

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday February 10, 2011
6:30 pm
Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Citizen Input**
3. **Approve Agenda**
4. **Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes Dated January 13, 2011
5. **Commission Business**
 1. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan
 2. Discuss 2011 Parks Capital Improvement Projects
6. **Commission/Staff Input**
 - Canoe/Kayaks for Sunfish Lake and Public Bikes for The COR
 - Trail Grant Applications for Co. Rd. #83, T.H. #47 and the Mississippi River Trail
 - Boardwalk from Variolite Street to Ramsey Boulevard
 - Update on Winter Recreation
 - Programming for The Draw
7. **Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

Item #: 4. 1.

Date: 02/10/2011

By: MaryJo Warner
Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes Dated January 13, 2011

Background:

N/A

Funding Source:

N/A

Council Action:

Approve Minutes

Attachments

01.13.11

Form Review

Inbox

Kurt Ulrich

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 02/04/2011

Reviewed By

Amy Dietl

Date

02/04/2011 03:33 PM

Started On: 02/04/2011 03:25 PM

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 13, 2011, at Ramsey Municipal Center, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Melody Shryock
 Commissioner Bridgett Barr
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten
 Commissioner Angela Olsen

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Tom LaMere

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Shryock called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Barr to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Shryock, Bennett, Barr, Fyten, and Olsen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner LaMere.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Fyten, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2010.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Shryock, Commissioners Bennett, Barr, Fyten and Olsen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner LaMere.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #1: Discuss 2011 Park and Recreation Commission Work Plan

Park Supervisor Mark Riverblood reviewed a generalized work plan and welcomes Commissioners to add projects that they may want to take the lead on. The generalize plan is as follows and may change from month to month but is presented as being both a planning and organizing tool for both staff and Commission's work load.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood started with February being to define short and long term budget plan for North Park, he stated this is something the Commission has been discussing for about six months now. Another item for February is to outline a plan for the 2011 CIP projects. He also added that staff and the Commission should keep updating this work plan at every meeting then everybody can stay on track and topics can be added if needed. Continuing on with February, discuss grant application for trail projects and affirm canoe and kayak system for Sunfish Lake Park with the funding source being SHIPs.

Park Supervisor Riverblood stated March is the Environmental Expo planning and organizing for Commission participation. Another item is to implement a phasing and implementation plan for Council consideration for North Park. Also included in the 2011 CIP is security cameras for Alpine Skate Park and Sunfish Lake Park, one of the stimulus projects is high speed fiber throughout the City and connecting to that fiber

Park Supervisor Riverblood continued with April items being review collaborative between Ramsey and County on Go-Anoka County. This could be brought to the Commission sooner than April and he will be sending a link to the Commissioners on it. Another item is to plan May - September outdoor meeting schedule and also review park and trail plan map.

Continuing into May is the Anoka Ramsey Community College use of Sunfish Lake Park for a field biology case study course. A bike friendly community's presentation. Develop agenda and focus for joint meeting with City Council in June.

Case #2 Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission

Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood reviewed that every year a Chair and Vice Chair is nominated and the terms of boards and commission have been changed to April 1st through the following year of March 31st.

A paper vote was done and the results were five votes for Chairperson Shryock for Chairperson. A tied vote resulted for Commissioners Fyten and Olsen for Vice Chair and another vote was taken and the majority vote went to Commissioner Olsen for Vice Chair.

COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Follow up of Park Dedication and Trail fees and the consensus is not to increase those fees.

Update on participation at both warming houses and rinks. Ice skating available at the COR.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks Supervisor

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary

Date: 02/10/2011

By: Chris Anderson
Community Development

Information

Title:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan

Background:

One of the items on the Environmental Policy Board's (EPB) 2010 City Council approved work plan was to develop an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan. The purpose of the plan was to prepare the City for the inevitable arrival of this invasive pest. Staff has prepared a draft management plan that has been reviewed and approved by the EPB. However, since a portion of the plan focuses on park trees, Staff wanted the Park and Recreation Commission to have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the plan prior to presenting it to City Council for consideration. At the meeting, Staff will review a brief presentation on EAB and review the main components of the draft plan.

Recommendation:

Staff would recommend that the Commission review the draft plan, provide feedback and forward the plan on for City Council consideration.

Funding Source:

NA

Council Action:

Based on discussion.

Attachments

Draft EAB Management Plan

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Mark Riverblood	Mark Riverblood	02/04/2011 11:27 AM
Mary Jo Warner	MaryJo Warner	02/04/2011 12:42 PM
Brian Olson	Brian Olson	02/04/2011 01:15 PM
Kurt Ulrich	Kurt Ulrich	02/04/2011 02:59 PM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson		Started On: 02/04/2011 11:00 AM
Final Approval Date: 02/04/2011		

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan City of Ramsey, MN

Purpose:

By implementing the provisions of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, the City is attempting to minimize the disruption to its urban forest due to the inevitable infestation of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Based on the current evidence from states such as Michigan and Ohio, a proactive approach should help spread the costs associated with an EAB outbreak over a manageable time period and limit the detrimental effect on property value, quality of life and the environment.

Applicability:

This management plan is applicable to all public properties within the City, including rights-of-way, boulevards, parks and open spaces, as well as private properties.

Administration:

The Environmental Coordinator shall be responsible for implementing this program and seeing that the provisions are carried out.

Introduction:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest that has now been confirmed in fourteen (14) states, including Minnesota, and two (2) Canadian provinces. EAB attacks all species of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) found in Minnesota, which include green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). This is of great concern because Minnesota is home to more than 900 million ash trees statewide and unlike some similar borers in the *Agrilus* genus (such as two lined chestnut borer and bronze birch borer), EAB is not solely an opportunistic pest, it is known to attack both healthy and stressed ash trees alike.

As of the printing date of this management plan, EAB has been confirmed in three (3) Minnesota counties: Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston. While it is impossible to accurately determine when this pest will arrive in Ramsey, it is no longer a question of 'if' but 'when' it will be found here. It is possible that this pest has moved beyond the known infestation sites and has yet to be identified.

It is not the adult beetles that are detrimental to ash trees but rather the larvae of EAB (immature stage), which feed on the inner bark of trees, disrupting a tree's ability to transport water and nutrients up to the canopy. As the number of larvae in a tree increases, less and less water and nutrients reach the canopy, resulting in dieback in the upper portions of a tree. By the time visible symptoms are obvious, the population of EAB has grown and likely spread to other trees in the area.

Signs/symptoms of EAB that can help detect an infestation include:

- Increased woodpecker activity/damage
- Bark splitting (vertical slits)
- D-shaped exit holes created by adult insects as they emerge from the tree
- Epicormic branching/shoots near base of tree
- Canopy dieback
- Serpentine (s-shaped) larval galleries that are packed with frass

Making early detection even more difficult is that initial attacks on an ash tree tend to be up in the canopy. For this reason, increased woodpecker activity is becoming a more reliable early indicator of a possible infestation.

The City does not have an inventory of existing boulevard and/or park trees and therefore, it is unclear what the true impacts of EAB will be. Nonetheless, the City will implement the following steps to try and slow the spread of EAB and allocate the costs of managing the tree loss and replacement over multiple budget cycles.

Ash Management Plan:

- **Complete an inventory of all boulevard trees and trees in maintained park areas.** At a minimum, an inventory of all ash trees in boulevard areas and maintained park areas should be completed. However, since the City has no inventory data at all, a complete inventory of trees will be beneficial for a number of reasons including:
 - Determining the percentage of boulevard trees that consist of ash species, which will help clarify the true impact EAB will have on Ramsey's urban forest.
 - Better budget estimation for maintenance (trimming, removing, planting)
 - Developing a master street tree plan to ensure a species rich landscape (diversity is the best defense to insect/disease outbreaks)
 - Replanting efforts
- **Revise Ordinance.** The City will revise its tree preservation ordinance to include EAB as a threat to the urban forest. The ordinance amendment will specify requirements for proper management of EAB infested trees, such as removal, disposal and appropriate time(s) to complete such steps.
- **Education.** The City will continue to educate the citizenry and elected officials concerning EAB. Tools that can and will be utilized include newsletter articles, segments on QCTV, the website and presentations to various groups/organizations.
- **Boulevard Trees:**
 1. The City will institute a new policy that prohibits the inclusion of planting any ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*) on public property and boulevards.
 2. The City will discourage the inclusion of planting any ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*) as a part of any proposed development, whether commercial, residential or industrial.

3. Existing ash trees in poor condition or in fair condition with major defects will be targeted for removal.
4. Ash trees that are removed will be replaced with another species. Replanting will be done with a keen focus on species diversity and matching the right tree with the right location.
5. Plantings will be conducted in the spring and/or fall based on staff availability and budget.
6. Pesticide control will not be considered an option for boulevard trees at this time. While in the short term this may be less costly than removal and replanting, long-term it becomes much more expensive due to the need to re-treat annually or biannually with the currently available products.

- **Park Trees:**

1. The number of ash trees in City Parks, including maintained and wooded areas, is unknown but could be upwards of a thousand or more. Ash trees in poor condition or fair condition with major defects in maintained portions of parks will be identified and targeted for removal.
2. The City will continue to work with the MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish detection trees and traps as needed in city parks.
3. Ash trees in wooded areas will not be addressed unless in close proximity to a trail or structure where harm and/or damage could result from a failure. However, if an ash tree in a wooded area is found to be infested and it is in the early stages of infestation, said tree(s) may be removed to slow the spread to other areas.
4. Ash trees removed from maintained areas of parks will be replaced, again with a focus on species diversity, native species, and matching the right tree with the right location.
5. Should ash trees be removed from wooded areas, natural regeneration will be relied upon for reforestation.

- **Trees on Private Property:**

1. Through educational efforts, property owners will be encouraged to diligently monitor their ash trees for any signs of EAB. They can either contact the City's Environmental Coordinator or the MDA Arrest the Pest hotline for more information or for a site inspection.
2. For property owners that are contemplating treatment options for individual ash trees, the City encourages them to hold off until EAB has been confirmed within fifteen (15) miles of Ramsey, as recommended by the MDA.
3. The City will also continue to encourage property owners to replace lost trees with species appropriate for the site or even in advance of potential infestation and ash removal. As with public lands, the City encourages property owners to diversify the species on their property to buffer against future insect/disease outbreaks. A valuable reference that is available to homeowners for planting

suggestions is the Ramsey Tree Book, which is available through the City's website.

Summary:

It is clear that EAB poses a serious threat to Ramsey's community forest. The City will implement this EAB Management Plan to the extent feasible as the budget permits. The steps outlined above are based on current knowledge of EAB. This management plan is subject to revision(s) as new information about EAB becomes available and/or as new treatment options are identified. Furthermore, this plan is also subject to revision should state and/or federal policies necessitate plan updates. Revisions to the EAB Management Plan would be subject to City Council approval.

DRAFT

Projected Budget/Cost to City

1. Tree removal and disposal cost estimate of \$250 per tree*:
 - a. bobcat & operator(1.5 hrs) \$150.00
 - b. 1 ton truck with maintenance worker(1hr) \$100.00

2. Stump removal cost estimate of \$200 per tree*:
 - a. bobcat & operator(1.5 hrs) \$150.00
 - b. 1 ton truck with maintenance worker(.5 hrs) \$50.00

3. \$400 per replacement tree (materials and labor)

* This estimate includes time for loading and unloading equipment, travel time, soil and seed for restoration of site, and equipment maintenance.

