

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on May 12, 2011 at Ramsey Municipal Center, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Melody Shryock
 Vice Chair Angela Olsen
 Commissioner Bridgett Barr
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Richard Chubb
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten
 Commissioner David Minke

Also Present: Park Supervisor Mark Riverblood

Commission Members Absent: none

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 Fyten, seconded by Commissioner Barr to approve the agenda.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 14, 2011.

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

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #5.1 Review Park and Trail Plan Map

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed in the staff report that the first item for consideration is to approve the park and trail plan map or park and trail map. Through public feedback we have heard the combination of existing layers along with proposed layers compounds some evil when they look at our existing park and trail plan map looking for designation or trail ways. The idea is to update the plan to reflect things that are now in place and then also separate the map to reflect the plan that is for proposed trails and park spaces.

In addition, he stated we are issuing a Comprehensive Plan Amendment with the Metropolitan Council to fix a couple things with respect to some planning and zoning. In doing so, we can provide our existing park and trail map. Also in reviewing our current documents, we have some regional trails connections to Anoka County. Of the three regional trails one of which comes west along Bunker Lake Boulevard and terminates at Ramsey Boulevard and Highway 10. The idea would be the westerly would bring trail users down to Mississippi West Park. He is recommending this continue along Bunker Lake Boulevard and not go south on Ramsey Boulevard on the east side but rather go along Bunker Lake Boulevard and come through the center of The COR which connects to the park amenities and then brings them to the transit hub, Northstar Commuter and municipal area and then take them over the pedestrian bridge into Mississippi West park. This part of the regional trail which is the pedestrian overpass compound of it would be eligible for Metropolitan Council funding and with the Federal funding we might have a whole package of funding rather than just City funding.

Chairperson Shryock stated this is very wise, not only does this bring in business to the COR but bringing in multiple funding sources for the pedestrian bridge is very smart and likes the recommended change.

Commissioner Chubb asked which way does the alignment go now.

Park Supervisor Riverblood responded and said we would be shifting it west one half mile.

Commissioner Bennett stated he conceives this as making more sense.

Commissioner Minke asked was a pedestrian bridge going to be originally.

Commissioner Fyten and Olsen both commented that they like this realigned plan.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to recommend and approve the central Anoka County trail alignment as proposed in the diagram received.

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

Park Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the primary changes to the existing park and trail map. One is eliminating the dotted lines. Turned off parks that were previously shown as green and dedicated parks.

Chairperson Shryock thinks this a good step and marking that open space.

Commissioner Bennett commented a much more simple legend is a lot cleaner, and really likes the addition of the street naming.

Park Supervisor Riverblood stated he would like to see the Go Anoka County link on the Park Map.

Commissioner Olsen and Barr like adding the Go Anoka County link to the park map and have been using this site for personal use already.

Motion by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to approve the changes to the park and trail map to reflect the current trails and have a separate map for proposed and future.

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

Case #5.2 Discuss Eliminating the Name “Rhinestone Commons” with both adjoining Park Spaces to be entitled The Draw

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed in the staff report that the purpose of this case is to recommend renaming the spaces adjoining the future Rhinestone Commons parking lot to the Draw to eliminate confusion.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to recommend renaming Rhinestone Commons to The Draw.

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

6.1 Commission/Staff Input

Review Environmental Expo

Commissioner Shryock stated everything went well and felt next year a stack of park maps should be available for handouts. Commissioner Bennett suggested displaying a visual park map as a focal point again next year because it creates interaction with the citizens.

Canoes and Kayaks for Sunfish Lake

The self serve system is in place. Staff is waiting on quotes for the canoes and kayaks. The system should be in place in a few weeks.

Chairperson Shryock suggested getting the Ramsey Bicycle Club involved with servicing the bicycles that is part of the self serve bicycles program.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood discussed the possibility of the Rhinestone Common Parking lot construction of being complete for the Big Walter Smith Concert.

Park Supervisor Riverblood recapped the Cub Scout #362 Tree planting at Elmcrest Park

He also stated there is nothing new to report at North Commons except the Community Garden will not be available this spring. Chairperson Shryock commented that she did hear comments at the Expo that a lot of people are interested in having more community gardens in the City.

This year marks the 27th year of the Anoka High School football program volunteering giving back to the park system. The Cub Scouts and others have also have volunteered their time too.

Commissioner Shryock stated a resident had talked to her at the Expo that would like to get involved in volunteering. Park Supervisor Riverblood responded that we do have the Adopt a Spot program in place now.

Commissioner Barr asked about the fence on Alpine and Armstrong and commented that it looks terrible and can anything be done about this. She also asked about the status of the trail project going along Alpine from Armstrong to the Golf Course. She also asked about the schedule for maintenance on the tennis courts at Central Park.

Commissioner Shryock commented that the sign at Traprock Park either needs to be improved or taken down.

Commissioner Chubb stated a bicycle park tour is scheduled on the Sunday during the Happy Days event. Chairperson Shryock would like to have the Park Commission get involved with that.

COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fyten, seconded by Commissioner Bennett to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks Supervisor

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary