

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday November 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 Park and Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes dated October 13, 2011
- 5. Commission Business**
 1. Acknowledge Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association's Proposal to Fund a Storage and Batting Cage Building at Central Park
 2. Recommend City Council Resolution Supporting the Mississippi River Trail
 3. Review 2011 Park and Trail Projects and Activity
- 6. Commission/Staff Input**
 1. Discuss Need for December Regular Commission Meeting
- 7. Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 11/10/2011

By: MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Approve Park and Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes dated October 13, 2011

Background:

n/a

Notification:

Observations:

Funding Source:

n/a

Staff Recommendation:

Commission Action:

Motion to approve Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated October 13, 2011

Attachments

Minutes 10.13.11

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Mark Riverblood	Mark Riverblood	11/04/2011 12:42 PM
Brian Olson	Brian Olson	11/04/2011 01:08 PM
Form Started By: MaryJo Warner		Started On: 11/01/2011 11:00 AM
	Final Approval Date: 11/04/2011	

**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

Park and Recreation Commission

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 11/10/2011

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Acknowledge Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association’s Proposal to Fund a Storage and Batting Cage Building at Central Park

Background:

The Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association (ARAA) desires approval to fund and construct a 20’ x 32’ foot building in between ballfields #4 and #2 at Central Park next to the batting cage that is being completed there now. Community Development and Park staff are reviewing ARAA’s building permit application and other aspects of their proposal to ensure the proposed building is consistent with what is permitted for parks as well as residential and commercial land use (setbacks etc.). The application shows that the construction would be the same burnished block construction, with ‘plum’ accent band as the other park buildings there.

Notification:

Observations:

In addition to reviewing the submitted plans for conformity to building code (snow loads, egress/ingress etc.); it is understood that the commercial storage unit that is placed in the parking lot would be removed when the building would be placed into use. This and other details (such as ensuring that ARAA shall be paying the electricity and maintenance expenses) will be sorted out in the next weeks and put into writing so that all parties are in full agreement with expectations and responsibilities. ARAA has indicated that construction may commence yet this fall.

Attached is a plan view of the proposed building, as well as an elevation; and a aerial site view.

Funding Source:

No city monetary contributions are known to be needed at this time.

Staff Recommendation:

Commission Action:

Motion to approve ARAA's proposed storage building at Central Park.

Attachments

[site plan](#)

[plan view](#)

[elevation view](#)

