



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

November 12th, 5:30pm

Belle Fourche Rec Center-Montana Room

1111 National St.

Belle Fourche, S.D. 57717

This is an open session meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

We have just convened a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the City of Belle Fourche. Today's date is November 12th, 2025, at 5:30p.m.

1. The meeting will open with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approve the advisory board minutes from the October 29th, 2025, meeting.
3. Adopt the agenda as presented.
4. Community Input

This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business. Everyone making comments should identify themselves by name and address at the time they address the board.

5. Rec Center update, which will include an example of the new auditorium audio system, led by Director Jody Westberg.
6. Pickleball proposal discussion led by Vice President Selchert.
7. Discussion with possible action regarding the proposed Parks and Recreation advisory board by laws led by President Hobbs-Vetter.
8. Informational.
9. Set date, time, and location for the next advisory board meeting.
10. Adjournment.

Belle Fourche Pickleball Expansion & Economic Impact Proposal

Prepared by:

Falina Selchert, Vice President – Parks & Recreation Board

Parks Included: Jones Park, Highland Park, and Gay Park

Date: October 2025

Project Overview

Pickleball continues to be the fastest-growing sport in America, with over **19.8 million players** nationwide — up 46 percent year over year. The community feedback in Belle Fourche mirrors that trend.

Our current facilities at **Gay Park** are well used but limited. By **resurfacing and re-striping the tennis courts at Jones Park and Highland Park for multi-sport play**, we can position Belle Fourche as a **regional pickleball hub** capable of hosting sanctioned tournaments that bring real revenue into town — all without new construction.

Each tennis pad can accommodate **two pickleball courts** using portable nets, while still maintaining full tennis functionality.

Location	Work	Est. Cost Range	Notes
Jones Park	Resurface 2 tennis courts, add lines for 4 pickleball courts + soccer practice	\$12 000 – \$25 000	Surface refresh + multi-sport striping
Highland Park	Resurface 2 tennis courts, add lines for 4 pickleball courts + tennis	\$12 000 – \$25 000	Multi-use resurfacing
Gay Park	Already resurfaced in 2022 – no cost needed	—	Two courts ready for play
TOTAL (new work)		\$24 000 – \$50 000	Based on CAMCO regional pricing benchmarks

Tournament-ready capacity:

- ≈ 10 courts × 6–8 teams per court per day → **60–80 teams daily**
- ≈ **200–300 players** over a two-day event (assuming doubles format and flighted brackets)


This allows a “Belle Fourche Open” model with matches spread across three parks — each site acting as a division location — and creates a full-weekend event cycle with restaurants and lodging benefiting.

Economic & Tax Impact (Sheridan WY Model)

Sheridan WY (pop. ~19 000) modeled a 750-player pickleball event producing **\$486 000 in direct visitor spending** and **\$29 160 in local tax revenue**.

Applying the same formula to Belle Fourche:

Event Scale	Player s	Visitor Spending @ \$135 pp/day × 2 days	Local Sales Tax @ 6.2 %
Local Classic	180	≈ \$87 000	≈ \$5 400
Regional Open	250	≈ \$135 000	≈ \$8 400
Large Sanctioned Event	300	≈ \$162 000	≈ \$10 000–\$12 000

 Even a mid-size regional event brings five-figure local spending from lodging, restaurants, and fuel sales — with future growth potential as we add indoor play or lighting.

Community & Fiscal Benefits

- **Multi-use Efficiency:** Tennis, pickleball, and soccer practice share the same footprint.
- **Year-round Utility:** Indoor soccer lines allow winter practice and school use.

- **Economic Driver:** Recreation tourism fills local rooms and restaurants.
 - **Low Investment, High Return:** Repurpose existing assets instead of building new.
 - **Eligible for Grants:** LWCF (50 % match), USA Pickleball Community Grants, NRPA Lighting Programs.
-

Action Requested

1. Approve funding to **resurface and re-line Jones and Highland Parks** for multi-sport play.
 2. Authorize **Parks & Recreation** to pursue grants and sponsorships for nets, shade, and signage.
 3. Support a **Summer 2026 “Belle Fourche Pickleball Open”** as a city-wide pilot event to measure participation and local economic impact.
-

Closing Statement

This project transforms existing courts into high-impact, multi-use recreation space. With **ten total courts** across three parks, Belle Fourche can host regional tournaments comparable to Sheridan’s success—bringing **new visitors, local tax revenue, and community pride**.

“We’re not chasing a fad — we’re investing in a sport that unites all ages, fills our parks, and strengthens our local economy.”

**BYLAWS OF THE
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Belle Fourche, South Dakota**

Article I – Philosophy

The Belle Fourche Common Council and the Belle Fourche Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recognize the need to promote recreational and community activities and provide park and recreation facilities which encourage healthy and enjoyable learning experiences and improve the quality of life for all the residents of our community.

Article II – Purpose

2.1 Pursuant to Belle Fourche City Ordinance, the Belle Fourche Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (hereinafter “BFPRAB”), with the authority delegated by the Belle Fourche Common Council, shall be used by the Common Council as a channel for all concerns pertaining to parks and recreation issues within the city.

2.2 The board shall promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting recreational activities, so that all recreational resources within the City may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

Article III – Board Membership

Board membership is established by Belle Fourche City Ordinance. Members will assist with BFPRAB activities as assigned by the President or the BFPRAB. BFPRAB members are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible, and are subject to attendance requirements as set forth by Belle Fourche City Ordinance.

