

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on June 9, 2011, at Central Park, 7925 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent:      Commissioner Bennett

Council Members Present:          Mayor Bob Ramsey  
   Councilmember Randy Backous  
   Councilmember Colin McGlone  
   Councilmember Jeffrey Wise

Also Present:                              City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich  
   Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CITIZEN INPUT**

John and Amy Borg, 14685 Sodium Street were present to state that they appreciate the parks and trail systems along with geocaching and that they know of a lot of people participating in that.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Vice Chair Olson, seconded by Commissioner Chubb to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda for the meeting dated June 9, 2011 as presented, and to Move Case No. 5.2 to Case No 5.1

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

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

1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 12, 2011.

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

## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **Case #5.2: Discuss Trott Brook Greenway**

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the staff report and noted that for many years, as part of park and trail planning, the Trott Brook Greenway was conceived as an ecologically rich wetland and wooded corridor with trails for exploration and recreational opportunities, as well as to connect neighborhoods and the community. This greenway would be the significant west to east segment of a larger circuitous loop in the center of the City, with Trott Brook representing the upper part of the loop. The east portion of the circle would be the TH #47 trail, extending south to the Bunker Lake Boulevard trail, or the Mississippi River Trail once completed. The Lake Itasca Trail then would pick up at the west end of the above-mentioned trail(s) and loop back around to the north, or point of beginning. The project has been coming together foremost as part of subdivision platting in the 1990s and the subsequent decade.

The purpose of this case is twofold: to give everyone a little history on the Trott Brook Greenway. In the future we could be looking at additional grant opportunities and the one big one is the Legacy money. The other element of this is we like to encourage working on Trott Brook Greenway

City Council is looking at any and all City land for proper use and utilization which could include disbursement that is sale of them and also park space. We have a property owner that would like to convey some land to the City and staff would like authorization to negotiate with that landowner.

Mayor Ramsey stated the consensus of the Council is to look at the unutilized parks and the stuff that is never going to be park. That is what they are looking at to see if there is any value to sell. Another goal is to connect the two regional county parks.

Chairperson Shryock stated on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission they are excited to have land available on the north side of the creek and they have had proposed trails up there for some time now.

Councilmember Wise stated that he would not want a trail in his backyard.

Consensus of the Commission is to move forward and to negotiate with the property owners.

## **Case #5.1: Discuss 2011 Parks' Capital Improvements**

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the staff report and explained the purpose of this case is for the Commission and City Council to review the 2011 Parks' Capital Improvements (CIP) and develop consensus on which projects should move forward, and under what circumstances.

Park Supervisor Riverblood summarized how the addition of the drinking fountain and shelter at Riverdale Park will tie in with the trail improvements on the west side of Highway 10 and the new overpass.

Community building and playground equipment for Elmcrest Park, look at surplus properties that could be a match for the Elmcrest Park to get this one done.

Chairperson Shryock commented that there was previous discussion of separating the building and the park as two separate projects

Councilmember Backous expressed concern with the timeframe and if we need to wait to sell land.

Councilmember McGlone stated that the City owns some land that would not be encumbered.

Vice Chairperson Olsen would like to see what we can do now.

Commissioner Barr would like to see this happen now.

Councilmember McGlone would suggest that we appropriate donors.

Councilmember Backous is alright with asking donors.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated to look at the spectrum of values and costs.

Motion by Vice Chair Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Barr to create a detailed construction and funding plan and bring back to have Council take formal action on that.

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

Commissioner Barr offered to contact the Ramsey Athletic Association about funding the project.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood discussed the redevelopment of Central Park and how significant the parking is there. Through discussions the last few years with Saint Katharine Drexel we now have a several page letter with their concerns, all favorable. He stated the Archdiocese has the control to give to the City. The City needs to commit to the north side within five years.

Chairperson Shryock would like to see the one way start south at the ice rinks.

Park Supervisor Riverblood stated we need to cost this out and try to get this project scheduled for fall construction.

There was discussion that the Council will need to have discussion with the neighborhoods impacted before a roadway can be constructed.

Park Supervisor Riverblood stated landscape improvements for parks in 2011 is \$10,000.

Councilmember McGlone asked about future maintenance and landscaping.

Park Supervisor Riverblood discussed the park security enhancements with security cameras at Elmcrest Park.

**Case #5.3: Discuss 2011-12 Strategic Goal #1; Action Item: “Construct Boat Landing at Rivers’ Bend Park”**

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the staff report, noting that each year the City Council schedules one or more work sessions to develop priorities for the upcoming two years, and identify specific projects to meet those priorities and vision. One of these specific action items under Strategic Goal #1: Development/Marketing is “Construct boat landing at Rivers’ Bend Park.

The discussion was to look at a boat landing further upstream from Rivers Bend Park and to bring this forward to a future City Council meeting in October.

Motion by Chairperson Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Barr to look at options to construct a boat landing further north from River’s Bend Park.

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

**Case #5.4: Highlight Park Department Collaborations with Youth First Community of Promise**

In May of this year, Youth First's Director, Heidi Geiss contacted the City requesting some assistance in thinking about a volleyball court for the kids. Just prior to this, Park and Recreation Commissioner Bennett had also made an inquiry looking for a day-time volunteer opportunity for his work unit at Target Corporation.

The two needs were matched up and the project came together successfully with Youth First securing the donated poles and fabric from Lowell's, with Bennett receiving the donated concrete for the volleyball poles. Later in the day, Target employees played the Youth First kids in a match-up -

**COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

Parks Supervisor Riverblood gave an update on the Mississippi River Trail grant opportunity and Anoka County can provide a 20% match to this.

The 2011 programming schedule for The Draw is available on Facebook, the City Website, and Flyers.

The Commission discussed looking at sponsoring the bike ride event at Happy Days.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Fyten, seconded by Vice Chair Olsen to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mark Riverblood  
Parks Supervisor