



**Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Advisory Board – MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, City Council Chambers 7:30 A.M.**

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The meeting was held in the Council Chambers and is available at:

<https://vimeo.com/820924599?share=copy>

**CALL TO ORDER** 7:32 A.M.

**ROLL CALL** In attendance were Caldwell, Dardis, Griffith, Neilson, Coburn, Dardis, Griffith, Reth, Weigel, and Winterstein. Also in attendance were P & R Director Ehnes, SRAC Facility Superintendent Rauterkus, Parks Maintenance Superintendent McDonald, City Attorney McDonald, City Administrator McFarland, and Administrative Assistant Heiting. Absent: Running, Clark

**DECLARATION OF ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** No conflicts of interest were declared.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Weigel moved, Dardis, seconded, and all voted to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Dardis moved, Reth, seconded, and all voted to approve the March meeting minutes.

Caldwell requested the corrected spelling of Sapphire Lane; this is regarding an address of a person that spoke at public comment during the March meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Public comment was opened at 7:34 A.M., with no public comments received.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Board Items***

- Question and answer session on the April staff update.
  - Neilson questioned the picnic tables located east of the parking lot, by the north end of the city park. McDonald stated that those tables have always been there and are available for the public to use.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Director Items***

- Recommend My Turn Play Systems as the best value proposal for the design and construction of the Evans Park Play System project.

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- Ehnes reviewed the City Council’s decision regarding the rocket ship located at Evan’s Park. Due to the decision to re-construct the rocket ship and replace the wood playground structure, an RFP was put out on March 1<sup>st</sup>, for a new structure. A sub-committee was formed and met to score all structure proposals that were submitted. My Turn Play Systems was chosen based on the scoring system in place. Once the contract has been finalized, they will begin construction in the spring and summer of 2023.
- Griffith spoke about the process of working together with the city staff and sub-committee. Together, they were able to evaluate the equipment and the playground structure that will allow children of all ages to use.
- Weigel stated that she thought the process of scoring worked well and will be a great playground that features many different obstacles for all age groups.
- Ehnes commented that My Turn Play System will be submitting new renderings with different color options for the playground equipment.
- Reth commented that the features of the equipment will be a great asset to the community. It offers new and different options compared to other parks within the community.
- Weigel questioned if there was a timeline placed on the group that committed to re-constructing the rocket ship. Ehnes stated that there is a 1-year time limit from when the contract was signed. The contract was signed on April 17th, 2023; therefore, completion of the project will need to be done by April 17th, 2024.
- Weigel motioned, Reth seconded, and all voted to recommend the playground equipment submitted by My Turn Play Systems to the City Council for consideration.
- Sky Ridge SportsPlex Update.
  - Ehnes presented the renderings of the new sports complex, which consists of five separate projects, excluding the housing development. Field space consists of four-plex softball fields and 6 regulation-size soccer fields.
  - Ehnes discussed the phases of the complex. Phase 1 consists of the construction of all the utilities, fields, parking lots and concession buildings, etc. Completion of phase 1 is expected to be finished in the next 60-90 days.
  - Phase 2 was awarded to Ainsworth Benning Construction to finish the project, the final construction will include the construction of a picnic shelter, a small restroom building, shade structures, and all wayfinding. Phase 2 also includes the installation of a playground as a separate city-run project, this has a completion date of May 2023. Both phase 2 projects combined have a completion date of fall 2023.

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- The Skyridge playground will not be available to use immediately due to the area being an active construction zone. Once construction is done, the playground will be available for use.
- Ehnes discussed the irrigation well. Water systems drilling is the contractor on this project. Due to the size of the complex and the need for large amounts of water, it was identified to drill an irrigation well and see if the well would produce the needed 300 GPM to irrigate the total complex. After the completion of the drilling, the well is producing over 500 GPM. The size of this complex is estimated to use 10 million gallons of water during the summer. The system will be used to water the complex in the summer, as well as a backup to the municipal system.
- Neilson questioned if the well would cause any problems with the Elkhorn Ridge pond. Ehnes stated that the well is drilled into the aquifer and is not pumped directly out of the pond therefore the pond will not be affected.
- Ehnes discussed the construction of the maintenance building at Sky Ridge, due to the need for more space to operate the complex, as well as the lack of storage citywide, City Council agreed to increase the square footage of the building to accommodate future needs. The construction of the building was awarded to S & S Construction.
- Ehnes stated that the sportsplex is expected to be completed by the fall of 2023, it is projected that staff will begin taking care of the complex in the summer of 2023, with the anticipated complex opening in the spring or fall of 2024 depending on turf establishment.
- Ehnes discussed the future operations of the complex and the possibilities of creating a way to subsidize some of the cost through user fees.
- Weigel questioned if the organizations that are currently utilizing any indoor space are required to pay a rental fee. Ehnes stated that yes, to reserve indoor space, organizations are required to pay rental fees.
- Dardis questioned the current mowing maintenance on the fields per the soccer MOU. If the city was to decide to remove that option and mow it for the organizations, Dardis feels as though the organization's maintenance funds could be allocated to a pay-to-play structure.
- Dardis questioned if the city was willing to store organizations' field equipment. Ehnes stated that due to the rising cost of materials, the city would be willing to allow the organizations to store equipment before the complex is completed. Once the complex is completed and the organizations can utilize the fields, the equipment will need to be

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dedicated to the city due to multiple organizations potentially using the same equipment.

- Neilson questioned the next step for the Rec Path. Ehnes commented that there has been an ongoing conversation as well as a preliminary design being reviewed. Due to Colorado Blvd being narrow, it makes it more difficult to find the space to allocate for the path.

#### ***Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Items***

- Consider taking steps to seek Bee City USA certification for the City of Spearfish.
  - McDonald presented a PowerPoint presentation on becoming a Bee City USA town, this would be a similar program to the Tree City USA. Becoming a Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. McDonald stated that BHSU and SDSU are currently the only Bee Campus USA schools.
  - McDonald stated that he has been researching and discussing the potential programs with the local community. The support within the community will help assist in developing committees and assisting the city in developing a new program.
  - Griffith stated that it's a great opportunity to coincide with the tree program and questioned if it would add more work on the city's behalf. McDonald stated that this would tie into the normal landscape and what staff are currently doing to maintain the areas.
  - Dardis commented that when traveling he is aware of how important pollinators are within communities.
  - Wegiel commented that education on pollination is very important and a great opportunity to connect with local groups. She questioned if there is a need to make changes to the chemicals or fertilizers that are currently being used.
  - McDonald stated that we will look in depth at the resources that the Xerces Society offers. The city is currently using a landscape management plan and will be looking at other resources for an integrated pest management plan.
  - Weigel motioned, Dardis seconded, and all voted to recommend taking steps to seek Bee City USA certification for the City of Spearfish.

#### **FYI ITEMS**

- An Arbor Day celebration will be held at Mountain View elementary school on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. City staff will present information to the kindergarteners about the importance of trees in our community.

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- Reth commented that the skatepark committee has received its first official donor. Spread The Tunes has officially donated a monetary donation to the new skate park.

**ADJOURNMENT TIME:** Caldwell moved, Neilson seconded, and all voted to adjourn at 8:31 A.M.

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