

## **Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting August 20, 2020**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:33 PM in the Training room of City hall. Social distancing was observed by members spreading out in the meeting room.

Members joining were: Jeff Hanig, Rachel Arbach, Buddy Seiner, Don Templeton and Greg Dean. Also present was Commissioner Vona Johnson, Director Tom Farnsworth, Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap, Parks Superintendent Thomas Moore. Excused was Aaron Fabel. There were no guests.

Seiner moved, second by Hanig to approve the minutes of the July 16th, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

The agenda was approved as presented with addition of TAP grant under the 2021 budget discussion.

Simpson introduced and welcomed Greg Dean, who was appointed by Mayor Harding to replace Heather DeBoer on the Park board. Dean will fulfill the unexpired term of DeBoer and be eligible for two three year additional terms. Everyone was introduced and welcomed Greg back to the board. Greg had served previously when Pastor Brad Urbach was chairman.

Templeton advised the board that a big thanks should go out to Chairman Simpson for his work with Mike Mueller and the Capital Journal on a story in today's paper about biking in Pierre. Don said it was a great promotion for recreational biking and all the trails we have to offer in Pierre and Ft. Pierre.

### **Old Business**

#### **Pickle Ball –**

Simpson, Seiner and Farnsworth reported on the July 29 first meeting of the pickle ball sub-committee. The minutes of that meeting were in board packets. Following this meeting the group met on 8.6.20 at Griffin Park to review potential sites for new courts. Three areas were reviewed as possibilities. An email was shared with the board from Phil Sheffield indicating the pickle ball user group first priority was a site to develop 4 courts west of the tennis court they currently play on. Discussion was held with Q/A session. The board took no action, some members wanted time to think about this location and personally review it. The board was ok with the pickle ball group doing fundraising for future courts with the understanding a recommendation on final location and the partnership agreement would need to come from the park board to the full Commission for action. The board will continue dialogue with the pickle ball group and the sub-committee.

#### **2020 Plan of Work –**

Staff briefed the board on the continued progress they are making with the 2020 plan of work for the year as of 8.13.20. A seven page report detailing the projects and other tasks was sent to the board in advance for review and handed out in board packets. The board reviewed this and asked questions of staff. Superintendents Moore and Cheap have the responsibilities of scheduling staff and carrying out the work during the year. One update on the dog park committee, Farnsworth reported he had heard they did not receive the Wellmark small match grant they had applied for. Farnsworth and the board discussed status of the project and all felt the dog park committee needed to meet and review/set priorities. All understood COVID 19 had slowed fund raising and project plans.

## **New Business**

### **2021 Budget process –**

Farnsworth and Commissioner Johnson briefed the board on status of the 2021 projects and other items proposed for the 2021 budget. A handout summarizing these projects, costs and equipment was given to the board. The only cut from the recommendations submitted was to only do a structural analysis of the Mary House shelter in 2021. Commissioner Johnson will continue to represent the budget to the full Commission during budget meetings. Major projects for 2021 include replacement of the outdoor pool with construction in 2021 and completion in 2022, replacement of the last original HVAC unit at the aquatic center, rebuild a failing wall along Capital Creek, finish a wash bay in the Park cold storage building, design new fishing access pods and park amenities for Down's Marina Peninsula, seal coat the walk paths entrances at the sports complex, replace the beach bathrooms and replace a large window at the Discovery Center. The Park Shop HVAC unit had recently failed so the item was being replaced this year and not budgeted for 2021. The budget also includes requests for two park utility vehicles and a mower.

### **Transportation Alternative Grant**

Farnsworth explained and gave an update on grant funding available from SDDOT for alternative transportation. The City has submitted a letter of intent and would like to submit a complete application by October 1. It requires an 18% local match. The project is to replace the trail from the Steamboat Park Amphitheatre to La Framboise Island that was lost in the 2011 flood. This trail will run along the east side of the causeway road and next to the fishing piers. Intent is to create ADA access to the piers and make a safe route to the island for patrons now walking in the street. The board reviewed the site on google earth map and after more discussion a motion was made by Hanig and second by Templeton to show Park board support for the project and grant application. Motion carried by unanimous vote. A resolution of support will be drafted and sent to the Mayor and full Commission for consideration with a hearing to take public comment. Farnsworth thanked the board for the support.

### **Rental of Recreation Facility**

Simpson and the board commented on the rental packet drafted by staff for rent of the future recreation space at the Boys and Girls Club when not used by the club. Cheap stated she is working with the IT department to finalize use of key fobs before we can take the packet to full Commission. All were ok with moving ahead with the project. It is hopeful the facility will be available to rent within 30 days. The City Commission must review and adopt the fees. There is public interest in use of the facility.

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. Cheap stated summer rec concluded and her staff are now gone. All went as good as it could despite COVID 19. The indoor slide and stairway at the aquatic center is being refurbished and looks very good. First time it has ever undergone a rehab and costs are shared with the YMCA. She has six kickball teams signed up and possibly two more maybe. Cheap confirmed the City is getting the \$40,000 Play and Youth Sports grant from NPRA. One of 12 cities in the country to receive this grant. Simpson and the board congratulated Cheap for this effort and this is a great addition to the fundraising efforts towards the new pool. More information will be made available with permission from NPRA.

Simpson concluded the meeting with dialogue comments from the board. Motion by Hanig, second by Seiner to adjourn at 5:00PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Farnsworth, Director