



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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To: Mayor Kooiker and Public Works Committee Members

From: Jeff Biegler, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: Proposed First Nations Sculpture Garden

Date: July 23, 2013

At its meeting on July 11, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board considered a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Rapid City and First Nations to construct a sculpture garden in Halley Park that would depict significant Native Americans of this area who influenced the Rapid City community. First Nations has identified Vine Deloria, Jr, Charles Eastman, Black Elk, and Oscar Howe as the first individuals to be honored in the Sculpture Garden. The proposal is being developed with space to add four additional sculptures in future years.

Representatives from First Nations acknowledged that there are concerns with limited parking and traffic in this location, however their vision is that the sculpture garden will be a contemplative area and not a tourist destination.

After hearing public comments discussing concerns with public safety, traffic volume and limited parking access, the Advisory Board voted 4-3 to deny the proposed Memorandum of Agreement at the Halley Park location and strongly recommend that First Nations work with Parks and Recreation staff to find a better location for this project.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.