

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on February 9, 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 Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Minke 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 Barr, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2012.

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

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #5.1: Presentation on April 2012 Trail Events

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated that we have two different parties to talk about two fund raising events on two different trails and two different parks in Ramsey which will essentially kick off our programming season.

Kim Berger, representative and volunteer from the Elk River High School all night graduation party was present to speak about their fundraising event. Ms. Berger stated she lives in the City and that they chose the Lake Itasca trail located off 167th Lane and Armstrong Boulevard to do their 5k fundraising event on April 21st to support the all night grad party. This event gives the seniors a last chance to get together in a safe environment and is a chemical free night. The actual event is on June 8th and the run will be supporting the funds for the all night party. The 5k run is scheduled for April 21st starting at 9am and sign up will begin as early as 7:30am. The participants can walk it, run it, or jog it and she is asking that the City come out and support this event. Ms. Berger also wanted to state that their organization does provide scholarships to the students if they cannot afford the safe night in June and they are thankful to have use of the City trail to promote their run.

Kim Gust introduced herself as a resident in the City of Ramsey and was present with her team, Angels of Endurance, to discuss their fundraising activity. Ms. Gust stated they will be relaying in Anoka at the American Cancer Society relay for life of the Anoka Area on June 22nd. This year as a fundraiser they would like to do a bark for life event. This is the first annual bark for life in this area.

Ms. Gust explained that bark for life is a non competitive walking event for dogs and owners to raise funds and awareness to fight cancer, as it affects everybody in one way or another. The most loyal friend a person can have is your dog. The ACS bark for life is a ACS fundraiser that honors the care giving quality of our canine best friend. As part of her presentation she reviewed that the money raised for the American Cancer Society goes directly goes to human cancer research and indirectly also benefits the canine. Dogs can get the same kind of cancer as people, canine cancer treatment and medications are the result of human research results.

Ms. Gust state they chose to have the fundraiser at The Draw, because it is a beautiful facility and appears to be dog friendly, the trails are paved, there is adequate parking and there is access to water and can accommodate a large number of people. To keep all participants safe they are asking that dogs be on a 6 foot or shorter leash, that dogs be at least 6 month of age or older and all dogs respect other dogs space as well as the canine's owner space. Owners are responsible for picking up after their own dogs. Committee members will also do a final cleanup after the event is over. A vet will be on sight the entire day and there will also be a designated committee member to remove any anti social dog or deal with any issues that arise.

Ms. Gust reviewed that the important things to make the event successful is to have plenty of trash cans available so they will be partnering with Ace to make this happen. They will also be providing doggy bags for any messes. They will have adequate signs, portable toilets, a sound

system and are hoping to have a DJ. Tents and chairs will be set up and as mentioned earlier they will have a vet on sight for any canine emergencies. Most importantly having this event at The Draw will promote a canine presence in this community and reach out to those individuals to get involved in the bark for life and will provide for recognition of the new developments within The COR.

There will be sponsorship opportunities available. All sponsorship will be recognized at the bark for life as well as the relay for life as a dual sponsorship opportunity.

Ms. Gust provided a sample agenda to the Commission. She stated the registration fee is \$20 and is a direct donation to the ACT. All registered dogs will receive a bark for life bandana and dog tag. They will have a face book page for updates and event info and will have a website available through the ACS. She stated it is important to note ACS is the official sponsor for more birthdays. All proceeds benefit the ACS services of the Anoka area.

Commissioner Chubb asked if the event is open to people without dogs.

Ms. Gust responded yes and they will be working with the no kill shelter that sponsors dogs in peoples various homes and will have dogs available for walking and adoption that day.

Chairperson Shryock asked how long has the ACS been having these types of events.

Ms. Gust replied bark for life has been around for many years but are not that popular in this area because of the weather.

Chairperson Shryock asked if this something that we can get into the Ramsey Resident.

Ms. Gust replied that she has already submitted her article for the next edition. She also stated they will be using the sandwich boards for advertising in The Draw since there are a lot of dog walkers in this area. They will also be putting posters throughout the City.

Chairperson Shryock commented that we have a lot of people that use the dog park at Alpine Park and that would be a good area to spread the word also.

Commissioner Fyten asked about the fee for non dog owners or is there a way they can provide a donation to ACS as part of the event.

Ms Gust responded they do ask for a \$10 donation from a single walker, however, that is optional, everything is optional because it is a donation event.

Case #5.2: Web Based Mapping – Tools for Trails

Park Supervisor Riverblood introduced Brian Personius as the second Community Engagement Scholar from Anoka Ramsey Community College that the City has had. Some of the projects he is working on includes the MRT and recently he finished working on the call for concessions through the Ramsey Foundation. Recently, he has updated and reconciled some of the mapping including the Google maps and Cyclopath.

Mr. Personius began his presentation with bicycling in general and maps that are available for finding trails. He wanted it to be recognized that May is bike to work month. He reviewed the bike trails available on Google maps and the satellite image. Another source for finding trails and routes is Cyclopath.org. Mr. Personius explained it is a fairly simple website, and it has a lot of information that is available to bicyclist or trail users. To find a path on Cyclopath you click on the route tab and a pop up box will appear that offers many options.

He reviewed that in Google maps you have to click on the bicycle icon that is highlighted with a red person standing over it. He showed a demonstration route. You can also modify the path on an individual basis, within Google maps you can edit the map if there is any discrepancies found. You do have to have an account with Google to edit within it, but not to use it.

Mr. Personius reviewed the *Go Anoka County* website. He stated all the parks' community activities can be found at the website and can also be found through the City of Ramsey website. He reviewed some of the options you can look for are parks, rivers, regional trails, fairgrounds, nature centers, boat launches and fishing piers.

Mr. Personius demonstrated how you can zoom in close enough to show what businesses are located on a specific trail that you are riding. He also showed how to use the map maker, and demonstrated how it can be edited by selecting a place which would be considered a specific area, or you can select a specific line or draw line to create a new trail. He also explained once you have made all your edits it can be submitted on the sight but it doesn't automatically appear, as it needs to be reviewed for approval or disapproval.

Mr. Personius reviewed some options in Cyclopath that can be chosen are the distance, or a scenic visit, and then he showed all the options you have such as if you want to avoid hills, you click on the thumbs down, if you want low traffic, click the thumbs up. When you click on find route, it will calculate the route.

Mr. Personius demonstrated the Go Anoka County site and used The Draw as an example for a picnic. He showed how to search various routes, how you can map out the size of a park, and how to measure walking distances.

Chairperson Shryock asked how to get to the Cyclopath website.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated it would be a good idea to put a link on the City website.

Commission Staff/Input

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reported the ice rinks are still open and attendance is approaching 6,000 patrons for the season. There will be a tree planting at the North Commons. Mr. Riverblood noted the DNR Forestry Bonding Grant and the Transit Oriented Developments Grants one which will further the planning process for the proposed pedestrian overpass. He stated the concert summer series planning is in progress for The Draw. The Environmental Expo planning will be the subject of our March meeting and the last item is firewood for sale has been published in the Ramsey resident.

Commissioner Chubb announced there are a few spots available on the Happy Days Committee and they meet every third Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm. Happy Days will be held the second weekend in September this year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks Supervisor

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary