

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting
October 15, 2020**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:35 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 and Don Templeton. Also present was Director Tom Farnsworth, Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap, Parks Superintendent Thomas Moore and YMCA CEO Aaron Fabel. Excused was Greg Dean and Commissioner Vona Johnson. One guest Ken Rousch attended the meeting

Templeton moved, second by Seiner to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. The September meeting was not held due to lack of quorum.

Hanig moved, second by Seiner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Simpson introduced and welcomed guest Ken Rousch. Rousch told the story of a dedication plaque that was placed on the outside of the Pierre outdoor pool sometime after 1968 in memory of Pierre resident Robert R. (Chomp) Lewis. Lewis was a former swim instructor and lifeguard at the pool. Lewis, a 1960 graduate of Riggs High School, joined the Army in 1966, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1967 and in September of 67 was sent to Vietnam. Lewis died on January 10, 1968 from his injuries in Vietnam. A plaque was given to the Park Board, Chair John Simpson receiving it, to be held until such time the new pool is dedicated and then placed back on the wall of the pool. The plaque is dedicated by his relatives and friends to the memory of Lt. Robert R. (Chomp) Lewis for his devoted help in water sports for the youth of Pierre.

Simpson and the board members thanked Rousch for the presentation and the plaque will be held in the Park Directors office until such time a new memorial site at the new outdoor pool will be made available to display it.

Old Business

Pickle Ball –

Simpson called on board members for their decision on sites in Griffin Park for future pickle ball courts. Motion by Seiner, second by Arbach to dedicate the site west of the current tennis court the pickle ball users are playing on. This is the west tennis court in Griffin Park. The pickle ball users want to fund raise and build four courts at this site and are getting plans from Spearfish on size and estimated costs. Motion passed. Staff will relay the board decision to the pickle ball committee. The pickle ball users will be asked to bring a more defined plan on goals, fundraising, costs of the project and timeframe. Details on the partnership or expectations from the City and the pickle ball users also need to be defined. At some point in time the project will need to go to City Commission for consideration.

TAP Grant update –

Farnsworth showed the board a site plan by Brosz engineers of the plan to place a 10ft. wide concrete trail from Steamboat Park Amphitheatre to the entrance of La Framboise Island state park, running on the east side of the causeway road. The grant is submitted and the City has a November 18th presentation date with the SDDOT review 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 10.1.20. A 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.

New Business**Request for memorial park bench –**

Moore reported that park staff would like to sponsor \$250.00 toward a memorial park bench for Penn Williams III who recently passed away. Williams was a long time park employee who had retired a year ago. Motion by Hanig, second by Seiner to approve the memorial bench as requested. Motion carried. Moore will work with park staff and the Williams family to select location for the bench in the parks system.

YMCA/Recreation update –

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. Cheap stated kickball season is wrapping up, 8 teams participated. Cheap is teaching Tai Chi classes and senior winter classes are tentative due to COVID and seniors not willing to gather in groups.

Fabel reported the Y is getting ready for a November 7-8 swim meet and believes they can hold it with good social distancing. The Y will plan for another half marathon in 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Farnsworth, Director