

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on August 9, 2012, at North Commons, 7965 147th Lane NW, Ramsey Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent: None

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 Michael Basich, St. Croix Recreation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Shryock called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:31 p.m, noting that the Recording Secretary is apparently absent.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Chubb, seconded by Commissioner Olsen 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.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated July 12, 2012

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

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

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Discuss Play Equipment Selection Process for North Commons and Elmcrest Parks

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that at the Wednesday July 31st City Council work session, Council authorized by consensus the Park and Recreation Commission to move forward with the planning for Elmcrest's community park building and a playstructure for both Elmcrest and North Commons.

The purpose of this case is to discuss the process for play equipment selection for the two parks. One opportunity may be for the Commission to designate two or more Commissioners to investigate choices and options outside of the formal meeting environment - and bring a recommendation to the full Commission as soon as the September 2012 regular meeting.

Riverblood introduced Mike Basich from St. Croix Recreation who reviewed with the Commission, a palette of different types of playstructures to get a sense of the many choices available that may fit the approximate and respective price points of \$40,000 and \$75,000 for North Commons and Elmcrest Park.

The Commission discussed the process for playground selection, and it was determined that Riverblood should send a mailer to the North Commons neighborhood inviting them to propose play components – which then could ‘arranged’ to fit within the anticipated budget.

Commissioner Bennett clarified the Elmcrest was more of a ‘destination’ and therefore the Commission was in a good position of selecting a range of differing play components.

The consensus of the Commission was that Elmcrest’s playstructure should have a ‘spinner’ as these were observed to be consistently popular.

Motion by Commissioner Fyten, seconded by Commissioner Minke to proceed with the play equipment selection process as discussed.

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

5.02 Discuss Volunteer Recognition Program

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood indicated that the purpose of this case is to discuss the development of a more formalized volunteer recognition program. While the city does work with and utilizes many individual volunteers and groups each year; a program that duly recognizes these volunteers is also believed to attract more people with even greater capacity.

The essence of this program would be to have a 'volunteer of the month' for those meetings that are televised. Riverblood added that if the Commission concurs with a more formalized program, the next step would be to receive City Council approval on the how the program would be structured. He cautioned that in any volunteer program the city needs to be mindful of both how much time is invested to be sure that the return is there; and also that there are the staff resources to budget the consistent effort that is need to ensure success.

Chairperson Shyrock agreed that a close examination of staff resources must be made to determine if a more comprehensive program can be sustainable. Commissioner Minke inquired if Riverblood thought he had the staffing necessary. Riverblood replied that in some organizations, the volunteer coordinator could themselves be a volunteer, and that an ideal solution would be if this sort of situation would develop.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Minke to recommend staff proceed with volunteer program consideration.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

The Commission discussed the concert at The Draw that was underway, and their desires to attend for purposes of assessments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mark Riverblood
Parks and Public Works Assistant Superintendent