The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, November 10, 2016 with the following members present: Vice Chairman Karen Olson, Chuck Tinant, Shon Hanczyc, Greg Oleson, Domico Rodriguez and Rick Askvig. The following members were absent: Nick Stroot. Also present were Alderman Jason Salamun, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt, Parks Maintenance Chief Scott Anderson and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Public Comment
No public comments were made.

Minutes
Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Tinant and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of October 13, 2016 as presented.

Agenda
Motion was made Oleson Seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the agenda with the following addition:

7A. Banner Policy Amendment

Liaison Reports
Van Deusen reported that the Beautification Committee met last week and discussed on-going projects.

Van Deusen also reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met this week and the biggest topic of discussion continued to be the bat roosting boxes. The Committee members will be working with Game, Fish & Parks to construct the boxes at the Outdoor Classroom. The locations for placement of the boxes have not yet been determined. Van Deusen added that he is sure the Committee will formulate a public education program to inform the public about bats and the purpose of the roosting boxes.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning but did not have a quorum so no official meeting was recorded. City Urban Forester Andy Bernard did brief those present on the Right-of-Way Tree Removal Program. Salamun explained that this program will be discussed at the next Legal & Finance Committee meeting and there are questions about how it was implemented. Biegler explained that earlier this year the Department took a proposal to the City Council for a cost-sharing program with incentives to have dead, diseased or dying trees removed. The program was voluntary and there would be a subsidy to have the trees removed. At that time the Council did not approve the program because they did not feel it was appropriate to use tax dollars on private property. They directed staff to take care of the dead trees on city property. Biegler stated that the right-of-way is public property so the City initiated a program to have dead, diseased or dying trees removed at city expense. This program only covers trees in the right-of-way which is public property and that is what is being done at the present time. The City would be liable for any damages these trees cause if they fall and for that reason it is a good idea to have them removed. Funding for this program is available in
the Urban Forestry budget. Biegler added that the reaction from property owners has been overwhelmingly positive. The responsibility for tree maintenance in the City right-of-way falls to the homeowners, however maintenance pretty much ends when the tree needs to be removed.

Central States Fair Board
Biegler explained that a meeting between all parties to a proposed amendment to the Land Use Agreement with the Central States Fair Board had to be reschedule, therefore this item is not ready for consideration. Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Oleson and carried to continue this item to the December 8th Advisory Board meeting.

First Nations Sculpture Garden
Biegler presented the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Rapid City and First Nations Sculpture Garden, Inc. noting that the purpose of the document is to extend the time frame to August 6, 2017. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to recommend approval of the Amendment.

Founders Park North Project
Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt noted that the final report for the Founders Park North project is not yet complete, but he went through several concept plans with the Board. DeSmidt, who is from Wisconsin, also informed the Board that the Badgers beat Nebraska in football last weekend. Jean Kessloff spoke about the cultural significance of this area to Rapid City and that creating a balance between using the area and preserving historical artifacts is very important. Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Askvig and carried to continue this item to December 8th.

Banner Policy Amendment
Biegler explained that the Lakota Nations Invitational basketball tournament is held each year in December and the City would like to hang banners in the downtown area welcoming everyone to the community. According to the existing policy, no banners are allowed from November through January so that Christmas decorations can be installed. The proposed amendment would allow banners to be hung during this time frame for events sponsored by the City. Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Tinant and carried to recommend approval of the amendment.

Director’s Report
Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen reported that the roses are now put to bed for the winter and Parks staff is in the process of winterizing irrigation systems and restroom facilities throughout the park system. Staff has also started to install Christmas decorations throughout the park system and downtown areas.

Biegler reported that the Robbinsdale Park Master Plan will be presented at a public meeting on December 6th at South Middle School. The project is currently scheduled to be bid in August of 2017. For the summer of 2017, BMX and Harney Little Leagues will remain in their current locations.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2016.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.