The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, October 12, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Nick Stroot, Karen Olson, Greg Oleson, Chuck Tinant and Shon Hanczyc. The following members were absent: Domico Rodriguez and Rick Askvig. Also present were 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 Oleson and carried to approve the minutes of September 14, 2017 as presented.

The Agenda was approved as presented.

**Liaison Reports**

Anderson reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week and staff reported on the tree planting being done behind Baken Park Shopping Center. Parks staff has also been working in this area cleaning up the bank on the east side of the creek. This was a coordinated effort with several other agencies and volunteer organizations. The project addressed concerns regarding fish habitat and safety issues raised by the Police Department. Anderson added that Game, Fish and Parks donated $10,000 for trees to be planted along the creek. When the trees grow they will provide shade which will help cool the water in the creek which is beneficial for fish habitat. Anderson also noted that the Deer Survey will be conducted by the Parks Department the week of October 23rd. The findings will be submitted to GF&P for review and they will use the information to formulate a recommendation on the number of deer to be harvested in December and January.

The Urban Forestry Board met this morning and one of the items discussed was the Forestry Plan for the city. This document includes information on how the City will deal with an infestation of the Emerald Ash Bore which is heading this way. The Forestry Plan will be submitted to the Parks and Rec Advisory Board when it is finalized.

**Yard of the Month Awards**

Beautification Committee member Cathy Robeson presented the following awards and commended the recipients for their efforts to beautify the community:

- September: Debbie Ellerton
- Bob and Becky Durst

Robeson added that Debbie Ellerton also won the Xeriscape Award which is presented to a home owner who uses xeriscape practices in their landscape.

**Parks and Recreation Rates**

Resolution No. 2017-091 was presented for the Board’s consideration. Recreation Division Manager Doug Lowe went through the proposed rate increases for the Ice Arena, Aquatics Facilities, Recreation Facilities and Golf Courses. Most increases are 5%. Biegler noted that
the shelter reservation fee is also being increased from $50 to $75 per time block. Two additional shelters have also been made available for reservation; Shelter #2 and the Chimney Shelter both in Canyon Lake Park. Oleson asked how staff arrived at a 5% increase. Lowe noted that approximately 3% is due to inflation. The additional 2% will allow the City to be at or near the national standard for recovery of costs which is 50% for aquatics facilities and 60% for the ice arena. Ed Gallup expressed concern about the increase in the monument setting fee for the cemeteries. He indicated that the costs keep going up and they must pass these fees on to the users. Gallup stated that the cost for a burial in Rapid City is the highest in a 300 mile radius; however, we are still much lower than east river. He expressed concern about the City pricing themselves out of the market. The cost for a full burial is now approximately $10,000 and $2,000 of that is for cemetery fees. Biegler explained that each year the Cemetery Supervisor reviews the costs and where they are in relation to those around Rapid City. Although we are the highest west river for sure, cemeteries east river charge twice as much as we do. Biegler added that the city has increased rates approximately 5% each year to cover the costs necessary to operate the cemetery. Tinant asked about the expected life of the existing cemetery. Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson stated that the cemetery should last another 20 years under the present conditions but staff is always reviewing ideas on how to increase that life expectancy. Motion was made by Tinant seconded by Hanczyc and carried to recommend approval of the proposed rates for FY2018.

**Director’s Report**

Recreation Division Manager Lowe reported on the status of fall programming for the Recreation, Aquatics, Ice operations and golf courses. Lowe also presented a pass to each of the Advisory Board members for one time use at the city facilities. He added that a week long pass is available for individuals who may want to try out the recreation facilities and programming.

Parks Division Manager Anderson reported that it is that time of the year when we begin losing a large portion of our seasonal employees. Staff is currently working on winterizing sprinkler systems and restroom facilities throughout the park system. The garden crew has begun removing flowers from various locations and will be covering the rose bushes soon. Staff has also begun inspecting Christmas lights which will be installed beginning in November. Anderson also noted that the Robbinsdale Park Imp. Project is underway and crews have moved a tremendous amount of dirt in that area.

Biegler explained that representatives from a professional BMX Track design company out of Columbus, OH, have visited the site in Robbinsdale Park and will be working with staff on the track design and layout. They have met with the users and come to a consensus of what is feasible for the location. The company will use the information gathered from the users to create a design for the BMX track. The designer will visit the area again in November to continue working on this project.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on November 9, 2017.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.