park users coming to the park for its intended use will be funneled to these area. This increase of turn-over of park users will create a more consistent presence at these locations which reduces the appeal of these areas for non-recreational based activities. Another benefit of this proposed development is that there will be an increase in Park maintenance staff emptying garbage, snowplowing, and conducting trail maintenance which will be on-going throughout the year including the winter when public recreation participation diminishes. Another factor is the police patrols throughout Skyline Drive which currently occur and will continue. By establishing the lots as Public Park Trailheads the Rapid City Police Department has more enforceability at these locations after 10pm.

Parking lot development allows for the future opportunity of this parking lots and trailheads to be gated after park hours if needed.

Public Safety:

The Park improvements do not address the presence of alternate modes of transportation along the entirety of Skyline Drive; there are no plans for bike lanes or sidewalks along Skyline Drive within this project. However, the trail and trailhead development does accommodate vehicular access and pedestrian and bicyclists crossings in the form of pavement markings and advanced warning signs at strategic locations. Currently, no defined trail system exists and there is no indication of where bikes and pedestrians are crossing Skyline Drive proposed signage and will be clear to both park users and vehicular traffic on Skyline Drive. Skyline Drive was originally built with as a Scenic Byway for tourists and locals to enjoy the views during a leisurely drive above the City; this planned development perpetuates this idea and allows for future accommodation of improvements to Skyline Drive to address alternative modes of transportation throughout the corridor.

Hangman's Hill Plaque:

Dinosaur Park is in need of some major improvements to address hill-top access, parking, and safety. Unfortunately, funding does not allow for all these improvements to be completed simultaneously. Within this planned development large vehicular parking and pedestrian safety will be addressed at Dinosaur Park and a future development project will address the ADA and public park improvements necessary on Dinosaur Hill. Signage such as the Hangman's Hill plaque will be addressed during this project as the location of this plaque will be redesigned, plans will provide a new sign at this location which will update and integrate the Hangman's Hill information. The Dinosaur Park Master Plan identifies that this sign will be moved upon future development of Dinosaur Hill to a location that overlooks the actual location of what is known as "Hangman's Hill".

Trailhead Utilities:

New parking lots and trailheads will not be lit. The only parking lot on Skyline Drive that will remain lighted is Dinosaur Park due to the concession stand and building at that location. Lighting of the parking lot and hillside at Dinosaur Park has not deterred any extra-curricular activities from occurring at this park and as Skyline Drive can be seen

from all over town the elimination of any additional light pollution is befitting of the wilderness intent and allure of this area.

Extensions for electrical, sewer, and water are planned within the development of the Stonewall Overlook and the West Fulton Street (West Dinosaur) Trailhead to accommodate development of a restroom facility at the Stonewall Overlook and a potential restroom facility at the West Dinosaur trailhead. Proposed electrical will be trenched rather than utilizing overhead lines to maintain access and eliminate visual obstructions.

Trail System:

The trails that currently exist throughout this area have been built by neighbors and others using the area for recreation, but no formal trail system exists. The planned development aims to bring order to the chaotic mess of trails which includes redundancy, erosion issues and trails on private property. New construction and remediation of existing trails will provide a system of "trails for everyone" that accommodate multiple recreational opportunities such as dog-walking, hiking, and biking. Signage will also be provided to create a safe and navigable system of natural surface trails and prevent trespassing issues.

The proposed trails will be natural surface trails for hiking and biking. Paved sections of trails will be limited to Dinosaur Park in future phases of development.

Stormwater Management/Drainage

The West Fulton Street (West Dinosaur) Trailhead incorporates a stormwater management plan to address and reduce runoff. A detention basin will capture hillside stormwater and remove sediment while an overflow standpipe will release excess runoff from this basin at a reduced rate over riprap to prevent erosion. Runoff from the parking lot will be captured via curb and gutter that ties into the West Fulton Street curb and gutter system. The decision to pave these lots allows for proper stormwater management to reduce erosion downhill of these site as well as to promote ease of winter maintenance.

All trailhead designs utilize a similar system to address stormwater management.

