

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on November 10, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner David Minke (excused)

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

None

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to table Commission Business item 5.3 and to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as amended.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 13, 2011.

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

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #5.1: Acknowledge Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association's Proposal to Fund Storage and Batting Cage Building at Central Park

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed in the staff report that the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association 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.

Commissioner Shryock asked for a visual example in size in comparison to one of our existing buildings.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated smaller than the warming house that is at Central Park, but equivalent to a standard car and one half garage.

Vice Chair Olsen asked what is the long term plan for replacing the roof and doing the maintenance on the building.

Dean Meyer, 18169 Waco Street NW, Treasurer for Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association was present to answer the Commissions questions. Mr. Meyer explained that softball and baseball has pushed for the shed by the cage so they have storage for the machines and also for a grill on a trailer and they want to build a larger shed now to look for the future.

Commissioner Barr asked how the funds are raised to create a building.

Mr. Meyer stated they host softball tournaments, baseball has fundraisers that they do. ARAA Board raises funds through different deals with charging other sports and hosting different activities. Lacrosse is involved too.

Vice Chair Olsen asked is the building going to be built by the ARAA and then become City property. The question becomes maintenance, ownership, insurance, care of the building. Is there a plan in place for that?

Mr. Meyer responded the assumption is the City owns it, they are paying for the full structure 100%, and referred back to Commissioner Olsen's question previously regarding roof replacement by responding that the roof should last 30 years plus.

Commissioner Barr asked about a capital improvement plan.

Mr. Meyer responded yes they do have a plan and an account could be used from that for maintenance.

Chairperson Shryock commented there are details and negotiations that need to be addressed

Park Supervisor Riverblood responded that they need to capture all of these details in writing so that there is a clear understanding for all parties.

Commissioner Barr questions that this seems a lot like the Elmcrest building request and yes ARAA is funding it themselves, soccer wants to try to come up with a way to fund there's also and they all want buildings and how do we make it happen and how do you allow one to happen and not the other.

Chairperson Shryock stated she had that similar thought and that the size of the project is the only thing that allows this to be pushed through so quickly.

Vice Chair Olsen wanted to state that it's not that the Commission doesn't think this is a good idea but the Commission has a concern also on the table and that is the Elmcrest Park building request. She continued to explain that when the Commission looks at individual projects we have to look at everything on the table and the discussion they are having is a larger discussion.

Commissioner Barr understands their need but wants to be careful how they handle this.

Motion by Commissioner Fyten, seconded by Commissioner Barr to approve Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association's proposal to fund a storage and batting cage building at Central Park with further investigation by staff and council.

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

Case #5.2 Recommend City Council Resolution Supporting the Mississippi River Trail

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated he prepared a slide to discuss in greater depth what the MRT is and also how it relates to economic and tourism which is the essence of the resolution. The purpose of this case is to motion to City Council to approve a resolution supporting the Mississippi River trail bikeway such that we can be in the running as a host City to explore this initiative further and do it right.

Chairperson Shryock asked about the timeline on some of the community engagement schedules and are we in the loop on all of that.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood responded to the affirmative.

Vice Chair Olsen feels it is incredibly important to push for a trail like this and bring more people and money into Ramsey.

Chairperson Shryock stated another key support position is we are close enough to connect with links that are already there. As soon as this is all hooked up people can use these trails to get to work in Anoka or the Cities and as this process goes it will continue to improve our development in the COR there in so many ways. This not only helps our tourism but gives our residents other options of getting to work.

Commissioner Bennett feels it's a great opportunity to promote the City of Ramsey and has a nice effect on local businesses.

Motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to recommend City Council approve a resolution supporting the goals of the MRT and actively pursue marketing the MRT in Ramsey for it economic benefits.

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

COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Discuss Need for December Regular Commission Meeting

Motion by Vice Chair Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Bennett for the time being postpone the December Park and Recreation Commission meeting unless a time sensitive matter comes up.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fyten seconded by Commissioner Chubb to adjourn the meeting.

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