

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
Rapid City, South Dakota

June 12, 2006

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rapid City was held at the Canyon Lake Park, Picnic Shelter #2 in Rapid City, South Dakota on Monday, June 12, 2006 at 5:00 P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Jim Shaw and the following Alderpersons: Mike Schumacher, Karen Olson, Bill Okrepkie, Tom Johnson, Ron Kroeger, Bob Hurlbut, Malcom Chapman and Sam Kooiker. The following Alderpersons arrived during the course of the meeting: Deb Hadcock; and the following were absent: Ray Hadley.

Staff members present included Finance Officer Jim Preston, City Attorney Jason Green, Public Works Director Dirk Jablonski, Police Chief Craig Tieszen, Parks & Recreation Director Jerry Cole, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Gerry.

Mayor Shaw reminded the members and the audience that it was important to remember that the system of justice has prevailed and handed down a \$7 Million award for injuries; and now the City must address the safety issue and do something to prevent another accident.

Parks & Recreation Director Cole reported there have been a number of accidents in Canyon Lake Park. He indicated that six of seven accidents involved speed, while the seventh accident involved speed and alcohol.

Cole explained that six options were presented to the Council for consideration, and outlined three viable options that would limit access and safe guard the public's access to Canyon Lake Park. Cole explained Option #1 as removing the roadway between Park Shelters 2 & 3 and planting grass in this area; installing pavement markings to delineate two-way traffic; construction of a turn-around in the vicinity of Shelter 2; access from only Park Drive for Shelter 3; and the entrance gated for closure in the evenings and during bad weather. Cole indicated that this option is recommended by staff and supported by the City's insurance company.

Option #2 included reversing the direction of the traffic flow from Park Drive to Jackson Boulevard. Cole indicated there is concern with the option as it relates to traffic congestion and conflicts between vehicular traffic and pedestrians. The estimated cost associated with this option is \$48,000.

Option #3 included stone masonry / rock guardrail at an estimated cost of \$49,000 - \$50,000. Cole pointed out problems with this option – the curve remains in the roadway and the on-going maintenance of a rock retaining wall. Cole pointed out that the existing guardrail currently sustains damage from vehicular traffic running into the guardrail as they round the curve. He suggested that the rock retaining wall will sustain the same damage, as the wall will be constructed in the same location. He also estimated \$3,000 for a project to reconstruct the curb in this area.

Cole indicated that there is interest from the Council in addressing ADA accessible trails, and explained that the cost for such a project is estimated at \$2,300 to \$10,000.

Cole offered a new option #4 that includes two round-abouts with curb and gutter, and indicated that such a design will cause vehicle traffic to slow. The cost of this option is estimated at \$50,000. In response to a question from Alderman Olson, Cole indicated his uncertainty of whether this design would meet FEMA requirements or need FEMA approval.

Members of the audience suggested constructing guardrails using pylons and I-beams, and closing the park at night. Cole indicated that the intent is to gate the park, no matter what option is chosen. The gate is expected to be closed at ten o'clock and at dusk during the winter months.

Ken Edel, Rapid City, suggested the reconstruction curb and gutter in the park; installation of guardrails around several lagoons and engineered to image a bridge; pedestrian crosswalks be installed; installation of stop signs within the park; posting of park rules; enforcement of the posted speed limit; and double fines; relocate garbage collection bins out of the parking areas; and reverse traffic flow.

Dan Michael, Rapid City, suggested erecting concrete barriers around the ponds, and opening the park to through traffic until such time as the Council has given direction and a project is completed. City Attorney Green advised against this suggestion because of the potential liability of a design that is not an engineered design.

Van Linquist, Chairman of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, suggested that it is not possible to enforce the posted speed limit of 10 MPH; suggested that the proposed round-abouts achieve the attempt to slow vehicle traffic; and suggested that pedestrian cross walks and stripping achieve the attempt to slow vehicle traffic.

Dave Schwiertert, Rapid City, offered support for the proposed round-abouts, but asked the Council to consider reversing the flow of traffic through the park from Park Drive to Jackson Boulevard and install speed bumps.

At 5:52 P.M. Alderman Hadcock entered the meeting.

Council and audience members assembled at the lagoon, the site of the accident, to visualize the proposed improvement options.

Motion was made by Kooiker, second by Schumacher to open the Canyon Lake road to through traffic, and bring Option #4 before the Council for further discussion. City Attorney Green advised against opening the road to through traffic until there is a solution. Alderman Hurlbut asked for a traffic analysis at Park Drive and Jackson Boulevard. Alderman Okrepkie suggested reversing the traffic and opening the road to determine the impact of this solution. Alderman Olson expressed her concern about the solution, suggesting it was not a wise solution, and offered support for the round-abouts.

Substitute motion was made by Johnson, second by Olson to continue the discussion of the Canyon Lake road improvement project to the June 13, 2006 Public Works Committee meeting. Motion carried with Schumacher voting NO.

As there was no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Office

(SEAL)

CITY OF RAPID CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor