July 20, 2010

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 4 p.m., at the Kenny Anderson Community Center.

A levee system update was held at 3:30 p.m. prior to the meeting. Tom Berkland with the City Engineering Department presented the update.

Members and staff present for the update: Kevin Nyberg, Sandra Pay, Michael Crane, Mark Millage, Don Kearney, Kelby Mieras, and Tory Miedema.

Members present: Kevin Nyberg, Sandra Pay, Michael Crane, Pat Lloyd, Patti Abdallah, and Mark Millage.

Members absent: None.

Parks and Recreation staff present: Don Kearney, Kelby Mieras, and Tory Miedema.

Others present: Tom Berkland, City Engineering; Dan Grider and Steve Sanford, Great Bear Recreation Park; Dan Simon, Great Plains Zoo and Museum; Chris Pierson, President of Falls Area Single Track (FAST); Jim Weixel, and numerous citizens interested in the Leaders Park proposal update.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2010, 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 the Park System Planning and Development Committee discussed the Leaders Park proposal and an easement request from MidAmerican Energy in Beadle Greenway. The Leaders Park proposal is on the current agenda, and the easement was approved by the committee. Pat Lloyd reported that the Partnerships and Recreation Committee discussed the Great Bear annual report and the Zoological Society management agreement amendment, both of which are on the current agenda.

Under unfinished business, Tory Miedema presented the Leaders Park singletrack proposal update. There were presentations from both the proponents and opponents of the proposal. The Board asked questions of both parties and staff and discussed the proposal at length. The Board gave a number of recommendations to staff to consider when putting together a lease agreement if the proposal passed. They suggested requiring the Falls Area Single Track organization (FAST) to have someone present during the hours of operation to explain the rules of the park. They also thought the singletrack hours of operation should be restricted further than dusk to dawn, no large public events be allowed, and that FAST be required to hold a yearly neighborhood meeting in front of the Park Board to discuss any issues. They also asked staff to work with the neighborhood and other City departments to determine what parking improvements could be made to alleviate congestion and minimize the impact to the neighborhood. A motion was made to approve the proposal. Motion was passed with
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Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, Patti Abdallah voting yes, and Mark Millage voting yes.

Under new business, Dan Grider presented the Great Bear annual report and fee proposal. He provided the Board with a copy of their new wedding marketing campaign material. They had a record season as far as length, revenues, and visits. That was due primarily to good weather, but was also helped by improved snow-making equipment and the people that can run it. They are in the process of designing a renovation of the tubing hill to increase capacity from four lanes to seven or eight lanes. They are also working on a financing plan for the renovation. Great Bear Inc. requested to raise the rates $1 per day lift pass for skiing and snowboarding and $1 for ski rentals. They did not request an increase in rates last year, but absorbed a jump in minimum wages and insurance costs. These increases will cover the absorbed costs and keep them in good financial shape so major increases aren't needed in the future to catch up. The lift rates are still the lowest in the region. A motion was made to approve the annual report and fee proposal. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, Patti Abdallah voting yes, and Mark Millage voting yes.

Don Kearney presented the Zoological Society management agreement amendment. The original agreement was implemented in 2006 with the new Zoological Society management group. This amendment would revise the 2006 agreement to better reflect how the Zoo and City are now operating. The amendment would clarify the ownership of the assets at the Zoo. It would change the date that the audit is required from May 15 to July 31. It would also require the Zoo to provide copies of all agreements and amendments to the City subject to restrictions and confidentiality requirements. Any agreements entered into by the Zoo that would last past the Zoo-City agreement end date would need to be approved by the City. The Zoo would also be required to assist the City for a period of 90 days past a termination notice to coordinate the care of the animals. The Zoo would also be required to carry insurance on all personal property located at the Zoo which is owned by the Zoological Society. The amendment also added a dual indemnity clause. The current agreement ends January 1, 2011. A motion was made to approve the amendment. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, Patti Abdallah voting yes, and Mark Millage voting yes.

Under the Director’s report, Don Kearney reported the Sherman Park centennial celebration is planned for August 14, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The celebration will feature an historical tour, a ceremonial tree planting, and a Municipal Band concert. Don provided an article from the Recreation magazine about smaller cities attracting major tournaments. It mentioned Sioux Falls, and had a picture of Sherman Park. The final decision will be made on the hiring for the open Recreation Manager job next week.

No reading of communications to the Board.

Under open Board discussion, Don and Sandra attended the City Council meeting last night to present the CAPRA award to the Mayor and Council after the Mayor’s proclamation of July as Parks and Recreation month. The Sherman Park overlook project funding has been redirected to the Sherman wedding garden. Staff felt the
overlook project did not work after visiting the site and noticing the trees and vegetation blocking the prominent views. A retaining wall along the lagoon by Sherman Park has failed. Staff will check into it and pass on to Public Works. The Board asked staff about the bike trail detour downtown in relation to the start of construction on Eighth Street. The detour was rerouted, but staff will check to see if the signage was correct.

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

Secretary

Approved by:

President