

May 19, 2009

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at 4 p.m. at the Oyate Community Center.

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

Members absent: None.

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

Others present: Cheryl Rath, Jim Soukup, and Jon Jacobson.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting. 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 agenda. Michelle Erpenbach reported that all Partnerships and Recreation Committee items are on the current Park Board agenda.

No unfinished business.

Under new business, Dave Fischer and Jim Soukup presented the Soukup land donation gifting agreement. The gift will be 91 acres near 12th Street and Tea-Ellis Road, including two ponds. The park will be named Family Park, and the ponds will be named Grandpa's Pond and Cousin's Pond. The north portion of the land is a former construction debris site that was owned, operated, and closed by the City. Prior to purchasing the land, Jim entered into an agreement with the City that indemnified him from any environmental effects of the landfill and allowed him to donate the land to the City at a future date. The City has begun environmental testing on the site to ensure the land and ponds are safe for public usage and fishing. SD Game Fish & Parks has already performed fish flesh testing and found no problems. Parks and Recreation, Game Fish & Parks, and Jim Soukup have been working together to develop this land into an urban fishery. The Game Fish & Parks sees urban fisheries as a high priority and will devote \$400,000 to the initial development of the park this year. The initial development would start in September and would be complete by the end of the year. They also plan to stock the ponds with 7,500 catchable trout two times per year. The fishery would be managed by the Game Fish & Parks and statewide fishing regulations would apply. The park and grounds will be managed by the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation. This agreement will also need to go to the City Council for approval. A motion was made to approve the gifting agreement. Motion was passed with Anne Hajek voting yes, Steve Thomas voting yes, Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, and Pat Lloyd voting yes.

Under the Director's report, Don Kearney reported that the Quality of Life Bond package was approved by the City Council. The Zoo Rhino Relocation project will be advertised for bids on Friday, May 22, 2009. Staff is working with Sanford Health to finalize a MOU


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and gifting agreement for land to build the Junior Football Complex. The MOU and gifting agreement will be coming to the Board in the near future. The river greenway project design is underway, with the first step being the permitting of the entire downtown reach of the Big Sioux River. The Engineering Department is starting design of the reconstruction of Tenth Street and Cliff Avenue. They will need parkland to construct the additional turn lanes, so they are requesting a letter stating there are no adverse effects to the park resulting from the loss of land. The letter will come to the Board next meeting. Drake Springs Family Aquatic Center will not open on May 22. The contractor needs time to finish punch list items, and staff needs training time for the operation and maintenance of the facility. The opening should happen next week, the week of May 25. BNSF Railroad has asked the City to explore other ways to reroute the tracks downtown without building another trestle across the Big Sioux River. Little League has made an official request for field time next year. This issue will be discussed in future committee meetings. Dakota Gold and the Sioux Falls Soccer Association are planning to merge into one group July 1 of this year.

No reading of communications to the Board.

Under open board discussion, Kevin Nyberg introduced Bob McDowell. He will be the newest member of the Parks and Recreation Board starting in June. Anne Hajek and Steve Thomas have completed their ten years of service on the Parks and Recreation Board. They were thanked for their time and service. Citizen Board Service Awards were presented to both.

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


Secretary

Approved by


President