The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, March 8, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Shon Hanczyc, Greg Oleson Domico Rodriguez and Tom Willock. The following members were absent: Brett Lawlor and Lynn Paulson. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Park Division Manager Scott Anderson, Urban Forester Andy Bernard and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the minutes of February 8, 2018 as presented.

**Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

**Liaison Reports**

Biegler reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met but did not have a lot to discuss. They will be working with SD Game, Fish & Parks on the goose harvest this spring and summer. Biegler noted that he is going to suggest that the UWC review the Deer and Beaver Management Plans to see if they need to be updated.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and is working to finalize an Urban Forestry Management Plan for the City. Staff is also preparing an update to the City’s tree ordinance which needs to be modified. Arbor Day is April 27th but the City’s celebration will be later in the spring. Staff will be working with representatives of Rushmore Little League to plant trees at their complex on E. Main Street North. Staff intends to plant 40-50 trees in this area.

Bernard also reported that Staff will be hosting a community Tree Care Workshop that will be free to the public. The event will include information to assist homeowners with all aspects of tree care. The Workshop is scheduled for April 27th at the GF&P Outdoor Campus from 8 AM to Noon.

Biegler reported that Beautification Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, but a quorum was not present last week.

Alderwoman Darla Drew presented Certificates of Appointment from the Mayor’s Office for newly appointment Advisory Board members Brett Lawlor, Tom Willock and Lynn Paulson.

**Emerald Ash Borer Management Program**

Bernard explained that the Emerald Ash Borer came to the US in the 1990s and is slowly moving toward Rapid City. There are currently infestations in Iowa, Colorado and Minnesota; the borer is typically transported in firewood. Bernard stated that this insect will clear all the ash trees in Rapid City when it arrives. Bernard stated that staff wants to be ready when he Emerald Ash Borer gets to Rapid City and is pre-emptively removing ash trees in the park.
system. He intends to remove about 100 each year beginning with the older trees. Staff will also be identifying any large or legacy trees we may want to attempt to save. There are spray treatments that can be used on large trees but it is expensive. Bernard noted that the Parks crews will be taking care of trees on city property but will not address any issues on private property. Drew commended staff for the forward thinking and efforts to maintain the City’s urban forest. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Willock and carried to approve the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan as presented by staff.

**Proposed Disc Golf Course**
Scott Caesar explained that he has been working with the city for many years maintaining the existing disc golf facilities on Jackson Blvd and Omaha Street. He noted that there are 17 disc golfers present at this meeting to support the idea of creating another disc golf course on the LaCroix Links property. He submitted a handout on why disc golf is right for Centennial Parkway/LaCroix Links property which included information on meeting the needs of the community, statistics and comparisons on the number of courses available, low cost investment, club assistance potential and additional benefits for the project.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson stated that it is very early in the process to identify uses for this property. He explained that the YMCA notified the City in January that they were going to relinquish the lease they had for the golf course and there have been a variety of suggestions for future use of this area. Biegler added that the Department has been aware for some time that the disc golfers would like to see another disc golf course in the community. He added that a disc golf course would probably fit very nicely into the area vacated by the golf course. Caesar stated that the sport of disc golf continues to grow in this area and throughout the world. Drew commended the citizens who attended the meeting for their support of the process as well as the sweat equity they provide to the existing disc golf courses. She also suggested that the group begin fund raising for development of this type of facility. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Willock and carried to acknowledge the quality of the report submitted by the Black Hills Disc Golf Club and appreciation for the work that has been done, and encourage staff to work with club members relative to the proposal to locate a disc golf course on the LaCroix Links property.

**Director’s Report**
Anderson reported that staff is working to purchase several pieces of equipment for the Parks Division. Also, the 2019 proposed Budget has been prepared and will be presented to the Mayor for his consideration. Staff will begin working to turn on sprinkler systems throughout the community and get restrooms ready to open for the summer.

Andy Bernard has mapped the routes used by crews who mow approximately 900 acres of parkland each summer. The greenhouse is very active with seeds planted and plugs will be coming in March. Staff is also beginning the hiring process for summer seasonal and part-time employees. A large improvement project is being designed for the Cemetery and will include completion of the irrigation system, roads, development of areas to the south, parking expansion, and an addition to the maintenance shop. Anderson commended Craig Nichols for all the work and effort he puts into maintaining the cemetery. He does his best to work with people who are very particular about how their plots look as well as the grass and trees throughout the cemetery.
Biegler reported that the Robbinsdale Park Improvement project is well underway and most of the park side is complete with the exception of some of the grass areas that were disturbed during construction and some of the asphalt work. Work on the pathway will be milled so as soon as the plants open that portion of the project will be done. One issue that has come up with the BMX track is lighting. Part of the Improvement Project included installation of an electrical panel and conduit for future lights. The BMX group is very interested in the Vision Fund and intends to submit a project for lighting of the new facility when the application process is open. In the meantime staff has met with everyone involved and temporary lights from the old facility will be installed at the new track for use this season at a cost of approximately $13,000. Part of this cost will be wiring which can be used when new lights are installed in the future.

Biegler also noted that the Landscape Architect position was posted and 16 applications were received. Staff will be going through the applications and setting up interview times for the top candidates.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on April 12, 2018.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.