The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 14, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Rick Askvig, Greg Oleson and Shon Hanczyc. The following members were absent: Domico Rodriguez and Chuck Tinant. Also present were Council Liaison Darla Drew, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

No public comments were made.

Motion was made by Olson, seconded by Askvig and carried to approve the minutes of July 13, 2017 as presented.

The Agenda was approved as presented.

**Liaison Reports**

The Beautification Committee did not meet because a quorum was not available.

The Urban Wildlife Committee did not have a meeting in September either as they were not able to get a quorum of members present.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning. Anderson reported that one of the main topics of discussion was development of a Forestry Plan for the City. The issue of dealing with the Emerald Ash Bore will be addressed in that plan. Urban Forester Andy Bernard has developed a draft plan to handle the EAB when it makes it to our community. Once the Forestry Plan is approved by the Urban Forestry Board, it will come to the Advisory Board for consideration. Anderson also reported that staff will be planting trees this fall along the south and west sides of Rapid Creek from Canyon Lake Drive to Sheridan Lake Road. The trees will help cool the creek which will help fish habitation in these areas. Anderson noted that SDGF&P provided $10,000 in funding for the project.

Alderwoman Darla Drew reported that she and Director Biegler met with citizens who would like flowers and shrubbery planted around the Parkview Tennis complex. It was noted that there is no irrigation in place to water any shrubbery that might be planted. Drew commended Biegler for his responses to the citizens on this issue. There are no plans for additional improvements at Parkview Tennis complex at this time.

Olson commended Drew for her stance on the City budget and taking the CPI increase for the benefit of the community and citizens of Rapid City.

**Black Hills Baseball**

James Taylor representing Black Hills Baseball stated that he wants to make sure that the batting cages located near the Jamie Johnson Baseball field are included in the lease with BH Baseball when it is discussed later this year. This is the only batting facility that the kids participating in this program have access to. Biegler stated that staff will be meeting with all
the current lease holders throughout the month of October to go over the revisions that will be made to the leases for future years.

**Canyon Lake Little League**
Dale Lefebre, President of Canyon Lake Little League, stated that they want to make sure that the United Field is included in future leases with the City. They had assumed this field was included in their lease and have been maintaining the field for several years. Biegler stated that this issue can be discussed when the leases are renewed for future years.

Biegler explained that there are going to be changes in the leases for recreational facilities located throughout the City. Staff has been meeting with Carla from the City Attorney’s Office relative to requirements for public use for facilities constructed with LWCF Funding (Land & Water Conservation Funds). Public use in this sense means open and available to the public, not just for a particular league that users must belong to. Also, several areas of public lands have been converted to non-park use and the City will be required to acquire land in the same amount to be set aside for public park/recreational use. These issues will all be discussed with leaseholders before new leases are drafted for consideration.

**Summer Expedition Baseball League**
Kevin Bybee presented a power point presentation showing improvements they would like to make to McKeauge Field over the next few years. Currently, the Expedition League will operate in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska. They have hired a consultant to prepare drawings of improvements to the facilities that they will be using. One of the hurdles they will have to overcome is the need for additional parking at the facility if the seating capacity is increased. Biegler noted that city staff is working with League representatives on these issues. Motion was made by Oleson and seconded by Hanczyc to direct staff to continue to work with representatives from the Expedition League to work out lease options for McKeague Field. Upon vote being taken, the motion carried with Olson abstaining.

**Director’s Report**
Biegler reported that a grand opening will be held for the new Slackline Park constructed in Sioux Park on Thursday, September 21st at 6:00 PM. The Larimer family is doing the grand opening and everyone is invited to attend.

Biegler also noted that the Robbinsdale Park Improvement project will kick off on September 18th and the park will be closed to the public until project completion in 2018.

Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe reported that he has two projects being bid at this time; a lease for golf cars at Meadowbrook and Executive golf courses, and an irrigation pump replacement at Meadowbrook. He added that we have a record number of teams participating in the fall volleyball and flag football leagues this year. Staff is also working hard to winterize the outdoor pools for the year. New carpet has been installed at the Swim Center which really updates the look of the facility.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that staff has started the lengthy task of winterizing irrigation systems and restroom facilities throughout the park system. He added that most restrooms will close for the season on October 2nd. Restrooms in Founders Park, West Canyon Lake, Skyline Drive and Legacy Commons will remain open year-round. The
seasonal employees are leaving to go back to school so our work force is shrinking. Anderson added that staff is preparing a bid for security services for the park and cemetery facilities. Due to the budget concerns expressed, Parks Division staff will begin doing the custodial services for the approximately 20 facilities that need to be opened and cleaned each day beginning in 2018. Staff is also considering making additional park shelters available for reservation and increasing the fees charged for the reservations.

Anderson also reported that Keith Johnson has been hired on a part-time basis to handle construction projects since Alex DeSmidt’s departure. Keith is very familiar with the City projects as he worked in the Engineering Division for approximately 42 years.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on October 12, 2017.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.