

June 17, 2008

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 4 p.m. at the Oyate Community Center.

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

Members absent: None.

Park Department staff present: Don Kearney, Kelby Mieras, Barb Hermanson, and Tory Miedema.

Others present: Cheryl Rath and Dan Grider.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2008, meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was passed.

No public input.

For committee reports, Michelle Erpenbach reported that the Marketing and Public Needs Committee discussed the skate park rules and regulations and agreed with staff to keep them in place. The Park System Planning and Development Committee did not meet. Michelle Erpenbach reported that all Partnerships and Recreation Committee items are on the current Park Board agenda.

No unfinished business.

Under new business, Dan Grider presented the Great Bear annual report. They had a record season last year, staying open for 98 days due to favorable weather. Great Bear Recreation Park, Inc. paid off the lift they purchased in the past and also donated a snow mobile to the City of Sioux Falls. They are in the conceptual phases of renovating the tubing hill, developing some back trail skiing runs, and creating a cross-country ski trail loop. The City was able to purchase a new Piston Bully last year and keep the old one as a backup. This helped keep the park open and operating smoothly. A capital improvement project at Great Bear fixed the drainage problem at the bottom of the hill near the chalet and paved more of the parking lot. Dan shared that they are also in negotiations with the Sioux Falls public school system to start a sports club-type activity at Great Bear.

Dan Grider presented the Great Bear fee proposal. They are proposing to raise lift ticket prices by \$1. This is mainly due to the rising costs of energy prices and the raising of the minimum wage. They are also looking to change the chalet rental charges. The proposal would keep the rental charge at \$700 for Saturday and Sunday. A new rate of \$400 would be established for Monday through Friday. An hourly rate of \$100 would also be offered. A motion was made to approve the Great Bear fee proposal. 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.

Under the Director's Report, Don Kearney gave an update on the mining operation proposed in the Great Bear area. The permit was issued a year ago and staff is checking on the required reclamation of the disturbed site.

June 17, 2008

Don invited Board members to the Downtown Sioux Falls Strategic Planning community meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at the Orpheum Theater.

The Spellerberg Quick Start courts are complete and ready for play.

A groundbreaking is being planned for the Elmen Park Trailhead. The date and time has not been determined. The Elmen family will be present.

The bike trail from Dunham Park to Legacy Park is progressing very well. Two of the four bridges are set, with the other bridges scheduled to be delivered shortly. Skunk Creek water levels have lowered, so the pathway is drying out enough to start grading.


Anne Hajek said the free swimming pass handout session was a success. Don and Barb were called out because there wasn't enough staff available to handle the number of people present. Barb said 538 passes were given out.

Steve Thomas asked if there were any plans to upgrade the skate park ramps. Don said the Nelson Park Master Plan included some upgrades to the skate park and will be finalized shortly.

No reading of communications to the Board.

Under open board discussion, Sandra Pay shared that Steve Thomas was awarded the Mayor's Award for Visual Arts. The ribbon cutting for the Miracle Field was well attended. There were numerous players and spectators present to watch the inaugural game and cut the ribbon for the field.

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


Secretary

Approved by:


President