Approvals & Funding – Meeting Minutes

***April 10, 2014 (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board):**

The Skyline Wilderness Area/Dinosaur Park Project was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with a request to approve allocation of \$454,571 from CIP contingency to Dinosaur Park/Skyline Wilderness Park Improvements

- *Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Stroot and carried to approve the funding allocation for the Mako Sica Trail Project and the Dinosaur Park/Skyline Wilderness Project as listed above.*

Other Public Meetings & Approvals

June 16, 2014 (City Council):

33. No. PW061014-18 – Authorize the Mayor and Finance Officer to sign an Agreement Between the City of Rapid City and Heartland Outdoors, Inc., DBA TrailArts for Professional Trail Design/Build Services for the Skyline Wilderness Park Natural Surface Trail System.

April 25, 2014 (Capital Improvement Program Committee):

Following the appropriation approval by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board the CIP Committee authorized the amendment to the Parks and Recreation CIP Five Year Plan.

- *Biegler presented (No. CIP042514-09) Amend the Parks and Recreation CIP Five Year Plan to include \$93,000 in funding for the Mako Sica Trail (Connection to WDTI) in FY2015; and reduce FY2015 Parks and Rec CIP Contingency Line item by \$93,000.00 to fund the project. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved the reallocation of contingency funds of the Dinosaur Park / Skyline Drive line item of \$454,571.00 and also approved taking \$93,000.00 from the 2015 Parks and Rec Contingency line item for the Mako Sica Trail project. Sumption asked if this was a two part request. Davis stated that the request is only for \$93,000.00 and explained money can be moved inside the plan so there doesn't need to be a request for the reallocation of \$454,571.00. Beigler thanked Davis for the clarification. Motion by Marchand, second by Peterson to approve Amend the Parks and Recreation CIP Five Year Plan to include \$93,000 in funding for the Mako Sica Trail (Connection to WDTI) in FY2015; and reduce FY2015 Parks and Rec CIP Contingency Line item by \$93,000.00 to fund the project.*

March 21, 2014 (Historic Preservation Commission):

Dinosaur Park Master Plan Presentation-

Alex DeSmidt from Parks and Recreation explained that Dinosaur Park is a prominent and busy park and that a 75th anniversary celebration was held in 2012. DeSmidt briefly identified the improvements that have been made to the park. He added that the park is on the National Register and was originally intended to be a road side attraction for visitors and residents. DeSmidt noted that several of the major concerns are the maintenance of the park and erosion. He added that the Comprehensive Plan prioritizes the improvements that need to be made to the park. He noted that retaining and maintaining the cultural assets and features of the area, providing universal access to the entire park and offering recreational opportunities are main issues that are addressed by the Comprehensive Plan.

DeSmidt advised that the Skyline Drive Wilderness Park Plan has been developed to protect the parkland along Skyline Drive. He added that the plan identifies the trails for bicyclists and hikers that will lead to Dinosaur Park, the improvements to the rock walls, the development of the trailheads and the restoration of the fossil forest. He noted that the first phase will be to design and construct the trail heads and park access at West Fulton. He added that the second phase will be the trail system and that the third phase will be improving Dinosaur Park.

In response to a question from Freytag, DeSmidt advised that approximately 50,000 people visit the park yearly with most of them visiting in the summer months.

Freytag suggested that the developers review the construction and maintenance of Hansen Larson Park. He added that private clubs and sponsors volunteer to maintain areas of the park.

Freytag recommended that the designer address the lower laying areas of Dinosaur Park to ensure that drainage issues are addressed.

In response to a question from Rom, DeSmidt explained that the main focus is to build the trail heads and trails first and then improve the parking lot area. He added that safety for the pedestrians and bicyclists is a major concern. He further explained that the current stairs are not adequate but are a historical feature of the park and will need to be improved. He advised that the plans identify the location of a trail off the stairs which will provide access to other features and possible play pods. He noted that the trail will be

made of a combination of asphalt, pebble flex materials and concrete and that the play pods will have different apparatuses and features to entertain the children. He stated that the plan also identifies the need to address the erosion that has occurred in the area.

Krull expressed his support for the improvements being made and asked what efforts are being made to preserve the current walls.

DeSmidt advised that Skyline Drive needs to be reconstructed and that the stone wall overlook will be preserved and restored, in addition to the old forest foundations.

In response to a question from Rom, DeSmidt explained that the funding sources are being determined at this time.

In response to a question from Rom, DeSmidt advised that the City has been working with the State on the plan.

DeSmidt explained that the funding will most likely be available in phases and that work will move forward as funding becomes available.

