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APR 22 2015

Rapid City Community Planning
& Development Services

LETTER OF
INTENT

DATE: April 21, 2015
TO: Growth Management, City of Rapid City
RE: First Nations Sculpture Garden
LOCATION: Halley Park, Rapid City

The First Nations Sculpture Garden is a memorial to 20th century Native Americans. The sculpture garden, after construction will be used as a contemplative space, not a marketed destination or a highly visited tourist space.

The garden shall occupy a portion of a larger park area of approximately 2.5 acres known as Halley Park. The larger park area encompasses the area between West Main Street and St. Joseph St. and West of West Boulevard. Currently, the City of Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office occupies the former Sioux Museum building, a nationally registered historic place built in 1936.

The City of Rapid City and the First Nations Sculpture Garden have signed a Memorandum of Agreement, dated August 5, 2014. In the memorandum is stated "the City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has approved the use of approximately seven tenths of an acre within the larger park as a Native American monument sculpture Garden for sculptures of the First Nations' historical figures according to the proposal submitted by First Nations. Among other responsibilities, First Nations will raise money to underwrite costs of promotion, design, planning, and purchase of sculptures, development of and installation of the sculpture garden." Currently, the First Nations Group is fundraising for the project.

SCULPTURES AND ARTWORK DESCRPTION

The project is to be constructed in 2 phases. The first phase is planned to begin construction in early 2016 (dependent on funds raised). The garden has three main sculptural elements, the busts, timeline, and center piece. Phase 1 includes the installation of the first 4 bronze busts. The busts will represent (1) Oscar Howe, (2) Black Elk, (3) Vine Deloria, and (4) Charles Eastman. The bronze busts will be placed on individual stone veneered pedestals that measure approximately 6-foot square and 3'6" height. The busts will be sculpted at 125% of true life. The stone veneer will be similar to the stone utilized on the existing building. A seatwall is also planned at each bust. The seatwall is planned to have the same veneer used for the pedestals.

Timelines are another piece of the sculpture garden. The timeline is divided into 4 timeframes, each on its own piece of stone. The stones will be etched with dates and events; beginning approximately 1851 to common day.

The last sculptural component is the centerpiece. This piece will be sculpted in the idea of indigeneity. The design plans for a large rock to be split and placed in the center. The driving force of the design idea is the Lakota's creation story.

A concrete walk will connect the site elements (busts, timeline, and center piece) to the existing city sidewalk infrastructure.

LANDSCAPING & IRRIGATION

The plantings will be laid out using native and clump forming grasses and perennials. The existing irrigation system will be modified to provide water to the vegetation and new turf areas. The plan will work to save as many existing trees as possible, however some trees may need to be transplanted.

CEREMONIAL FLAGS

4 flags are planned to surround the centerpiece. The flags are ceremonial flags that indicate the 4 sacred directions, they will be colored black, yellow, white, and red.

LIGHTING

Each bust will be subtly lit with small LEDs. The lighting will be positioned to illuminate the bust and not shine into traffic. In addition, the flags, timeline, and centerpiece will be lit. Again, the goal of the lighting will be illuminate the sculpture, not shine into traffic.

SIGNAGE

The garden will have two permanent signs located at each entry point on the sidewalk, see attached plan for locations. These signs will be designed at a pedestrian/walker scale. The signs will be constructed of stone and wood that is in keeping with the surrounding architectural themes.

TEMPORARY SIGNAGE

The First Nations Sculpture Garden is asking for 2, 4x8' temporary signs be installed in Halley Park, see the attached plan for locations. The signs are planned to have an image of the garden and a message that reads "First Nations Sculpture Garden, Construction Beginning Soon". In addition, the sign will have company logos of those involved in the project and contact information that the public may use for more information. The sign's purpose is to notify the public that the project is still proposed, build excitement for the project, and act as start point if individuals wanting more information. The temporary signage will be taken down at the completion of phase 1.

PARKING

The sculpture garden is requesting to share one or two of the existing parking stalls at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building. 17 stalls are directly adjacent to the building. During a common day, the parking is utilized by Parks Department employees and is not full. The sculpture garden is designed as a contemplative space and not a high traffic and/or gathering space. The project organizers expect 1 or 2 individuals to be in the garden for approximately 15 to 30 minutes with attendance of less than 8 per day. Visitors may also be individuals walking through the downtown area, not arriving by automobile. The project organizers believe that one or two shared stalls with the Parks Department would support the garden adequately.

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