Date: 02/10/2011

By: Mark Riverblood
Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Discuss 2011 Parks Capital Improvement Projects

Background:

The purpose of this case is to outline a general plan for implementing the 2011 Parks' Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The following are those projects (no order), recommended by the Commission and adopted for discussion by City Council as part of the overall 2011-15 CIP for Ramsey.

- Drinking Fountain and Mister for Riverdale Park
- Shelter and Restroom for Riverdale Park
- Community Building and Playground for Elmcrest Park
- Redevelopment of Central Parks Access and Parking
- Landscape Improvements for Parks
- Parking Lot for Rhinestone Commons
- Park Security Enhancements

Notification:

Observations:

As the Commission is aware, each capital improvement is required to be brought to Council for authorization; accordingly the projects above are identified below with when they may be expected to be discussed by the Commission and Council - together with relevant details.

Drinking Fountain and Mister for Riverdale Park Each of the next several years includes these two popular amenities for those remaining parks that have municipal water available. For Riverdale Park this fountain (with pet attachment) and mister is anticipated to be timed to coincide with **Shelter and Restroom for Riverdale Park**. The shelter is also a local match for the Transportation Enhancement grant for the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) from Anoka's King's Island to Mississippi West Park. Both capital improvements are projected to be funded by the Park Trust Fund, and will be discussed as soon as March 2011 as part of the discussion to 'advance construct' the MRT.

Community Building and Playground for Elmcrest Park This project is two distinct capital improvements, in the same location at the same park. It is expected that if approved, they will be developed at the same time. Both are proposed to be funded by the Park Trust Fund. Of the estimated \$500,000 project cost, half, or \$250,000 (for the building) is identified as being contributed from a funding source external to the City. This may be a combination of sources, including a youth athletic association, volunteer labor, or contributions from a philanthropic organization. These external funding sources have been viewed as fundamental to the project moving forward. Therefore, once these contributions have been identified, these two projects should be immediately discussed at the Commission and Council level, as the public processes for a building of this magnitude can take 6-months or more to construct.

Redevelopment of Central Park's Access and Parking The essence of this project is improving the flow and direction of internal park traffic to improve safety and also adding parking by acquiring additional land east of the existing park. The process and dialog to receive the land is in process. The estimated \$135,000+ would come from the Park Trust Fund.

Landscape Improvements for Parks Each year, \$5,000 are included within the CIP for landscape projects with volunteers. This \$10,000 represents adding landscape and trees within 'North Park' in The COR. Presently City Council is looking at the 7- acre, City-owned parcel to identify what ratio of the property may be sold, and what is needed for park uses. This represents the 2010 and 2011 CIP allocations, for a early spring project. A plan can be expected to be before the Commission in March.

Parking Lot for Rhinestone Commons As the Commission may recall, this was bid as part of the construction of The Draw, but was 'pulled' due to bidding irregularities. Staff will receive City Council approval and let bids on this estimated \$150,000 improvement for March. The funding is 'fees collected from developers', (Park Trust Fund).

Park Security Enhancements This capital improvement represents 360 degree digital camera surveillance for both Sunfish Lake Park, and the skate park area at Alpine Park. the \$15,000 Park Trust Fund project is expected to be discussed in early spring and may be somewhat conditional with the installation of fiber optic cable in the ROW of the adjoining roads.

Funding Source:

The funding sources for the 2011 Parks' Capital Improvements are listed with the individual projects above, and are predominately the Park Trust Fund, (fees collected from developers).

Council Action:

Commission Action: Motion to proceed with the 2011 Parks' Capital Improvements as presented.

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Mary Jo Warner	MaryJo Warner	02/04/2011 12:42 PM
Brian Olson	Brian Olson	02/04/2011 01:25 PM
Kurt Ulrich	Kurt Ulrich	02/04/2011 02:59 PM
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood		Started On: 02/03/2011 10:51 AM
Final Approval Date: 02/04/2011		