

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

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

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

Commission Members Absent: Vice Chair Angela Olsen

Also Present: 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

Rico Perez, 15371 Waco Court NW was present to inquire about the formation of a volleyball league in Ramsey. He stated he and his wife have to travel outside Ramsey to get on a winter league. He felt it would behoove the City to start the formation of a league and to look at venues where they can play volleyball during the winter months. He also would like to inquire about possibly building summer volleyball sites. Mr. Perez is present to get the Commissions input and he is willing to volunteer to organize this to get it off the ground for the first couple years.

Chairperson Shryock asked is he speaking primarily of outdoor courts or indoor courts. Mr. Perez stated for outdoor courts it wouldn't have to be a sand court it could be a grass court but is also inquiring about venues for indoor courts.

Chairperson Shryock turned the conversation over to the Parks Supervisor, Mark Riverblood.

Mr. Riverblood affirmed it doesn't take up much space for an outdoor court or courts. He felt the first step would be to issue a query in interest and if Mr. Perez would like to take on organizing it. Mr. Riverblood felt this could be something the parks department could accommodate if the residents are interested.

Commissioner Bennett asked about the availability of indoor facilities.

Parks Supervisor stated the basketball program has a lot of demand so this may create some scheduling problems.

Chairperson Shryock mentioned local church's might have space available for indoor use also.

The consensus of the Commission is to publish an article in the Ramsey Resident to get an idea of how much interest there would be if this new activity became available.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda for the meeting dated October 13, 2011 as presented.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

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

1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 11, 2011.

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

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #5.1: 2012 – 2016 Parks Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the staff report and asked the Commission to focus on the 2012 Capital Improvements and reviewed those as follows.

The first item listed on the improvements in no particular order is for drinking fountains and misting stations. The second item is shelter and restroom facilities.

The next project is the Community Building and Playground for Elmcrest Park.

Chairperson Shryock wants to make sure that they don't lose sight of the playground and if the building is holding it up they don't want that to happen.

Commissioner Barr feels the building is more important than the playground.

Commissioner Bennett agrees with Commissioner Barr.

Chairperson Shryock wants to clarify that one isn't more important than the other.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the advantages and the value to have the two projects together.

Mr. Kochi Prosper, 15540 Iodine Street was present to give more feedback and information on the Northern Lights Soccer Club Program. Mr. Prosper feels it is important to attach the playground and the building together as one project. Over the last five years it has been their job to bring awareness to Ramsey and expressed why he feels this project is so important to the program.

Mr. Prosper wanted to review some numbers in the tournaments with the Commission. During the District tournament for the north there were about 105 teams participating. That was about 5,000 people from Thursday through Sunday giving a gross profit of about \$8,000. He reviewed some of the expenses that were incurred because there are no facilities. Some items were a tent that needed to be rented, the portable bathrooms, extra garbage's and all those other things which came to about \$2,800.

Mr. Prosper wanted to mention that during these tournaments people stay, it is a long way that they come from, and the reason why the playground and the building would work great together is the playground will give the parents a place to spend with the kids in between games and maybe the Ramsey businesses would benefit from this venue too.

He continued that the Jamboree is a one day tournament that brought in about 6,500 people this year and profit wise was \$11,000. About \$6,600 could be saved by having the building facility there. More revenue could be made. The \$6,600 is earmarked towards maintenance of the building and to maintain the building it is estimated at about \$10,000 and with this savings that gets them halfway to establishing that.

Mr. Prosper also wanted to mention that they are considering redirecting money toward their adversity fund. The more people they can get into the program the more volunteers they would have and it helps get more support of the building.

Mr. Prosper discussed the current concerns he has with putting the project off any further. Just recently the Maple Grove Community has put up their dome. This winter they will be shifting their training to the St. Michael dome facility. Recently he was contacted by Andover that is looking for a partner in their dome project. It concerns him that Ramsey is getting a little behind and he doesn't want people to leave the Ramsey community to find other places to play, other places to train, other places to play volleyball.

Mr. Prosper feels the building cost materials are still at a good price right now and that is another reason not to delay.

Commissioner Minke asked how does the Commission go about putting together a funding plan that the Commission can advocate for.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood feels it is more effective for Commission members and Athletic Association members to go out and advocate for this project.

Commissioner Bennett feels it is really important to get tighter with the numbers.

Chairperson Shryock asked where do we go with this.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood responded the next step would be to get this on the next available City Council Work Session agenda and in the meantime put all these things discussed in writing.

At the conclusion of the Elmcrest Park building discussion Park Supervisor Riverblood continued with the staff report stating the other large Capital Improvement Project proposed for 2012 is the parkway for Central Park.

Chairperson Shryock asked what is the status of acquiring the property at this time.

Parks Supervisor is still working on proceeding on with an agreement to purchase the two acres of property.

The next item Mr. Riverblood discussed was the landscape improvements for parks and another item similarly improvements to North Commons and the residents there are eager to see some green space there.

Commissioner Barr asked if the property owners were going to maintain the park.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood responded that in a work session it was discussed why ask one neighborhood to do the maintenance on the park when others are having it done for free. This will need to have more discussion.

The next item discussed was park security enhancements and the two parks that would benefit strongly is the skate park at Alpine Park and Sunfish Lake park to survey the parking lot and canoe area.

The next number of improvements is to The Draw that includes lighting improvements, a waterfall, entrance monument, water quality fountains, landscape materials, grates and trail connection from McKinley to Anoka.

Commissioner Minke wanted to make an editorial remark, when you look at the six projects in The Draw for \$80,000 the argument to not split up the building and the playground equipment at Elmcrest Park does not stay consistent with the same philosophy.

Chairperson Shryock wanted to add to the public that when you're looking at the Capital Improvement Project list out to 2016 people shouldn't get nervous seeing all these huge projects out there in the future, she explained when we do the Capital Improvements it is just a holding for future projects so we keep them in the scope and as opportunities arise in areas we know we will be looking at those in the future at some point.

Chairperson Shryock asked where are we at with the obligation and timing of the drinking fountain and the shelter facility at Riverdale Park.

Park Supervisor Riverblood stated we have until 2012-2013 if he recalls correctly to get the project done, however, the City of Anoka and the City of Ramsey would like to advance construct the Mississippi River trail project.

Motion by Commissioner Minke, seconded by Commissioner Bennett to move the projects as listed subject to any consensus the Commission might arrive to which being the most important.

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

COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Park Supervisor Riverblood commented on the success of the concert series and patron picnic at The Draw and he discussed doing a year end review.

Commissioner Barr commended the new trail extension on Alpine Drive and Northfork neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Minke, seconded by Commissioner Barr to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks Supervisor

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary