

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 12, 2012 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  
   Commissioner David Minke

Commission Members Absent:      None

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 Chubb, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 10, 2011.

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

## COMMISSION BUSINESS

### Case #5.1: Review 2011 Park Trail Projects and Activity

Park Supervisor Riverblood prepared a slideshow of the 2011 year in review.

Last winter there were 6040 rink users that were logged by the warming house attendants for both Ramsey Elementary and Central Park.

Ice was maintained at The Draw which was utilized by the PACT Charter school for their outdoor recreation and Phy Ed classes.

In the spring each year staff works with Anoka High School football boosters and to date 3,400 volunteer hours have been logged just with this program alone.

Cub Scout Pak 362 planted 1,000 seedlings at Elmcrest Park.

The Football Boosters painted the hockey rinks.

Park Supervisor Riverblood highlighted the Mississippi River Trail successes.

Park and Trail system includes the sweet bay boardwalk which is a very important trail segment. Mr. Riverblood explained what is unique is we called on the letter of credit from the Developer. We accounted for our seasonal workers, department of corrections workforce and full time City staff to do some overseeing of that labor which we charged back to the City and in doing so we infused \$59,000 back into the general fund budget.

Athletic field maintenance is something that is done from mid April through October. 166 miles of scalping *plus* stripping was done in a year/season.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated there is a formula for meeting Tree City USA certification. The investment we put in was approximately \$100,000 for 2011, this included moving trees by tree spade work and restoration work along roads and trail

Trails that were added throughout the City have been along Bunker Lake Boulevard, Puma Street, Lake Itasca trail, Alpine Drive down County Road 83 and back to Bunker Lake Boulevard. Hat's off to all Engineering staff who executed these valuable improvements.

Another achievement was the usage of SHIP's dollars for schematic design for the pedestrian overpass.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood also discussed that a number of trail grants were applied for. The one he depicted in his presentation represent a 1.5 million dollar project. Of that 1 million is federal funds, the balance would be monies paid for by the County in Mississippi West Regional Park.

A wrap up in 2011 from the 2010 construction of The Draw included irrigation, seed and warranty issues that were addressed. In addition to the summer concert series and the farmers market, the Rhinestone Commons parking lot was completed. The project was done for less than the original bid amount because parks staff organized the design and bidding on that project.

One of the other events that was held at The Draw was our first boat show, in spite of the hot weather it was a good turnout. Another new event held was movie night. Parks Supervisor Riverblood also added these are no cost events.

The concert series ended with our end of season patron picnic. There were 350 plus persons that attended. The Ramsey Foundation has done and continues to do a lot of work toward the concert series.

Another no cost for use addition to our park and trail system is the public bike system at City hall and the self serve public canoes and kayaks at Sunfish Lake Park. Currently, there are over 180 swipe card holders for the system at Sunfish Lake Park.

An additional new recreational amenity is a \$500,000 in boat landing improvements to Mississippi West Regional Park at almost no investment money by the City of Ramsey.

Another activity kind of related to maintenance is the detailed analysis of the cost for mowing and trimming at The Draw, pursuant to Council direction, which was successfully contracted out for the balance of 2011 and all of year 2012 – and to date, has gone fairly well.

The Farmer Market was again a success and another value and service to residents along with the social experience.

Along with patching ordinary maintenance of trail and parking lots, 1820' of trail was overlaid at Riverdale Park.

There has been a lot of activity at Alpine Park which is very popular for skateboarders. Staff continues to get a lot of positive feedback from residents and non residents that are grateful for the off leash dog park. Park Supervisor Riverblood also noted the project that an Eagle Scout constructed of a kiosk with solar lights for use within the Alpine Park off leash area.

The Community Garden at Water Tower 1 located at the intersection of County Road 5 and Dysprosium Street has been very successful, the volunteers have taken over the maintenance. Parks Supervisor Riverblood wants to give another hats off to the membership volunteers that have put in a lot of time to make this a success.

Another captured Developers escrow was the improvement of 1,000 feet of Class 5 at the Brookfield trail.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood continued with noting that Happy Days involves everybody in this community including the City Council, Commissions and Boards and 2011 was yet another successful year.

An improvement that hasn't been discussed as a Commission as part of the CIP is located on the west side of The Draw. It is the beginning of another water feature which will deliver water from what looks like a rock and also has a well to add water to it if there is not enough precipitation to raise the level in pond, which also provides water for each of the park spaces around and including The Draw.

This year a holiday tree was placed at the Amphitheatre sight. Connexus assisted in the set up and donated the LED lights. Kinghorn Construction and Christian Legacy Academy provided the tree.

In wrapping up the year in review, Parks Supervisor Riverblood wanted to announce Chairperson Shryock receiving the 2011 Board and Commission award from the Minnesota Recreation Park Association which is a state wide award. Six awards were given away earlier in the day, Chairperson Shryock was the only one given the award for board and commission leadership.

Chairperson Shryock commented she had a good predecessor in Jill Johns, she was a great leader.

She thanked the Commission also.

Chairperson Shryock thinks we did have a lot going on and a lot of exciting projects finally coming to completion. One to look forward to is the waterfall at the COR.

The new location for the farmers market, works well by the amphitheatre.

In review Chairperson Shryock discussed that there are a lot of key trail connections going on this year. For anyone who doesn't know how we do a lot of our projects, we are mindful of how we finance our projects; we try to look for creative ways and economical ways to do things, and commends our staff for doing that. Parks Supervisor Riverblood and staff looks for economical ways to do things in leveraging our work with the scout groups, football players, youth and athletic associations and the Lions. Of course most of our projects are done through grant monies and development dollars and lawful gambling funds., Chairperson Shryock explained that we try to work within our budget best that we can, rather than taking of funds which is something we are always working hard to during the economic times and we will continue to be mindful of that as a park board.

She would like to thank the Ramsey Foundation with all the work that staff has done with them in the past and with the upcoming events. We wouldn't be able to provide all the activities that we do with the free events without them.

One of the quaint terms we have been using lately is staycation, we are really working to give people that opportunity using the canoes and bikes, the free concerts and movies and we really don't have to leave home. Residents just have to hop on their bikes or take a hike to find lots of great opportunities here in Ramsey.

Vice Chair Olsen added that the first free event of 2012 was the skate 'flash mob' at The Draw. It was a lot of fun with glow sticks and music.

**COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks Supervisor

*Drafted by Mary Jo Warner*  
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary