

May 20, 2008

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 4 p.m. at the Delbridge Museum at the Great Plains Zoo.

Members present: Anne Hajek, Steve Thomas, Kevin Nyberg, Michelle Erpenbach, Sandra Pay, and Michael Crane.

Members absent: None.

Parks Department staff present: Don Kearney, Dave Fischer, Kelby Mieras, Barb Hermanson, and Tory Miedema.

Others present: Cheryl Rath.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 15, 2008, meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was passed.

No public input.

For committee reports, Michelle Erpenbach reported that all Marketing and Public Needs Committee items are on the current Park Board agenda. Michael Crane reported that all Park Planning and Development Committee items are on the current Park Board agenda. Michelle Erpenbach reported that all Partnerships and Recreation Committee items are on the current Park Board agenda.

No unfinished business.

Under new business, Kelby Mieras presented the vegetative ordinance revisions. The changes were minor and basically cleaned up the language to better represent current practices. A motion was made to approve the vegetative ordinance revisions. Motion was passed with Anne Hajek voting yes, Steve Thomas voting yes, Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, and Michael Crane voting yes.

Don Kearney presented the Granite Valley Park naming request. The department recently purchased land in the Granite Valley development for a neighborhood park. Karen Harris, a resident in the neighborhood, sent a letter to Don requesting permission to have the neighborhood help in naming the park. She believes this will engage the neighborhood in the process and develop a sense of ownership in the park. The City Attorney's office said the naming of the park did not have to be approved by the City Council. Don asked Karen to work with the neighborhood to come up with a name for the park and submit the recommendation to the Park Board for consideration. Don will bring this issue back for consideration once the neighborhood's recommendation is received. No motion needed.

Don Kearney presented the McKennan Park anniversary update. The 100-year anniversary celebration is scheduled for August 8—10 this year. Erica Beck and Susie Garry, City staff, have been working with the community on an itinerary for the three-day event. A meeting was scheduled on May 30 at 3 p.m. at the Women's History Club to finalize the plans. City staff will also be giving the group an update on this year's construction project at 4 p.m. No motion needed.

Don Kearney presented the railroad relocation status. City staff met with Sioux Steel and Van Sickle Associates to discuss the railroad relocation project. Van Sickle is drawing up some alternative alignment options to try to lessen the impact the project will have on Falls Park. Don will bring any new information to the Park Board when he receives it. No motion needed.

Barb Hermanson presented the future swimming pool location discussion. The proposed site is a 12.75-acre site south and east of the 69th Street and Louise Avenue intersection. Barb went through the packet of information which showed location of existing pools and their service radius, swim pass holder locations, and future planned development for the area. Don mentioned that the department would be working with landowners in the area to secure a site. A motion was made to approve the future swimming pool location. Motion was passed with Anne Hajek voting yes, Steve Thomas voting yes, Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, and Michael Crane voting yes.

Don Kearney presented the 2007 annual report. The report is sent to Park Board members, City Council members, and all partnering associations. It is available to the public on the website, at the library, and the Parks and Recreation office. Don highlighted the fact that from 2003 to 2007 the city added nearly 20,000 people to our community. During that same time, we also saw a 30 percent increase in athletic participant participation. These increases directly impact our capital improvement needs for expanded and new facilities to accommodate the growth of our community and our program participants. Don asked the board members to provide feedback on the annual report and to let him know if they had any suggested formatting or content changes. No motion needed.

Under the Director's Report, Dave Fischer reported that the department will be applying for national accreditation by the National Recreation and Park Association and the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Associations. The accreditation process measures the department on 155 standards. To be accredited, the department must pass 36 of the mandatory standards and 85 percent of the other standards. This process will help us formalize more of our processes and get them into document format, identify ways we can improve our service to the public, and give us more credibility with the public we serve. There are 73 departments accredited in the nation, and none in South Dakota or North Dakota. Our goal is to become accredited by the NRPA meeting in October 2010. Don and Barb said the pools and spray park open Friday, May 23, and the open gyms and playground programs start Tuesday, May 27. Don said the golf courses had one of their worst Aprils this year due to the weather. A ribbon cutting has been planned for the Miracle Field on June 15 at 1:30 p.m. There will also be a ribbon cutting for the Zoo Asian Cat exhibit Saturday, May 24.

Under reading of communications to the Board, the city received letters of thanks from Brandon and Lennox for the baseball field materials.

Under open board discussion, Steve Thomas expressed concern about the Sherman bust at Sherman Park. It is mounted on a wooden pedestal that is deteriorating rapidly. He is concerned about it being damaged or stolen and would like to see it mounted on an acceptable base. Staff will look into it and possibly try to incorporate it into this year's project. Don mentioned that staff is looking into the proposed mining operation that

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First Rate Excavate is wanting to do adjacent to Great Bear. He sent an email to Board members about it earlier in the week. Kevin asked if there were any maps of the parks system available for the general public. He thought it would be a good idea to try to incorporate a parks map into the bike trail maps. Michelle asked what the department is doing about the Ash tree borer. Kelby said Ash trees are no longer being planted within city projects. Kelby also said the Poplar trees at Yankton Trail have canker disease and are dying from the middle up. They are being replaced in mass through the HSBC grant with new trees that are immune to the canker disease.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned.


Secretary

Approved by:


President