A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2010, at 4 p.m. at the Morningside Community Center.

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, Dave Fischer, Kelby Mieras, and Tory Miedema.

Others present: Toby Shine, Dave Bernstein, Kevin Kopses, David Pich, Gene Peska, Jeff Scherschlicht, Steve Metli, Mike Cooper, media representatives, and others for the TJN conditional use permit agenda item; Bruce Blake, Roy Nyberg, and Mark Yeager for the historical marker agenda item; and Cheryl Rath.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 20, 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 all Park System Planning and Development Committee items are on the current agenda. Pat Lloyd reported that all the Partnerships and Recreation Committee items are on the current agenda.

No unfinished business.

Under new business, Bruce Blake presented the application to place a historic marker in Rotary/Norlin Park. The marker is to commemorate the formation of R.I.S.E., or River Improvement Study and Evaluation group. The text for the marker was included in the packet provided by Bruce Blake. Staff questioned whether this marker met the requirements in the guidelines for historical markers because it was not 50 years old or greater. It was determined that it did because it did have a historical connection to the park. Roy Nyberg requested the location be changed to Spencer Park. He thought Rotary/Norlin Park was a good location since that was the first piece of land donated to the City as a result of the work of RISE, but thought there were too many signs in the park already. Instead, he requested the location be changed to Spencer Park. This park has long been used as an entry point for river recreation and is currently a more popular river access point. Mark Yeager will be pouring concrete around the base as part of an Eagle Scout project.
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Staff and Bruce Blake will meet at Spencer Park to determine the best location within the park. The Board would like to review the historic marker guidelines with staff at the next meeting of the appropriate committee. A motion was made to approve the application with Spencer Park as the marker location. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg abstaining, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane voting yes, Pat Lloyd voting yes, Patti Abdallah voting yes, and Mark Millage voting yes.

Dave Bernstein presented the TJN Recycling Center conditional use permit for the old Stockyards site. The Stockyards site is zoned I-2 and has both highway and rail access, which is needed for the TJN operation. Peska Properties has an option agreement to purchase the entire site and plans to develop 25 acres of the site for TJN. Bernstein presented a site plan showing their efforts to reduce noise and visual impacts to the park. They are proposing to construct a 16-foot-tall berm along Weber Avenue to obstruct views of their operation from the park. They have also put the noisy parts of their operation to the north portion of the property. Bernstein also said they will not be doing their wire cutting operation at this site since the Spencer, Iowa, site handled their entire national demand. TJN's current site in Sioux Falls is five acres, which they have outgrown. They have been looking for a site to expand for the last three to four years.

The Board discussed the TJN plan at length and asked questions of Dave Bernstein, Mike Cooper, and others regarding the proposed use. The Board’s main concerns with the proposed use were the noise and visual impacts to the park and the future effects on surrounding property redevelopment and expansion of the park. The entire TJN operation would be seen from the Falls Park overlook tower, and the noise from their operation could have a negative impact on all the events and day-to-day visits within the park. The Spencer, Iowa, park department told staff that they receive noise complaints yearly from their campground users stemming from TJN operations. With the TJN operation at the Stockyard site, it keeps a heavy industrial use adjacent to the park and limits the type of redevelopment that can happen around it.

Jeff Scherschlicht presented a proposal put together by the Zip City Partners group and a group of other downtown business people. They would like to purchase the site, hold it, and work with the City to find the best and highest use for the property. The group is not against this type of operation or TJN, but it is against this type of use at this location and would like to continue improving the core of the city in the same fashion as the old Zip Feed Mill site. Their proposal would include cleaning the site up immediately and working with the Development Foundation to determine the best possible use. This proposal can only happen if Peska Properties does not exercise their option agreement. A motion was made to recommend denial of the conditional use permit. Motion was passed with Kevin Nyberg voting yes, Sandra Pay voting yes, Michael Crane abstaining, Pat Lloyd abstaining, Patti Abdallah voting yes, and Mark Millage voting yes.
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Under the Director's report, Don Kearney had Tory Miedema give the Board an update on CIP projects in progress. The Yankton Trail bridge will be open August 18. The picnic shelter replacement project will start Thursday at Marion and Dunham Parks, with work to start at Whittier later in the month. The Tomar Park court replacements will start August 23. Phase II work at the Sanford Sports Complex started Monday, August 16. Construction on the outfall structure at the complex has been delayed until mid-September due to delays in steel delivery. This may affect the complex construction schedule. The results from the water samples from the sanitary discharges into the Big Sioux River have shown that the water quality is back to normal levels. The department's Flood Response Plan will be modified to include procedures necessary to deal with the discharge of sanitary sewer into the river.

Alicia Luther has been promoted to fill the vacant Recreation Manager position. The two open Recreational Specialist positions will not be filled this year or next year. The thought was to use those salaries to go toward keeping as many programs viable as possible.

Kearney was approached by Doug Hofer, Director of the Parks and Recreation Division of SD Game, Fish and Parks, to inquire if the Parks and Recreation Board would like to hear a presentation on the proposed Blood Run Historical Site. This site is designated as a National Historic Site and is located both in Iowa and South Dakota on the southeast side of Sioux Falls. The Board would like to hear the presentation at 3 p.m. before the September 14 Board meeting and delay the scheduled Park Board tour to the October 12 meeting date.

No reading of communications to the Board.

No open Board discussion.

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

Secretary

Approved by:

President