



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Black Hills

425 Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
T: 605.343.1488
F: 605.343.5679

www.bigmentors.com

January 27, 2012

Rapid City Planning Commission
300 6th Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the Trinity Lutheran Eco Prayer Park project and would urge your support in its development and completion.

The downtown area has undergone many significant and positive changes during the 5 years that Big Brothers Big Sisters has occupied its current location at 425 Kansas City Street (directly south of Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot). We have a supportive and friendly relationship with all of our neighbors in this area but most of all with the Trinity Lutheran family. They graciously allow us to park in their parking lot during working hours and also allow us to use their basement meeting area for our Campus Kids activities when the SDSM&T facilities are overbooked. All of this friendship is provided to our grateful agency at no charge.

We were thrilled to hear of the development of the new park as yet another opportunity that this downtown community-minded church is giving back to the neighborhood. We selfishly see this as an opportunity for our newly made matches (Big Brothers and Big Sisters and Little Brothers and Little Sisters) to spend time together in a beautiful outdoor location getting acquainted with one another and establishing their initial meeting schedules. Currently many of our matches have their first meeting at Hardees which involves a purchase of a meal or beverage. A new park in the neighborhood would be a perfect location for these new friends to visit at no cost and no timeframe.

A Prayer Park would also provide a location for the many workers in the downtown area to gather for a break during the day, have a chance to stretch their legs and minds...and also meet their neighbors in a setting other than the workplace. At this time, the closest area similar to this park would be across Omaha Street and probably not included in part of a noontime or afternoon walk.

I urge your support of this project. Trinity Church is making such a difference in providing services to the downtown community. We all need to follow their lead. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your special consideration of this outstanding project.

Sincerely,

Mary Victor
Executive Director

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2012

Rapid City Community Planning
& Development Services

Mary Victor
Executive Director

Officers

Mike Maltaverne
President
John Burke
1st Vice President
Tim Powell
Treasurer
Kathy Cornelison
Secretary
Doug DeGroot
Past President

Board Members

Tracy Bernard
John Burke
Kathy Cornelison
Doug DeGroot
John Haas
Mike Maltaverne
Sandra McNeely
Dr. James McReynolds
Tim Powell
Tami Riddle-Schumacher
Elizabeth Sailer
Dave Schmidt
Jim Scull
Judge Merton Tice, ret.
David Weinmaster
Kim Wright

**2009 Gold Standard
Award Agency**

Named One of the Top
Three Small Agencies in
the United States
by Big Brothers
Big Sisters of America