Form Review

Inbox
Brian Olson

Reviewed By
Brian Olson

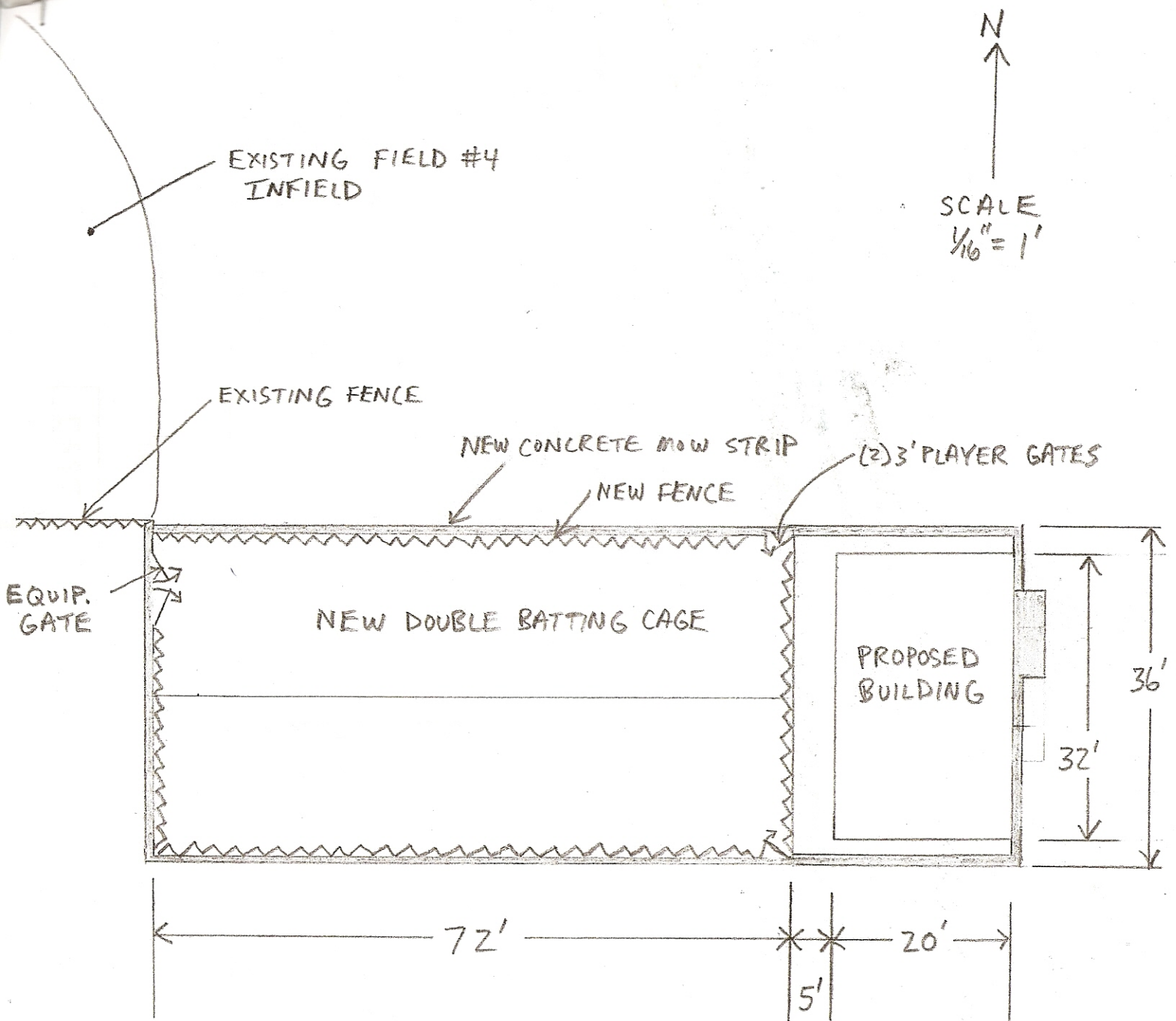
Date
11/04/2011 10:42 AM
Started On: 11/04/2011 09:39 AM