Article IV – Officer Elections and Duties

BFPRAB will elect officers in accordance with Belle Fourche City Ordinance. There are no term limits for officers. If an officer vacancy occurs for any reason, the BFPRAB should fill the officer vacancy by election as soon as is practicable.

4.1. Except as otherwise provided for by Belle Fourche City Ordinance, Officer duties include:

- 4.1.1. President: Call the meetings to order and prepare and approve the agenda. Conduct the meeting. The President may speak for the BFPRAB and is responsible for interpreting the rules and bylaws. Organize and appoint committees and/or sub-committees as needed from the board or outside of the board.
- 4.1.2. Vice- President: Research and data collection, materials, processing, and publications. The Vice- President will serve in the absence of the President.
- 4.1.3. Secretary: Record all minutes, provide copies as needed, keep an updated list of all board member terms and addresses, keep a record of applications for all activities and funding, and coordinate any necessary BFPRAB-approved procedures. The secretary will develop the annual report and request future operational budget authority from the Common Council.

Article V – Meetings

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order when not in conflict with these bylaws, city ordinance, or state law.

- 5.1. Except as otherwise provided by Belle Fourche City Ordinance, regular BFPRAB meetings will be held monthly with the date, time, and location determined by a consensus of the board members. Special meetings may be called in accordance with Belle Fourche City Ordinance.
- 5.2. All meetings will be open to the public in accordance with state law. All motions to conduct business must be made in open public meetings. BFPRAB may meet in executive session only for such purposes that are authorized by state law.
- 5.3. Official business may be conducted upon action of three BFPRAB members at any regular or special meeting.
- 5.4. Ex officio members and voting member vacancies do not count toward a quorum.
- 5.5. A quorum for the conduct of business at any meeting shall be three (3) members of the BRPRAB. No action shall be taken in the absence of a quorum, except to adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date.

Article VI – Ratification and Revision of Bylaws

These bylaws shall become effective upon the unanimous vote of the BFPRAB and ratification by the Common Council.

- 6.1. Except as otherwise provided by Belle Fourche City Ordinance, future revision and amendment of the bylaws should be submitted to the BFPRAB for a vote and must carry a majority vote to be approved. Revisions will then be submitted to the Common Council for their ratification.
- 6.2. The BFPRAB may have Policies and Guidelines independent of the Bylaws that may be changed by the BFPRAB by a majority vote of said Board. However, the Common Council may amend any such policies or guidelines by Council action.

Article VII – BFPRAB Authority

- 7.1. BFPRAB is an instrument of the Belle Fourche Common Council and will act under the Common Council's authority.
- 7.2. BFPRAB work and action is subject to Belle Fourche Common Council review, confirmation, objection, grievance, or questions. Reconsideration of any subject may be submitted to the Belle Fourche Common Council for final action.
- 7.3. BFPRAB is subject to all municipal rules, regulations, and laws governing the function, power, and operational authority as defined by the City of Belle Fourche, Butte County, State of South Dakota.
- 7.4. BFPRAB does not have any taxing authority or authority to bind the Common Council.

Article VIII – Duties of the BFPRAB

In addition to the duties of the BFPRAB as set by Belle Fourche City Ordinance, the BFPRAB may:

- 8.1. Advise and make recommendations to the Belle Fourche Common Council regarding the provision, maintenance, administration, conduct, and support of recreation, physical fitness, sports, and cultural programs, activities, opportunities and services.
- 8.2. Advise and make recommendations to the Belle Fourche Common Council regarding the acquisition, operation, supervision, use, maintenance, development, and provision of recreation and park areas and facilities.
- 8.3. Inventory the park and recreational facilities and identify program needs within the community.
- 8.4. Make recommendations to the Belle Fourche Common Council as to future needs and budget allocation.
- 8.5. Consider and make recommendations regarding any approved funding requests for Grants.
- 8.6. Develop and annually maintain a 5-year operations plans for consideration by the Belle Fourche Common Council.
- 8.7. Make requests for major expenditures and staffing, controversial or intensive activities, or a reprioritization of funds to the Belle Fourche Common Council Council for its action.
- 8.8. Records and business materials will be open to the public in accordance with the state laws of South Dakota.
- 8.9. Although funds may vary greatly from year to year, stimulating and challenging activities are to be encouraged. Matching seed money may be available to assist individuals or organizations to develop new programs and projects, which will represent all facets of the community needs and population.
- 8.10. An individual board member may not act in an official capacity except through the action of the board.
- 8.11. Working groups may established by the BFPRAB.
 - 8.11.1 The board can determine the size of a working group but the number of board members serving on the working group must be less than a quorum of the board.

- 8.11.2 Quorum requirements do not apply to working groups.
- 8.11.3 Staff support will not be provided for the working groups.
- 8.11.4 Working groups are not required to post their meetings in accordance with the open meetings law.

Article IX – Conflict of Interest

No member of the BFPRAB or any sub-committee thereof shall participate in the discussion of, voting upon, or recommendation to the City Council, of any matter before the BFPRAB in which the member has a direct pecuniary interest.

Adopted by the Board this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Belle Fourche Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

_____Heidi Parker_____ President

Approved by the Common Council this ____ day of _____, 2024.

City of Belle Fourche

Randy Schmidt, Mayor

Attest: _____
Wayne Tonsager, Finance Officer