



**Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Advisory Board – MINUTES**  
**Thursday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Council Chambers 7:30 A.M.**

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City Spearfish is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: July Parks, Rec and Forestry Advisory Board

Time: Jul 15, 2021, 07:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85938836487>

Meeting ID: 859 3883 6487

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**CALL TO ORDER** 7:30 A.M.

**ROLL CALL** Caldwell, Coburn, Dardis, Griffith, Hall, Neilson, Clark, Running. Also, in attendance were P & R Director Ehnes, SRAC Facility Superintendent Rauterkus, Parks Maintenance Superintendent McDonald, City Attorney McDonald, Administrative Assistant Heiting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Motion by Hall, second by Neilson. Motion carries.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Hall questioned if the artwork was going to be 9 pieces or 1 piece, as well as questioned if the board approved the concept or if the entire project was approved.

Motion to amend the minutes by Hall, second by Dardis. Motion carries.

Motion to approve as amended by Dardis second by Hall. Motion carries.

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#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Public comment was opened at 7:33 A.M. with no comments received.

#### **ITEMS FROM VISITORS (Policy Note: Visitors are limited to 5 minutes of presentation followed by questions)**

- Northern Hills Rapids-Requesting Field Space and MOU from the City.
  - Larry Gould with the Northern Hills Rapids Soccer Program requested approval to use city-owned fields and requested to enter into an MOU with the city.
  - During the discussion P & R Director Ehnes explained that currently Spearfish is lacking field space for our current teams. Unfortunately, allowing field space for the Northern Hills Rapids would result in taking field space from the local Spearfish Soccer Association.
  - Mr. Gould explained that the Black Hills Rapids Association employs two full-time employees that are responsible for organizing field usage. The employees would be responsible to discuss locations and times available with the Spearfish Soccer Association and the city.
  - P&R Director Ehnes questioned how many fields were needed, as well as how often. Mr. Gould explained that it is unknown how many fields are needed at this time due to registration still being open but would like to utilize field space two times a week. At this time there are approximately forty families that are interested in participating.
  - Coburn questioned if the organization would be playing at a recreational level or competitive level. Mr. Gould explained that this organization would be both recreational and competitive, the league would be based out of Rapid City due to being a Rapid City Association. Mr. Gould added that adding another organization would provide the kids the opportunity to compete at a higher national level in which geographically there are not enough children to compete at this time if the Rapid City and Spearfish competitors are not combined.
  - Coburn raised concern that a Rapid City Association would be competing with the Spearfish Soccer league and acquiring competitors from the Spearfish Soccer Association. Mr. Gould explained that there are currently local Spearfish children playing within the Rapid City league and offering field space would prevent families from having to travel.
  - Dardis had concerns and would like clarification regarding the state's perspective on two organizations forming within the same town when there is already one

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organization established. Mr. Gould explained that the Black Hills Rapid team is considered an existing organization.

- Clark questioned how many teams are being formed, Mr. Gould stated at this time it is unknown as registration is currently open, and all ages are welcome.
- Mr. Gould explained that there is already a competitive team formed. That team is forced to travel to compete at a higher competitive level. Adding, this association would prevent parents and players from having to travel and will provide the opportunity for the team and coaches to remain local.
- Griffith questioned what the potential impact to field space would be in regarding the current field space that is provided. P&R Ehnes explained the impact would directly affect the Spearfish Soccer Association regarding Hillview fields.
- Motion by Coburn to table until more information is received, second by Caldwell. Motion carries.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ***Board Items***

- Approve Black Hills Bike Share Location and Project.
  - The location of the Bike Share project was presented by P&R Director Ehnes. The potential location is located outside of the City Park, located in the southeast corner of the adjacent parking lot.
  - Griffith questioned if there were other service-type industries interested in providing services on City property. P&R Director Ehnes explained there have been two requests recently, and he expressed concern that more businesses would inquire and be interested in acquiring space on city-owned property.
  - Clark questioned if this business would generate revenue. P&R Ehnes explained that yes, generally there are lease agreements that are required to obtain space.
  - Neilson questioned Caldwell about the need for rentable bicycles. Caldwell explained there is a huge need for bicycle rentals due to tourists not realizing how bike-friendly our community is.
  - Clark questioned the lease option, P&R Ehnes explained that the project is a semi-permanent structure. If needed the structure could be taken down at the end of the lease.