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 11/04/2011

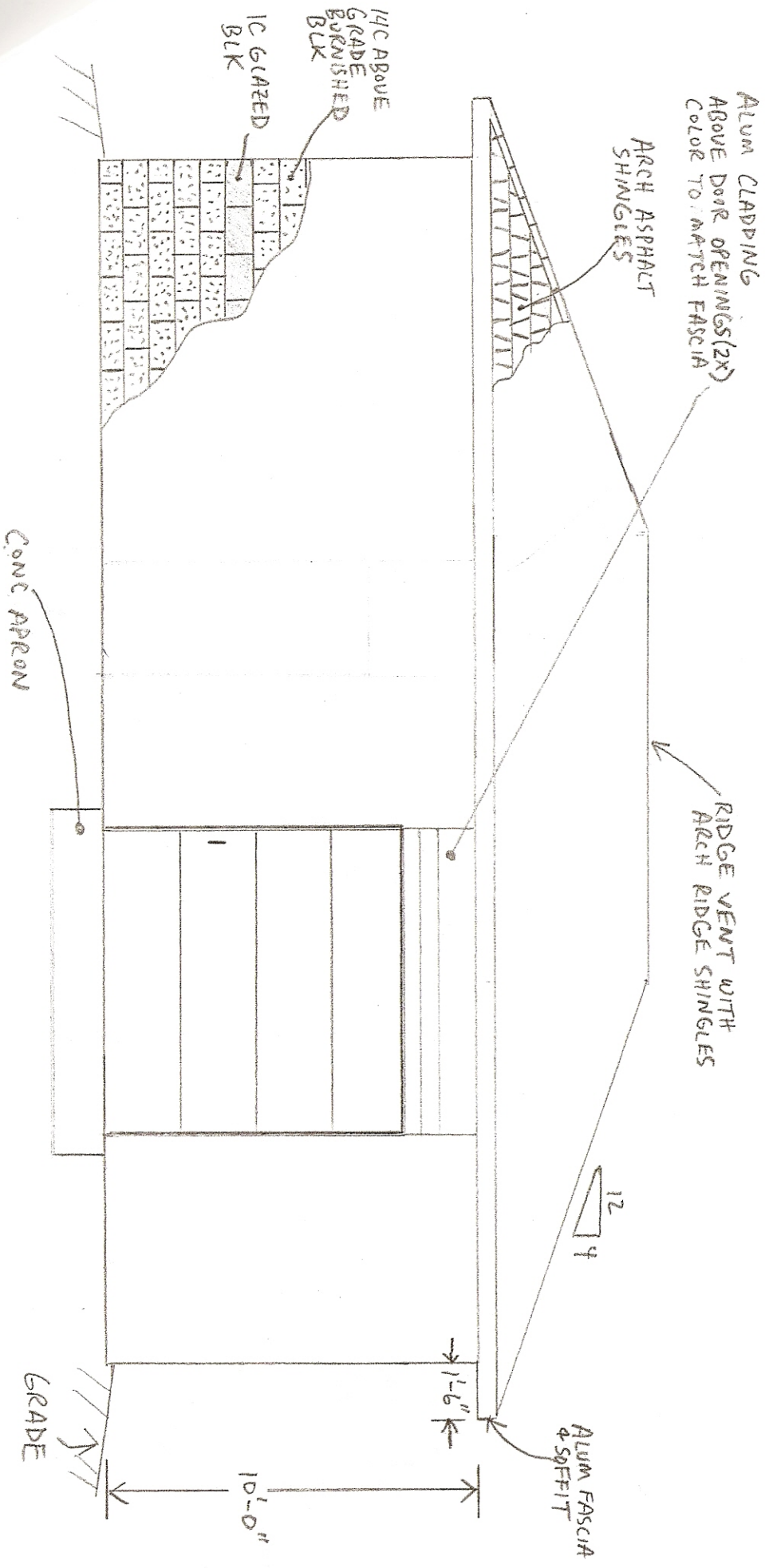


Central Park



ARAA CENTRAL PARK
BATTING CAGE
SITE PLAN

SCALE
1/4" = 1'



EAST ELEVATION

Park and Recreation Commission

5. 2.

Meeting Date: 11/10/2011

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Recommend City Council Resolution Supporting the Mississippi River Trail

Background:

The Park and Recreation is familiar with the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and the progression of this long-term on and off roadway bikeway. Presently the focus of participants in the MRT initiative is developing and promoting economic activity associated with both local and non-local tourism. The following is from the MRT web site:

Location, Length and Alternatives

Minnesota's Mississippi River Trail winds roughly 500 miles downriver from its source within Itasca State Park to the Iowa border. With additional miles on alternative routes, Minnesota's MRT route grows considerably. Located largely on the shoulders of paved roads and upon low traffic roads, the route also includes relatively long segments of scenic State and Regional trails.

Throughout the 72-mile Twin Cities Metro Area, the MRT is routed on both sides of the River. Although much of the route is presently on-road, several off-road Regional Trails suitable for a wide variety of bicyclists are featured within this segment (local and regional planning is presently underway for several new off-road river-oriented trails with a goal of a continuous 144-mile Metropolitan river loop).

Finally to the south, bicyclists can remain on roads below the Mississippi River bluffs or utilize the Apple Blossom Scenic Byway that features a 578-foot climb (and descent) that allows bicycle adventurers a view of the Mississippi uplands as well as long, spectacular views of the river and adjoining bottom lands. It also provides access to Great River Bluffs State Park .

Notification:

Observations:

The attached document discusses the marketing and outreach aspects of this project. Additionally, any city wishing to participate in the project as a 'host city' must pass a resolution supporting the goals of the MRT - thus, the purpose of this case. (The attachment also has the web address of the MRT.)

Also attached is a draft resolution in a sample format.

Funding Source:

None required.

