

City of Pierre
Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
03-24-16

Chair Anne Lewis called the meeting to order in City hall conference room at 3:31pm.

Members present were Chairwoman Anne Lewis, Linda Ahrendt, Dr. Craig Howard, Bob Judson, John Simpson and Kelsey Smith. Also present were Commissioner Jeanne Goodman and staff members Mindy Cheap and Tom Farnsworth. Jeff Filipek and Todd Kelly were excused.

Guests included Mike Larson, President of Capital City Baseball Association (CCBA), Cody Putzier, President of the Sharpe Shooters Disc Golf, Beth Haskins, dog park committee and Becky Burke, Pierre Swim Team.

A motion to approve minutes of the February meeting was made by Smith with a second by Judson; motion carried. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Judson with a second by Simpson; motion carried.

Mindy Cheap shared a video staff developed to apply to be a Playful City USA. Pierre was the first city in South Dakota to be named a Playful City. Cheap is going through the application process to have Pierre recertified as a Playful City. The recognition has led to some great grant opportunities.

Old Business

CCBA Griffin Park Batting Cage Project

Mike Larson, CCBA president, met with Todd Kelly and provided a \$10,351.00 cost estimate to the board for materials for the batting cage. Larson presented a map showing where the 14 ft. by 70 ft. batting cage could fit west of the Griffin Park baseball field. The financial estimates are based off of the recent expenditures to repair and replace damaged structures at the ball fields. Larson is not asking for financial support from the City but asking for the Board's permission to install. Simpson made a motion to recommend to the City Commission this project be installed and paid for by the CCBA with oversight by Park Superintendent Todd Kelly. Judson seconded the motion and it carried. Larson thanked the board and excused himself from the meeting.

Dog Park Project

The committee presented their report. Beth Haskins stated they considered four locations including Divine Park, a City lot north of the sports complex, and an open space in Griffin Park. Dr. Howard included a check list of considerations for site discussion. The committee also considered Steamboat Park in the center, lesser-used area between the picnic shelter and the playground area. Parking and accessibility were important factors. This site includes close access to bathrooms, almost no residential neighbors except for an apartment complex, good shade from trees and a nice terrain. The primary concern was interrupting the disc golf course. Cody Putzier from the Sharp Shooters Disc Golf League presented on their group's opinion. The area considered interferes with the basket for hole 12, also partially with the tee box for hole 13 and hole 3. The minimum size for the dog park is one half acre. The size of the park still needs to be defined. The Board agreed more evaluation is needed before a decision can be made. Cody also walked the Board through the current disc golf course layout in Steamboat Park.

Haskins, representing the Dog Park group, is speaking with the Lion's Club in April and also looking at establishing a 501c3 to garner financial support. The committee will continue meeting to evaluate a site and work through the design and report monthly to the Park and Recreation board.

Project Updates

Outdoor Pool

Becky Burke presented on behalf of a citizen committee interested in siting a new outdoor aquatic facility. They are currently waiting on the results of soil tests. The City agreed to partner-cost-share these soil tests in Griffin Park in the vicinity of the current pool to determine the suitability of the site for a larger outdoor aquatic facility. Burke indicated she had the new economic data that shows swim meets and events make a large positive economic impact in the community. Discussions on the potential addition to the indoor aquatic center are on hold until decisions are made on the outdoor pool. A pool party fundraiser is going to be planned this summer. A reminder was made that considerations include a possible relocation of the skate park. Farnsworth told the board that when soil test data is received it will be reviewed and shared with the outdoor pool committee so they can continue with planning efforts and design.

Hyde Stadium

The project is still on budget and on time. Concrete is being poured today and the outfield fence is being erected. There may be an additional change order suggested. There are weekly contractor meetings and Board members are welcome to attend. Estimated completion date is May 15. Access to the playing surface to repair and start irrigation work might be available April 1. The first baseball game is June 2. Farnsworth has proposals to consider for landscaping in the planting areas. All agreed the weather has certainly been cooperative to allow work to stay on schedule.