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- Hall shared concern about setting a precedent by allowing a business to be placed on park property, questioned the possibility of developing an ordinance or guidelines due to our current growth.
  - Clark questioned how many bikes would be supplied within the Bike Share, and how many parking spots would be required to park to allow patrons to rent a bike.
  - Parks Maintenance Superintendent McDonald explained that roughly twenty-five parking spaces would be developed by removing two trees that are currently a safety hazard. Clark clarified that the trees would be removed regardless of the projected Bike Share due to hazards.
  - Caldwell clarified and questioned if approved, would this allow the conversation to continue regarding lease terms, or is this to approve the location? P&R Director Ehnes explained that this is for the approval of the location, project and to move it forward to City Council.
  - Caldwell questioned the lease agreement regarding Beneath the Pines that is currently located on City property. P&R Director Ehnes explained the history of how the business was started, however, the Campground is operated under an enterprise fund which is not supplemented by tax dollars.
  - Hall explained while working on strategic planning, one of their concerns was to spread out the population to other parts of the town and provide amenities throughout the town. Hall expressed she was opposed to the location.
  - Multiple board members expressed their support for the project but would like to see BH Bike Share return with alternate locations.
  - Motion to deny the proposed location by Hall, second by Neilson. Motion carries.
- Question and Answer Session on July Staff Update.
    - Griffith commented on the new bridge and was very excited to see it relocated and that it is now open.
    - P&R Director Ehnes explained that Parks Maintenance Superintendent McDonald is part of the Bike Advisory Group in town and has requested assistance with ideas to provide signage and routing to explain the bike path.
    - Neilson questioned the sports complex playground, P&R Director Ehnes explained that the playground has been removed in phase 1 due to budget constraints. Neilson expressed his concern due to the new proposed master plan requesting new developments to meet those guidelines. Neilson would like the city to meet the proposed guidelines.

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- P&R Director Ehnes explained there has been an organization that has shown interest in providing equipment for the playground. Griffith clarified that a playground is planned for in the project's plan, however, due to budget constraints, it has been cut from phase 1.
- P&R Director Ehnes discussed a new project located at Exit 17 within Elkhorn Ridge Estates. Ehnes explained that there is discussion being held on how to turn the current pond into a fishing pond. This would expand outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Griffith questioned if the rec center provided programs for outdoor recreation. Superintendent Rauterkus explained that the rec center does provide fishing poles to guests so they can enjoy outdoor recreation, as well as in the past offered classes on different outdoor recreation activities.

#### ***Director Items***

#### ***Rec & Aquatic Center***

#### ***Parks and Forestry***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Board Items***

#### ***Director Items***

- Discuss the City's MOU Process.
  - Due to the demand for field space, P&R Director Ehnes said that there is a major concern for providing field space. Due to this demand, P&R Director Ehnes would like to form a small group to develop and change the MOU process.
  - Clark questioned the cost of maintenance for the fields, he would like to see what revenue can be produced by requiring the teams to be responsible for field maintenance. P&R Director Ehnes explained the fields are included in the general fund budget, which provides flexibility to manage parks and sports fields.
  - P&R Director Ehnes asked to hold another meeting to form a small group of volunteers to help analyze and improve the MOU process.
  - Clark expressed that he would like to recommend a team be formed today due to all board members being present.
  - The team has been identified as Caldwell, Dardis, Coburn, Griffith, and P&R Director Ehnes.

#### ***Rec & Aquatic Center***

- Superintendent Rauterkus reported that the rock wall located at the Spearfish Rec and Aquatic Center is now open.

#### ***Parks and Forestry***

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**FYI ITEMS**

- Board Member Anundson has relocated and is officially no longer on the board.
- City Administrator Harmon has resigned as of July 16, 2021
- City Attorney McDonald has been appointed as the Interim City Administrator.
- The Festival in the Park is this weekend, the parks department has been highly involved in making this a great event, along with the help from the Matthews Opera House. There are currently one-hundred-fifty craft vendors as well as fifty food vendors signed up for this event.

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion by Neilson, second by Caldwell. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 A.M.

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