The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Shon Hanczyc, Rick Askvig and Greg Oleson. The following members were absent: Domico Rodriguez and Chuck Tinant. Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson, Urban Forester Andy Bernard, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt and Administrative Coordinator Jeri Taton.

Public Comment
No public comments were made.

Minutes
Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of January 12, 2017 as presented.

Agenda
The agenda was approved as presented.

Liaison Reports
Biegler noted there was nothing to report relative to the Urban Wildlife Committee.

The Urban Forestry Board met, however no quorum was present. Those present did discuss tree plantings that will be done in the spring. Approximately 300 trees will be planted throughout the community.

Bernard also noted that the Greenhouse Specialist made a presentation to the Urban Forestry Board outlining changes being made in the gardens this year. Staff will be growing flowers from plugs this year rather than planting from seed hoping that this change will save money.

Arbor Day is also being discussed and staff will check with local schools to see if there is a need for a tree to be planted that could be part of this year’s celebration. Information on the 2017 Arbor Day Celebration will be distributed to the Advisory Board when it is available.

Biegler reported that the Beautification Committee did not meet.

Fair Board Land Use Agreement
Biegler explained that the Amendment to Land Use Agreement between the City of Rapid City and the Central States Fair Board has been signed by representatives for the Fair Board. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to recommend approval of the proposed Land Use Agreement. Biegler noted that the agreement will be submitted to the Public Works Committee and City Council for final approval.
**RC Flyers/Propbusters**

Approximately 20 individuals from the Academy of Model Aeronautics organization attended the meeting to revitalize discussions of possible lease locations for a flying field for remote controlled model aircraft. Jim Tiller, Vice President of District IX spoke on behalf of the group and answered questions about their membership and the need for a field in Rapid City. There are currently approximately 200 members of the organization in this area and they have strict safety codes for flying their aircraft. If members do not abide by these safety rules, they are not allowed to be part of the organization. There are currently 3 fields located around the community but nothing in the city limits. The two locations they would like to review are the Polo Fields adjacent to the Fairgrounds, and a portion of the landfill adjacent to Catron Boulevard. Tiller also discussed the increase in use of drones in the community. The AMA is knowledgeable about all the rules for flying and looks forward to providing community outreach for individuals interested in these types of activities.

Tiller explained that they are proposing to find a suitable location for a flying field based on the AMA concept. The City would realize the following benefits of providing a location for the field:

- AMA organization provides insurance which would cover the flying field.
- Safety rules are posted and required; these rules will evolve as the hobby evolves.
- Creation of a Drone Zone where individuals can fly drones safely and responsibly.

It was also noted that the municipality has provided a location for a flying field in Fargo, Beresford and Spearfish so this partnership would not be unique to Rapid City. Olson stated that we would need to discuss how exclusive the use of this property would need to be.

Motion was made by Askvig seconded by Olson and carried to direct staff to work with representatives from the AMA to explore acceptable options.

**Amendment to TAP Agreement**

Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt updated the Board on the project to provide a connection from the bike path on Cambell Street to Western Dakota Technical Institute. The original plan was to locate the connection on rail-banked property and then go north on Kennel Drive to WDTI. This path had several hurdles which staff was not able to overcome. It was not financially feasible for the City to obtain the necessary property for this route. The proposed change would route the path north on Cambell street to E. Highway 44 and then directly to WDTI. The City would construct the 10’ wide path on the east side of Cambell Street and DOT would construct the path along the north side of Highway 44. It is anticipated that the project will be done in 2021. This would provide a significant cost savings to the City for this project. Motion was made by Oleson seconded by Hanczyc and carried to authorize staff to amend SD Transportation Alternative Program Project Agreement (TAP U-09) for Bike Path Improvements, as noted on Option B.
**Director’s Report**
Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson reported that he is now working to hire a Parks Maintenance Chief and fill other positions as they become available in his division. Crews are continuing to work on thinning trees and doing concrete work around shelters and sidewalks.

Biegler reported that the Special Event Permit process will go to the Legal & Finance Committee for continued discussion on Feb. 15th and to the City Council on Feb. 20th. The ordinances amending city codes to allow these uses in the park system are being considered at the same time as the Special Event process.

Biegler added that the Department received notice from the Kiwanis Mary Hall Park organization that due to dwindling membership they will no longer be able to assist with maintenance at Mary Hall Park. This includes mowing and the shelter which will now be added to the list of those maintained by the City.

The 2016/2017 Deer Management Program is complete and 100 deer were harvested. The meat from the harvest was donated to the local food pantry. Biegler added that Black Hills Sportsmen and Sportsmen Against Hunger each donated $1,000 to offset a portion of the processing costs for this program.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for March 9, 2017.

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