Capital Creek

The project is still very close to completion. Signage has arrived and is ready to be installed. A change order was approved at the last City Commission meeting. Railing has yet to be erected and there will be the final landscaping to be done by the contractor. There may be a need for an additional retaining wall on the west side of the trail along the Midwest building. A total of four security cameras will be installed soon to help with keeping vandalism at a minimum. Farnsworth has scheduled a contractor meeting next week to discuss some of the remaining details of the project. Deadline on this project is mid-June to allow reimbursement of a \$200,000.00 RTP grant from the state of South Dakota.

Fishing Access at Mickelson Pond

The fishing pier was installed March 23rd. Two handicap parking signs will be marked this week. The fishing access points are completed. Proposals will be sought for an entrance sign. The City needs to review the access road surfacing and determine if they are going to seal the gravel or not.

No updates on **Walkability** or **Greening America's Capitals** other than both documents are moving forward with the City's strategic planning process.

No new updates regarding the **Boys and Girls Club bathrooms**. Redesign of the bathrooms is being worked on by Midwest construction for possible consideration.

Aquatic Center Pool Toy

The Commission approved the bid (approximately \$60,000). Installation of the new pool toy will start August 15.

New Business

Hyde Stadium Lease Agreement

Farnsworth provided a draft lease agreement from Steve Wagner, President of the Expedition League. He hopes to form a league in Pierre to possibly lease Hyde Stadium. Currently, the City has a lease with Post 8, and preference would still be given to Post 8. The board took no action on this item. Wagner has been invited to a Hyde Stadium event June 22 and will have an opportunity to see the finished field and stadium and meet members of the Park and Recreation board about his proposal.

RTP Grant submittal

Staff is preparing documents/budget for the April 15 grant deadline. The City is in the process of the grant submittal. David Locke from Stockwell engineers of Sioux Falls has been hired to bring expertise to the design concepts. The intent is to entirely rebuild the causeway trail from the Amphitheatre to the island. Included in the design will be lighting, garbage receptacles, benches, parking, trees, etc.... The approximate total cost might reach \$300,000. RTP grants are an 80/20 split (80% state, 20% local). If the project is awarded a state grant it will be scheduled for construction in 2017.

2016 Go Green and Clean Campaign

Farnsworth presented the update of the project sites adopted to date. There are many returning groups already signed up and some new ones. Volunteers are encouraged to take a photo and send it to Farnsworth. Most of the areas are high litter public areas. This is a very positive and important project for our community. Commission briefing on this project is scheduled for April 12.

Rec/Event Center

The board members will try to attend the final public meeting on the Rec/event center project on April 18 at the Ramkota at 7pm. After the last public input meeting, information will be gathered and shared with the Mayor and Commission. Over 65 potential users have been interviewed and 25 similar venues like this in SD and the upper Midwest have been reviewed for pricing info, sample contracts, etc. by the CSL consulting firm. The data gained will assist in formulating the operational pro-forma.

YMCA/Rec Dept. –Cheap updated the Board on activities and programs. The underwater Easter egg hunt was a huge success. Copies of the summer rec brochure were distributed via email. Online registration starts April 25 at 12:01am. Pierre put a bid in to host the SD Special Olympic Basketball Tournament for three more years. The next two years will be in Mitchell and then in 2019 it will be in Pierre. This year's event was a big success with record attendance.

Dialogue and other staff updates

A comment was made about the loss of Jeff Filipek to Minnesota. His last day is April 8th and he will be missed. There is a reception on April 6th at the YMCA. Notice will be sent to the board so they can attend and thank Jeff in person.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00. The next meeting of the board is April 21 at 3:00 pm. This is an invite to join the Chamber Sports Committee for dialogue with SDHAA and PSD Athletic Director. Meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce building.

Kelsey Smith, Recording Secretary