Staff Recommendation:

Commission Action:

Motion to recommend City Council approve a resolution supporting the goals of the MRT and actively pursue marketing the MRT in Ramsey for its economic benefits.

Attachments

[marketing initiative PDF](#)

[sample resolution](#)

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Olson

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Reviewed By

Brian Olson

Final Approval Date: 11/04/2011

Date

11/04/2011 01:08 PM

Started On: 11/04/2011 10:14 AM

MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL - MARKETING AND OUTREACH

MRT cities play a number of roles. Some provide services, others are centers that enhance and link multi-modal travel, others are where bike routes converge, and still others contain significant tourism attractions. Regardless, each and every town makes an important contribution to a bicyclist's experience, equally important, is *how* MRT cities accommodate their new visitors. Communities that are *friendly* to bicycle travel add to a visitor's fun and lasting memories. To help communities along the river become as bicycle-friendly as possible, and to begin promoting their community as an MRT destination, MnDOT is providing marketing and outreach services, starting with the four Community Engagement meetings.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING SCHEDULE:

Oct. 24 – Winona;
Oct. 25 – Grand Rapids;
Oct. 26 – St. Cloud;
Nov. 1 – Twin Cities

For meeting information and specific locations:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt.html>

At the Community Engagement meetings MnDOT will:

- **PROVIDE ALL ATTENDEES THESE MARKETING AND OUTREACH SERVICES:**
 - ✓ A presentation on *the importance of marketing the MRT* and the MRT “brand” (by tourism marketing expert, Steve Markuson (former director of Explore MN Tourism));
 - ✓ A copy of, and professional introduction to “unpack” [the Mississippi River Trail Bikeway Marketing Toolbox](#) (by Stantec staff who developed the Toolbox);
 - ✓ *How to evaluate your community's bicycle-friendliness* (by the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota)
 - ✓ Information about *MRT Discovery Bicycle* rides scheduled for Spring 2012.
- Describe the idea behind “Host Cities” and **explain how to apply for certain benefits.**
- Introduce the concept of “Hub Cities”

BENEFITS FOR ALL MRT HOST CITIES

Every city willing to pass a local resolution supporting the MRT and its goals-- regardless of size and services—will be provided some extra benefits as Host Cities.

- An MRT “Discovery” bicycle ride that will start at the Headwaters and finish at the Iowa border. The ride offers opportunities for HOST cities to highlight local attractions. Rides will tentatively occur in June 2012;
- Listing (and web links) to your community or city on the MnDOT MRT website (<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt.html>)

ENHANCED BENEFITS FOR SELECTED MRT HOST CITIES

One Host Community in each of the six MRT Destination Areas that wants to position itself as a significant destination for MRT travelers is eligible to receive expert marketing and bicycle planning assistance, which includes:

- **Developing a marketing action plan.** Two consultation meetings with tourism marketing expert, Steve Markuson (former director of Explore MN Tourism), who will assist each city in developing an MRT Marketing Plan.

- **Evaluating its bicycle-friendliness.** One site visit by the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota to conduct a community assessment and one follow up meeting to review its Bicycle-friendly community assessment and recommendations.
- **Enhanced visibility in the MRT “Discovery Rides” planned (spring, 2012).** The MRT “Discovery” bicycle ride that will pass through and highlight the selected Host Cities.

ENHANCED BENEFITS - APPLICATION

Applying cities must want some professional help and be willing to administratively support the marketing and bicycle improvement initiatives, and be able to demonstrate how this assistance will improve the overall performance of the MRT (*MnDOT will select the cities in November, 2011*).

City Name:

Primary contact name:

- Phone:
- Email:

Do you believe your community (or local unit of government) is willing to pass a resolution supporting the MRT?

