The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, June 14, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Tom Willock and Brett Lawlor. The following members were absent: Greg Oleson, Domico Rodriguez, Lynn Paulson and Shon Hanczyc. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Landscape Designer Chelsea Levorsen and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment
No public comments were made.

Minutes
It was noted that none of the members present were at the May 10th meeting so approval of those minutes will be on the agenda for the July 12th meeting.

Agenda
The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports
Biegler reported that the Beautification Committee met last week and received information on applying for Stearns grant funding for landscaping materials. After discussion of various projects around the community, the Committee decided to apply for $50,000 in funding to be used for landscaping materials to be used in the center medians of the Omaha Street Reconstruction project.

The Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and the main topic of discussion was the geese in Canyon Lake Park and the damage they are doing to the lake and the parkland. Staff explained the measures they have been doing in an attempt to reduce the geese population including destroying nests, addling eggs, hazing and conducting an annual goose harvest. The majority of the waterfowl at the lake during the winter months are Canada Geese and they are protected under the federal migratory bird act. Since Rapid City is in their flight path, there is not a lot that can be done. Discussions also included the possibility of implementing an archery season for geese.

Biegler reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning and approved two memorial tree permits. Mark Warnke also gave an update on how Sioux Falls is handling the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Front Porch Coalition
Stephanie Schweitzer Dixon explained that a couple years ago their organization presented an idea to the Advisory Board to create an area where individuals could purchase bricks in memory of someone who had died. The Front Porch Coalition is interested in creating this area as a way to raise funds for their organization as well as provide a memorial area for people in the community. Due to budget constraints and limited personnel they were not able to pursue the project. They now have staff that would be able to work on this project and they would like to discuss the proposal with the appropriate people from the City to see if it could move forward.
Olson stated that from time to time the Advisory Board has discussions about the public park system becoming cemeteries in some form. She stated that it would be appropriate to give all the board members a chance to be present for a discussion on this type of project. She suggested that this item be put on the agenda for the meeting in September which would give the Front Porch Coalition time to create a presentation for the Board’s information.

Schweitzer Dixon agreed that this would work for them and they will work on a presentation for the September Advisory Board meeting.

**Western States Tier 2 Hockey League Team**
Recreation Director Lowe reported that the proposal to bring a hockey team to the Roosevelt Ice Arena has been cancelled and no team will be coming for the upcoming season. He will keep the Advisory Board informed if future requests are made.

**Director’s Report**
Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the Ice Arena hosted hockey tournaments the last two weekends and both went off very well. He heard comments from a team from North Dakota that the ice at the arena was the best they had seen and they had great comments about the entire facility.

The Recreation Division has a record number of teams participating in the sand volleyball leagues this summer. Also, the pool at Ellsworth Air Force Base is shut down so staff is working with them to provide reduced rates for the outdoor pools for individuals with a military ID.

The City’s USTA Level 3 tennis tournament has 138 registrations to date and the USTA will have to reduce that number to 128 which is the total draw for the tournaments. There are participants registered from New Jersey to California. The tournaments will be Boys and Girls 18s and 14s, Level 3 so the competition will be very good.

Landscape Designer Chelsea Levorsen reported that Robbinsdale Park is now open to the public. The area near the BMX Track was re-seeded and they are working to clean up damage from the recent storm. Also, the Omaha Street Disc Golf course was dormant seeded last fall but it didn’t come in very well. The Contractor will be re-seeding this area in the near future.

Biegler distributed a schedule for the Black Hills Mountain Fest which will be held June 15-17 in Founders Park. He also reported that Rushmore Little League had a ceremony last weekend naming the Minor’s Field after Craig Tieszen.

The City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance that will allow e-bikes on the bike path. The ordinance requires a second reading and if approved will become effective 20 days after publication in the newspaper.

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