The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chairman Greg Oleson at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 12, 2018 with the following members present: Chairman Karen Olson, Tom Willock, Shon Hanczyc, Domico Rodriguez and Brett Lawlor. The following members were absent: Lynn Paulson. Also present were City Council Liaison Chad Lewis, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment
No public comments were made.

Minutes
Motion was made by Willock seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of May 10, 2018.

Motion was made by Lawlor seconded by Willock and carried to approve the minutes of June 14, 2018.

Agenda
The Agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports
Anderson noted that the Urban Wildlife Committee did not meet because of the July 4th holiday. He reported however that Parks and Rec staff completed the annual goose harvest and 25 birds were removed from Meadowbrook Golf Course and 65 from the Canyon Lake Park area. The meat from the harvest was donated to the local food pantry.

Anderson reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning and noted that the tree crews have been busy mowing grass and spraying for mosquitoes. Not a lot of tree work has been done the past few weeks. He added that the UFB will be applying for a Stearns Grant on behalf of Meadowbrook Golf Course for monies to replace dead or diseased trees that were removed over the last couple years. The Board is also reviewing the City’s tree ordinances to make recommendations on generalizing some terms so the laws aren’t specific to one type of pest. This will allow staff to address the issues without having to change ordinances.

City Council Liaison Chad Lewis reported that a contract for bus bench advertising has been approved which will provide funding to the City which could be used to off-set the free rides for kids. He also noted that budget hearings will begin soon.

Expedition Baseball League
Steve Wagner and Mitch Messer presented information to the Advisory Board on their progress to develop an Expedition League baseball team in Rapid City. Wagner explained that this is a college wood bat baseball league that plays from May through August each year. 2018 was the inaugural season for the league and everything is going great. Each team plays 64 games throughout the season and 32 of those games are at their home field. All players must have collegiate eligibility remaining in order to play in the Expedition League. Teams travel on busses from city to city and play 3 game series for the most part. So far
each of the teams has been well-received in their home city. In Rapid City the team will play at McKeague Field. Wagner stated that this is a great ball park that needs a little “love and attention” to accommodate the fans expected to attend the games. He added High School Baseball currently holds the lease for McKeague and they are working closely with that organization so that schedules will not overlap. The Expedition League is having drawings done for improvements to the facility that will benefit all the teams in the area. They are looking to make improvements to the playing surface as well as sinking the dugouts to make site lines better for fans. Another area that will be very important to the success of the team is finding a naming rights partner for McKeague Field. This would provide funding for the improvements that need to be done at the facility. Wagner added that other activities will also be planned at McKeague Field like concerts, festivals, etc.

Biegler explained that the City Attorney’s Office is currently looking into this proposal. Any sublease between High School Baseball and the Expedition League would need to go to the City Council for approval as well as any proposals for naming rights.

**Motion was made by Lawlor seconded by Willock and carried to direct staff to continue to work with representatives of the Expedition Baseball League and the City Attorney’s Office to move forward with this proposal.**

**Name Field at Fitzgerald Stadium**
Biegler stated that a letter was submitted from Baseball Parents, Inc. requesting that the field at Fitzgerald Stadium be named “Dave Ploof Field”. No one was present to speak on this issue. Motion was made by Olson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to continue this item to the August meeting and request that someone be present to speak on this request.

**Land Acquisition**
Anderson explained that he has been talking with representatives of property owned by the Fay Ellen Bice Trust which is located in the Braeburn Park area. He has proposed that the City purchase the property and the City Attorney’s Office is working on a purchase agreement which will require City Council approval. Anderson stated that he will keep the Advisory Board informed on this process.

**Director’s Report**
Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that the Ice Arena will be closed for two weeks beginning July 22nd for annual maintenance. The facility will re-open on August 1st. Lowe also updated the Advisory Board on operations at the golf courses and swimming pools. He added that July is NRPA Find Your Park month and Meadowbrook Golf Course will be running a special on rates all month. Green fees will be $30 for 18 holes walking, and $47 for 18 holes and a cart.

Lowe also reported that the Department recently hosted a USTA Level 3 Tennis Tournament which was very successful. There were 128 tennis players from all over the country that stayed in Rapid City for several days. He added Kristy Lintz did a tremendous job as Tournament Director organizing the tournament and handling any issues that came up.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that staff has been working long hours dealing with mowing the parks and spraying for mosquitos. Staff is fogging when they can and also doing some barrier spraying on the grass in certain areas where there will be lots of
people. Grass is growing like crazy and the crews are mowing as fast as they can. He noted that the drainage areas have officially been turned over to the drainage crews for maintenance this year so that parks staff can focus on the parkland. Anderson also updated the Advisory Board on current projects that are underway.

Biegler explained that the only lease Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club has at the present time is for Dakota Fields on Elk Vale Road. They are in the process of getting funding together to develop the adjacent 40 acres with fields, parking lots and another restroom. Any proposals for development of this land will be submitted to the Advisory Board for consideration.

The Soccer Club is also looking for field space to lease in Rapid City such as Nordermeer Field in Sioux Park. This field is not currently leased and is available to the public. Staff has reviewed the cost for lights on the field and has determined that it costs about $50 per hour. When the fees are reviewed this fall, a fee will be added to lease Nordermeer Field for $50 per hour so that the cost for lights can be recouped.

Biegler explained that the Rapid City Public Parks Foundation was established several years ago as a way to raise funds for parks projects such as Dinosaur Park. The organization has been losing focus and having issues with having a quorum of members at their meetings, so the decision has been made to dissolve the Foundation. They agreed to turn over any remaining funding they have to the Parks and Recreation Department for use as they see fit.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.