- Our community has already provided a resolution of support
- We have identified a designated person who will pursue passing the resolution

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Community relationship (i.e. mayor, resident):

NOTE: TO BE AN MRT HOST CITY, YOU MUST EVENTUALLY PASS A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MRT

Existing community bicycling services (please check all that apply)

- We have a bike shop / bike repair in our community
- We have a hardware store in our community
- We have bike racks for public use (estimated number: _____)
- We have bike trails, or designated bike routes in our community
- We have bike trails, or designated bike routes in close proximity to our community
- We have hotel facilities in our community for cyclists / MRT trail users
- We have camping facilities in our community for cyclists / MRT trail users
- We have a restaurant or grocery store in our community for cyclists / MRT trail users
- We have public rest rooms in our community for cyclists / MRT trail users
- We have publicly available wifi access in our community
- We have scheduled air, rail, or bus services in our community available to the public.
- Other:
- Other:
- Other:

Is your city willing/able to convene stakeholders to meet with the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota as they develop a bicycle-friendly community assessment and recommendation report?

- Yes
- No

Primary contact name:

- Phone:
- Email:

Is your city willing and able to convene a meeting of stakeholders, then work to develop an MRT marketing plan (completed by April 2012) in time begin promoting the MRT for the 2012 bicycling season?

- Yes
- No

Primary contact name:

- Phone:
- Email:

Is your city willing and able to participate in planning the segment of the MRT Discovery Ride that passes through your community? The ride is anticipated in Spring 2012.

- Yes
- No

Primary contact name:

- Phone:
- Email:

Additional thoughts...why should your community be selected for the enhanced marketing and bicycle planning benefits?



Email this form to: daniel.collins@state.mn.us by November 11th. You will be notified shortly after.

Resolution of Initial Support for the Mississippi River Trail bicycle route

Whereas, the Mississippi River is well known throughout America and the world,

Whereas, the hills, trees and waters centered upon the Mississippi River are quite beautiful to residents and tourists alike;

Whereas, the Mississippi River has served through time as a corridor of exploration, travel, and settlement,

Whereas, the Mississippi River is a corridor of great natural significance and importance within Minnesota and America;

Whereas, the Mississippi River Trail is a bicycle route that offers an opportunity for extraordinary adventure along the entire river from the Headwaters in Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana.

Whereas, the Mississippi River Trail relies exclusively on existing highway shoulders, low-volume paved roads and paved recreational trails,

Whereas, the route will likely evolve and improve as road improvements are made and suitable paved recreational trails become available.

Whereas, the Mississippi River Trail will generate additional economic activity within Mississippi River host communities;

Whereas, a continuous string of local resolutions of support for the *Mississippi River Trail* will strengthen individual and collective funding requests for projects that protect, enhance or promote resources that enrich the traveler's experience;

Whereas, even though the Minnesota Department of Transportation will continue to maintain statewide mapping and information regarding the *Mississippi River Trail*, convene meetings and facilitate the resolution of issues and alignment selection within the State, the *Mississippi River Trail* will be managed collaboratively by all road and trail authorities that comprise the trail;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that _____ supports the collective efforts of the Minnesota Department of Transportation and other road and trail authorities that comprise the *Mississippi River Trail* and will participate in ongoing collaborative discussions, and in matters of a general nature regarding the operation and location of the Mississippi River Trail within its administrative boundaries.

(MnDOT 10/20/11)

Park and Recreation Commission

5.3.

Meeting Date: 11/10/2011

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Review 2011 Park and Trail Projects and Activity

Background:

It is customary to review the successes of the Commission's activity each year, which is the purpose of this case. Staff will highlight the many projects, programs and initiatives from 2011 relative to parks. (As this is not time sensitive, if the accomplishments and activity are not fully organized by November 10th, the case may be tabled to a subsequent meeting.)

Notification:

Observations:

Funding Source:

N/A

Staff Recommendation:

Commission Action:

None required/based upon discussion.

Form Review

Inbox
Brian Olson

Reviewed By
Brian Olson

Date
11/04/2011 01:08 PM
Started On: 11/04/2011 10:44 AM

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 11/04/2011

Park and Recreation Commission

6. 1.

Meeting Date: 11/10/2011

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Discuss Need for December Regular Commission Meeting

Background:

N/A

Notification:

Observations:

Funding Source:

N/A

Staff Recommendation:

Commission Action:

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Olson

Reviewed By

Brian Olson

Date

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Started On: 11/04/2011 11:02 AM

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