From Councilman Ritchie Nordstrom:
Below is a brief synopsis of the history of Sioux San Drive located in west Rapid City.

***I believe its official legal name (at least historically) was “Sioux Sanatorium Drive.” But the Sanatorium was not there until the late 1930s and we do not have any records of a name while that land served as the Rapid City Indian Boarding School (from the 1890s-1930s) but that area was clearly part of the school campus.

***In a 1969 Department of Interior (DOI-BIA) memo, the author states that the street known as “Soo San Drive…was constructed sometime prior to 1950” and the author then references a map dated October 4, 1948.

***This was the year the ”Act of 1948” was passed by Congress after lobbying by the City, School, Chamber, and churches, granting the city, school district, National Guard, churches, and “needy Indians” access to the Rapid City Indian Boarding School lands. It is the DOI memo authors opinion that the “map was approved for the purpose of granting the rights of way to the City” within the context of distributing the Indian Boarding School lands to recipients.

***We have an undated map in our files that appears to have been prepared for the School District when they requested the land for West Middle School labeled “Plat of Government Lands Requested by Rapid City Independent School District,” which labels the road “Soo San.” This may be an undated version of the same map referenced by DOI as being prepared on October 4, 1948.

***We also have a 1957 City Plat Map in our files labeling the road “Soo San.”

***However, in the official land deeds from the United States government gifting the lands to various recipients, the road is always called “Sioux Sanatorium Drive” in the official legal description.

***In June 6, 1952 in the land deed from the United States Government transferring the plot of land for West Middle School to the City of Rapid City, with a reversion clause arguably prohibiting sale, in the official legal land description the road is called “Sioux Sanatorium Drive.” On November 3, 1952 on the quit claim deed in which the City of Rapid City transferred that same land to the Rapid City School District for $15,000, in the official legal land description the road is called “Sioux Sanatorium Drive.”

***The road is not mentioned by name in the 1950 deed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the 1956 deed to the Presbyterian Church it is mentioned, and it is called “Sioux Sanatorium Drive” in the official legal description in the deed.

***A review of the original documents would lead one to believe that “Sioux Sanatorium Drive” was the official name of the road, and “Soo San” was a short hand used by the plat map makers that became adopted by the City over time.