Kessloff expressed concern that the plan was not provided to the Commission during the development stage and requested that the Commission receive regular updates.

In response to a question from Freytag, DeSmidt advised that a consultant was hired, using Park funds, to design the drawings. He added that the design costs for the project was approximately \$14,000.

Krull thanked DeSmidt and the Parks Department for their efforts and requested that the plan be linked on the City's website.

February 20, 2014 (Public Input Meeting)

50 attendees provided input on the proposed Skyline Wilderness Park development and Master Plan for Dinosaur Park

February 18, 2014 (City Council):

43. No. PW021114-32 – Authorize Staff to Seek Proposals for Professional Services for Design Build of Natural Surface Trails in the Skyline Wilderness Park – Phase II, Project No. PR13-6109 (CIP No. 51002).

January 16, 2014 (Focus Group Meeting):

A presentation of the conceptual designs plans were presented to invited guests followed by a discussion for input on the proposed development.

Invitations included: Rapid City Council – (Skyline Parks Wards 4 & 5 & the Vision Committee Chair) -Bonny Peterson-5, Brad Estes-5, Chad Lewis & Jerry Wright – 4, Skyline Preservation Inc, Black Hills Mountain Bike Association, Black Hills Runners Club, RC Friends of Parks, Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, Dinosaur Park Concessionaire, Rapid City Chamber of Commerce & CVB, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Rapid City Public Park Foundation, Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission, Rapid City Public Works & Community Planning Staff, Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City Fire Department

January 9, 2014 (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board):

Skyline Drive Project: DeSmidt reported that city representatives have been meeting with the contractor and project designer Cetec Engineering going over options for parking and trailheads in the Skyline Wilderness Area, as well as the Dinosaur Park Master Plan. A

focus session is scheduled for January 16th in the Parks and Recreation Board Room and stakeholders have been invited. The contractors hope to get ideas from the user groups on this project and that information will be presented during public meetings.

November 4, 2013 (City Council):

30) PW102913-18 – Authorize Mayor and Finance Officer to sign Agreement between the City of Rapid City and Cetec Engineering, Inc. for Professional Planning, Design & Construction Administration Services for Skyline Wilderness Park Trailhead Development & Dinosaur Park Improvements, Project No. PR13-6109 / CIP No. 51002, in the amount of \$163,289.00.

September 30, 2013 (Special City Council):

Report on Status of Current Projects

7) No. VF093013-07 - Skyline Wilderness Park [2010-Phase IV]

Biegler addressed the Council. He said the project is just getting underway. They are in the contract/negotiation stage to design the parking lots and trailheads at Skyline Wilderness area. The contract should be negotiated soon and presented at the November 4, 2013 council meeting. He stated they allocated funds from the 2014 Parks and Recreation CIP for improvements at Dinosaur Park. He explained that Phase II is the construction of trails themselves as well as reclamation of some old trails. Construction of the trails will begin the summer of 2014, with a completion date to be in 2015. Motion by Lewis, second by Petersen to acknowledge the Skyline Wilderness Park report. In response to a question from Nordstrom, Biegler said that signage is very important and will be included in the contract. He also stated that any "in house" work is to be determined and most of the work will be contracted out. Motion carried.

July 1, 2013 (City Council):

25) No. PW062513-18 – Authorize Staff to Seek Proposals for Skyline Wilderness Park Trailhead Development Project, Project No. PR13-6109, CIP No. 51002.

March 25, 2013 (Special City Council):

Report on Status of Current Projects

8) No. VF032513-07 – Skyline Wilderness Park

[PRESENTATION] Tim Raben identified the recent land acquisitions expanding the park boundaries, the project goals and community benefits, and the site improvements that will be provided at the trailheads. Raben presented the project cost estimates noting that no additional funding is anticipated to complete the project.

The estimated total for improvements is approximately \$1.8 million dollars. Funding for the planned development improvements is secured and is split almost 50/50 between the Vision Fund (\$912,000) and the Parks and Recreation CIP budget, and an additional contribution for road rehabilitation has been allocated by the Public Works Department.

Every effort has been made to leverage the funding available including seeking grants which resulted in an \$85,000 Recreational Trails Program grant being awarded to assist with the expense of the trail system construction. Coordination with other City Staff and Departments has been ongoing from the start of this planning effort and has allowed for a simultaneously road rehab effort in an area adjacent to the "Stonewall Overlook" site south of Flormann Street.