

January 15, 2008

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 4 p.m. at the MariCar Community Center.

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

Members absent: Steve Thomas.

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

Others present: Cindy Huether, Erin Elshami, Jon Jacobson, Clarence Kooistra, Dennis Adams.

It was moved by Michael Crane, seconded by Michelle Erpenbach, that the minutes of the December 18, 2007, meeting be approved. The motion to approve the minutes was passed.

No public input.

For committee reports, the Marketing and Public Needs Committee did not meet. Michael Crane reported that all Park System 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.

Cindy Huether and Erin Elshami presented the Sioux Falls Tennis Association annual report. Cindy said the SFTA is planning to try a new program being pushed by the USTA called "Quick Start". This is a program that uses smaller courts, rackets, and nets to help teach and retain young children in the sport. The USTA has committed to provide part of the money needed to convert the courts for the program. The SFTA is also trying to obtain Category II status for their program, which would draw more nationally ranked tennis players to Sioux Falls to compete. The SFTA would have to raise their attendance numbers before they could get that status, so it will not happen for this tennis season. They tried to consolidate their junior team tennis program last year to fewer courts to focus on playing matches rather than strictly practicing. The participation numbers dropped considerably. The SFTA received calls from parents saying they couldn't enroll their kids for tennis because they couldn't get them to the courts where they were having lessons. They have decided to go back to the original number of locations to try to reverse the declining numbers from the past two years. Erin showed pictures of the condition of the courts at Lewis Park, Laurel Oak, and Frank Olson Park. She believes they are in poor shape and is asking for them to

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be repaired. Dave Fischer said that the department was able to start cyclic program in the CIP last year to replace basketball and tennis courts with new concrete courts. The program budgets an average of \$350,000 per year to replace courts based on existing conditions and priorities. Tory Miedema said the Lewis Park tennis courts were already in the CIP for replacement in 2010. Spellerberg, Kuehn, and McKennan tennis courts are scheduled for 2012 to 2014. Don Kearney said the courts could be reprioritized in the program. In the past few years, the tennis community has been divided and no clear list of priorities has been identified. Don said the tennis community has started to form one clear voice and the department has started to work with them to identify priorities. More work and communication is needed so that we can continue to set a clearer direction for tennis in Sioux Falls. No action taken on this item.

Jon Jacobson presented the Thelin Park and Green Hills Park master plans. Jon handed out exhibits for both parks and went through them in detail. Both parks are roughly 25 acres in size and have a large drainage channel running through them. Green Hills will be developed as a greenway with recreational trail running through it to connect the University Center campus, Thelin Park, and the surrounding neighborhoods. Thelin Park will have trails running along the drainageway similar to Green Hills, as well as a neighborhood park on the higher flat land. The recreational trail portion of both parks is scheduled to be constructed in 2008, with the neighborhood park portion to be developed in 2009. Anne Hajek made a motion to approve the Thelin Park and Green Hills master plans. Michael Crane seconded the motion. Motion was passed with Anne Hajek voting yes, Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, and Brad Jans voting yes.

Don Kearney, Dennis Adams, and Clarence Kooistra presented the Eternal Sentry sculpture placement in Veterans' Memorial Park. Dennis provided an exhibit showing the proposed piece and the proposed location within Veterans' Memorial Park. The Veterans' Memorial Park Advisory Board and the Visual Arts Commission has recommended approval. Michael Crane made a motion to recommend approval of the Eternal Sentry sculpture placement in Veterans' Memorial Park to the City Council. Michelle Erpenbach seconded the motion. Motion was passed with Anne Hajek voting yes, Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, and Brad Jans voting yes.

Under the Director's Report, Don said the joint park/school agreement with the Harrisburg School District for Journey Elementary will be going to the City Council soon. The department is also working on two joint sites with the Brandon School District and two with the Sioux Falls School District. The Brandon School District sites are located at Tenth Street and 6 Mile Road and 41st Street and 6 Mile Road. There is a community center planned for the one at Tenth Street. The Sioux Falls District sites are generally located at 57th Street and Tea-Ellis Road and Maple Street and Marion Road.

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The department is close to having a final layout for the Drake Springs pool. The design has been adjusted to match project budget. The Park Board will get a copy of the layout when it has been finalized. A March/April bid date has been targeted.

Staff has been updating the vegetation ordinance and will be bringing it to the Park Board in February.

City staff met with the county and is making progress toward an agreement for the Arboretum land, maintenance, and development.

Ice skating attendance has been up. The crews have had great weather for making and maintaining the ice, keeping all the rinks open.

No reading of communications to the Board.

Under open board discussion, Sandra Pay said London is encouraging the use of bicycles to reduce traffic congestion and oil consumption. They recently spent \$30 million to upgrade and expand their bicycle infrastructure.

Kevin Nyberg reminded everyone that the Park Board committee's purpose is to work through the details of the full board's agenda items and to act as a sounding board. When a committee member misses a meeting, it is their responsibility to contact the committee chairperson to get any information they missed. The Marketing and Public Needs Committee chair is Brad Jans. The Park System Planning and Development Committee chair is Michael Crane. The Partnerships and Recreation Committee chair is Michelle Erpenbach.

There being no further business, it was moved by Michael Crane and seconded by Michelle Erpenbach to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned.


Secretary

Approved by:


President