

June 16, 2009

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 4 p.m. at the Kuehn Community Center.

Members present: Kevin Nyberg, Michelle Erpenbach, Sandra Pay, Michael Crane, Pat Lloyd, and Bob McDowell.

Members absent: None.

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

Others present: Cheryl Rath, Wendy Lewis, Lee Larsen, and Dan Grider.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 19, 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, Barb Hermanson presented the SDHSAA 2011 cross country meet agreement. This agreement is to grant exclusive use of Yankton Trail Park on October 21 and 22, 2011, for the state cross country meet. A motion was made to approve the agreement. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

Barb Hermanson presented the SDHSAA 2011 state tennis tournament agreement. This agreement is to grant exclusive use of the Kuehn Park and McKennan Park tennis courts for the 2011 boys state tennis tournament on May 19–21 and the 2011 girls' state tennis tournament on October 6–8. A motion was made to approve the agreement. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

Dave Fischer and Dan Grider presented the Great Bear Recreation Park Inc. annual report. Dan said they sold 800 season passes this year, which is a record. The season was 90 days long, and they had over 36,000 visits. The visits were down slightly from the record 2007–2008 season. Great Bear posted \$70,000 in profits the past year, which is also slightly down. This was mostly due to the increase in minimum wage, increased utility costs, and a higher insurance premium. The mining operation has begun on the property next to Great Bear. First Rate Excavate has installed the tree screen and split rail fencing, and is working on the access road onto Rice Street. As a condition to their mining permit, First Rate must meet annually with the City to discuss any issues and give a progress update. The main concerns at this point are sand blowing onto the ski slope and the aesthetics of the area. Great Bear Recreation Park is in the process of

interviewing consultants to begin an expansion plan. The plan will increase the tubing hill capacity, create side country ski runs, bring snowmaking capability to the cross country runs, expand the chalet, and look into possible entrance road reconfigurations. The plan is five to six years out for implementation. They would look to partner with the City on a 50/50 match for funding the improvements. The presentation of the financial review of the operation is scheduled for the September Board meeting. A motion was made to accept the annual report. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

Dave Fischer and Dan Grider presented the Great Bear storage facility gifting agreement. The building will provide a more permanent structure to store tubes. It will be built large enough to eventually hold 300 tubes. The building will be constructed with the same material and will match the pump house and chalet. Dan provided a picture of the pump house and a blueprint of the building showing the dimensions. A motion was made to approve the gifting agreement. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

Kelby Mieras and Wendy Lewis presented the sculpture placement at the Butterfly House. The sculpture is of a butterfly that was previously on SculptureWalk. It was purchased by Butterfly House volunteers. It is 22" tall, 12" wide, and 30" long. It will be mounted on a pedestal provided by Gage Brothers and will be placed in front of the Butterfly House under the overhang. A motion was made to approve the placement. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

Tory Miedema presented the text for the Helen McKennan bust pedestal. The consultant for the project worked with Steve Thomas to develop the bust, pedestal, and the text. The text was approved by Steve and Confluence prior to bringing it to the Board. The pedestal is polished quartzite to match the McKennan monument installed in the Formal Garden expansion in the first phase of improvements. The bust will be placed along the main walkway through the park as it splits off to the band shell. A motion was made to approve the text. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

Tory Miedema presented the DOT letter regarding the intersection reconstruction at Tenth Street and Cliff Avenue. As part of the reconstruction, turn lanes will be added on both streets, which will require 0.25 acres of Nelson Park ROW. The letter addressed to the SDDOT states that the impact of the project to the park is minimal, meeting the federal criteria for the FHWA Section 4F document. To minimize the impact to the park, the ROW requested was minimized and the fore slope of the roadway was decreased from 3:1 to 4:1 to make it easier to maintain. A motion was made to approve the signing of the letter. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Michelle Erpenbach voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, and Bob McDowell voting yes.

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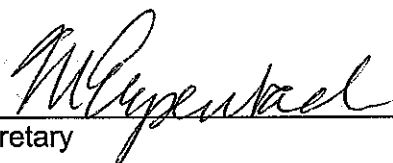
Under the Director's report, Don Kearney reported that the department was awarded a \$250,000 Transportation Enhancement grant from the SDDOT for the Yankton Trail bridge rehabilitation. The Soukup property gifting agreement was approved by the City Council. Additional testing was done on the proposed property, and the results confirmed that there are no public health or fishery health concerns related to past land use. The American Heart Association approached the department to use the bike trail as part of their new "Start!" walking program. They will be designating trail segments throughout the city to encourage people to get exercise through walking. The golf courses have had a very good spring with the dry weather. The pools have been shut down several days due to the poor weather since opening day. Community center attendance is up 18,000 to date this year. Don presented a draft of the master plan for Falls Park to spur future discussion and to get feedback from the Board. Don sees it as a five- to ten-year plan. Public meetings will be taking place on the master plan in July. The Little League has made a formal request for field reservation status next year. They would like to know about available field time by August 1. The matter was discussed and the Board asked staff to invite Little League and SEBA to a future Park Board meeting to present their cases. The main question is whether the new league would provide more and different opportunities for kids to play baseball than what is currently offered.

Under reading of communications to the Board, Kevin Nyberg read a letter from a group of senior tennis players regarding the condition of the Lewis Park and Tomar Park tennis courts. They have large cracks that are potential trip hazards for players. The department has started a play court reconstruction program in the CIP to replace courts in poor condition. Lewis Park is scheduled to be replaced in 2010. Tomar Park was not identified as a high priority by the SFTA, so it is scheduled in 2015. The department is also trying to get a play court resurfacing program into the operational budget, but resurfacing is not a permanent fix for large cracks because they reappear the next year.

Under open board discussion, Kevin Nyberg asked about the status of the median proposed along Fairfax Avenue. Don said a speed table has been installed as a traffic calming measure, but the median has not been done to date. Drake Springs Family Aquatic Center had 7,000 people in the first 4 days of being open. Due to poor weather, all pools have been closed 8 days in the first 24 days of the season. Drake Springs has hit capacity 6 or 7 days this year, which has taken some pressure off Terrace Park. Terrace has not been at capacity this year, but Laurel Oak has been. KELO interviewed Don about a story they are running entitled "Water Wars," suggesting that the City pools are trying to take business away from Wild Water West. Sandra asked if sunscreen was being offered at the City pools. Barb said it is not currently, but she will check with the concessionaire on the possibilities. Kevin mentioned that a letter to the editor in the *Argus Leader* criticized the way the Farmers' Market vendors set up for vending and hoped they would make it more customer friendly. Dave said the vendors thought there has been good attendance so far this year, but they have not kept track of numbers. They are hiring a seasonal employee to try to get some informal numbers going forward. Staff has worked with the Farmers' Market to come to a compromise on the number and location of tables under the shelter. In addition, staff is working on a project to add parking around the shelter this year. Kevin said the "Welcome Sioux Falls" brochure in the *Argus Leader* had a good article on the City park system. He also reminded the Park Board about the canoe/kayak trip down the Big Sioux River on Wednesday, June 24, at 1 p.m.

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

  
Secretary

Approved by:  
  
President