

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on May 10, 2012 at the River's Bend Park, 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 Vice Chair Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Park and Recreation Commission agenda as presented.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

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

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

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

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #5.1: Review Completion of Trail Loop Mapping Project

Park Supervisor Riverblood reviewed in the staff report that for some time there has been the desire to place signs at various points on the park and trail system that have distinct trail loops. He asked does the Commission want to see these out in the landscape, one on each of the loops.

Chairperson Shryock asked are we looking at one sign per park or multiple.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated we could go either way on that.

Chairperson Shryock stated she would like to see some alternative loops. She also asked what the nine locations were.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood did not have a list in front of him but stated some of the locations are Lake Itasca, Alpine, one big loop around Sunfish Lake, Cottonwood, River's Bend, Emerald Pond and Elmcrest.

Commissioner Bennett asked on average loop distance, what is smallest to largest and what is the cost difference.

Commissioner Barr discussed the mapping system they have at the Lakes of Blaine's.

Chairperson Shryock loves the colored maps and asked is there a less expensive way of doing it. She referenced the mapping system at Springbrook Nature Center and asked if money would be better spent with trying to get some sort of map put together. Even if we do basic trail map and on the other side have a certain parks blown up so we have route if you get to this park here is a one mile loop that you can do. She would like to take more time to explore what our options might be.

Commissioner Bennett stated he thinks simple is better and limit some expense with some uniform format.

Commissioner Bennett wanted to discuss more in detail one of his concepts for a public park and trail map. He discussed utilizing the Ramsey Resident with a center page pull out to be used as a pocket map and perhaps on the backside could include advertising. Some ideas could include publishing the concert series on there. It might be a good way to advertise kayaks and bikes and the idea is to use as an annual update. Some of the images we already have would suffice because it's already detailed enough to show the trails, parks and other stuff.

Chairperson Shryock stated she did some checking and 11x17 is the largest we could go without going to a custom print and likes this distribution idea.

Commissioner Chubb wanted to get back to the sign topic and asked what the signs are mounted to.

Park Supervisor Riverblood stated to an existing sign.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the sign would be laminate over a metal sign.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood responded yes that is correct.

Case #5.2: Recommend Irrigation and Drinking Fountain for North Commons

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the essence of this case is requesting a not to exceed \$40,000 of Park Trust Fund for the first phase development of North Commons consisting primarily of irrigation and drinking fountain.

Chairperson Shryock asked about the irrigation locations.

Commissioner Barr is curious as to when the beginning of all this started, what the dollar amount was then that we originally was hoping to spend to what it has come to now. The plan was to keep it simple and not have a lot of maintenance to do but it seems now we keep adding elements to it.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood summarized where some of the dollars were coming from but has not costed everything out yet.

Vice Chair Olsen stated she is not opposed to North Commons but feels North Commons has climbed to the top of the list. She feels we need to regroup and stick to our priorities.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood summarized all the other active projects with continued work.

Vice Chair Olsen wanted to clarify that maybe we are not pushing other projects down, but what we could do is make a better effort on discussing where we are at on all the projects on a monthly basis.

Chairperson Shryock commented that in general the irrigation there is a good idea along with another community garden.

Commissioner Barr wanted to ensure these dollars are not taking away from other projects.

Motion by Commissioner Minke, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to recommend to City Council that \$40,000 from Park Trust Fund be allocated for first phase development of North Commons, consisting primarily of irrigation and associated improvements.

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

Commission Staff/Input

Review Environmental Expo

Vice Chair Olsen heard positive comments about the canoes and kayaks.

Chairperson Shryock was asked about green spaces and Autumn Heights improvements. The discussion led into taking a look at the CIP and look at playground upgrades. Parks Supervisor Riverblood encouraged the Commission to go online and look at the CIP when it goes to City Council in June for discussion. Chairperson Shryock wants to open the CIP up for further discussion. Commissioner Barr expressed a concern is to maintain the parks that we do have and wants to make it a priority that these parks are safe. Chairperson Shryock urges the Commission to go out to the parks between now and the CIP discussion and take a careful look at what we have and what our plans and recommendation are.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood discussed the City Owned Land Inventory and the Road Reconstruction Policy as part of the park maintenance discussion.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood informed the Commission of the Bike Friendly Community program – meeting June 15th in Coon Rapids.

The Summer Events kick off is Thursday, June 15th

Parks Supervisor Riverblood wants to highlight volunteer contributions and discussed recognizing a specific group at each of the Park Commission meetings.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood informed the Commission of the closing of the tennis courts at Titterud Park. Vice Chair Olsen asked if there is a list the Commission could use as a reference of what the major maintenance issues are. Parks Supervisor Riverblood responded there is not a list available but the Commission could go out and identify those needs at each park if they wanted to.

The Commission discussed maintenance of right of ways.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chair Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Minke to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks Supervisor

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary