

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on October 11, 2012, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent:      Vice Chairman Angela Olsen (Excused)  
   Commissioner David Minke (Excused)

Also Present:                              Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
   Park and Recreation Intern Adam Moshier

**1.      CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Shryock called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.      CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.      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 Chubb, Fyten, Barr, Bennett, Minke, and Olsen. Voting No: None. Absent: Vice Chairman Olsen and Commissioner Minke.

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:   Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated September 13, 2012**

Chairperson Shryock tabled the minutes until next month to allow time to review the minutes.

**5.      COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: 2012 Summer Event Series Recap**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that many events were held over the summer at The Draw summer event series. The last event was held on September 13, which was the Park Patron Picnic. It was a success with the Park and Recreation Department cooking for 350 people at the event. The Foundation found sponsors for the majority of the events.

Park and Recreation Intern Adam Moshier presented a summary of the 2012 summer event series. He reviewed that the Ramsey Foundation organized several entertainers including bands and a comedian. He reviewed that for The Draw summer events overall attendance exceeded 2000 people. He thanked the organizers and sponsors of the events along with the community who came out to support them.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that this platform provided a good opportunity for businesses to advertise for a minimal amount. He suggested coordinating this event with company picnics. He noted that the Farmers Market ended tonight after enjoying a long season.

### **5.02: Consider Disc Golf Utilizing the Lawful Gambling Fund Volunteer Match Program**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood presented that requests have been made over several years that disc golf be available in Ramsey. He suggested using the Lawful Gambling Fund for years and tonight a resident has followed through on this and has questions for the Commission. He asked if the Commission would like to move forward with a disc golf course and whether Elmcrest Park should be used for the location. He added that a decision should be made on whether advertising monies could be sought by resident, Mr. Hiller, to cover the gap between funding discrepancies.

Mr. Kenneth Hiller of 14410 Iodine Street NW stated that he has moved around with the military and has enjoyed playing disc golf around the country. He noted that he has seven family members in Ramsey who enjoy this sport. He stated that people he has spoken to agree that they have to drive a good distance to participate in the sport. He reviewed the game of disc golf where a disc is thrown into a basket. Hiller explained that the course is environmentally friendly, and suggested creating an 18-hole course. He showed images of a course in Lakeville by PowerPoint. He noted that some woods needed to be cleared. He showed an area where a fairway coexists with a walking trail. He identified the tee pad where the course starts. He noted that volunteers have participated in improvements in the White Bear Lake course.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood asked if the next tee is visible while in play.

Mr. Hiller stated that it is varied which adds to the fun of the sport. He stated that a variety of ages can participate in this. He reviewed that he has witnessed teens and parents playing together. He noted that there are mens, womens and senior leagues.

Riverblood commented that Mr. Hiller may pursue partnering with community businesses to fund the course. He asked what is involved in designing the course.

Mr. Hiller stated that he has spoken to course designers who reside in the area. He commented that he would give input from his experiences. He stated that he is not familiar with whether there is a cost for using a course designer.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood asked about redesigning the course in the event the disc is ending up in an unintended area.

Mr. Hiller commented that the baskets can be easily moved. He stated that he has been to courses where the baskets are moved to reduce erosion.

Chairperson Shryock asked about the distances ranges.

Mr. Hiller commented that it is several feet to over 200 feet to offer variety in the course.

Commissioner Chubb asked if the cement tee pads are necessary.

Mr. Hiller commented that if rocks are used they erode and require maintenance. He commented that many courses are replacing these rock areas with cement. He stated that a running throw is used to launch the disc.

Commissioner Shane supported the idea as Ramsey does not offer this. He commented that he believes the community would enjoy it.

Chairperson Shryock added that she supports the idea and agreed with Elmcrest Park as suggested.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood recommended citing the course so it is usable when soccer occurs simultaneously. He suggested adding layers of recreational opportunities to the parks.

Commissioner Barr stated that at Lions Park in Elk River the park utilized both disc golf and soccer. She has observed that the course layout there does not interfere with other park users.

Chairperson Shryock asked what the disc is made of.

Mr. Hiller stated that it is a plastic, rubbery type of material. He reviewed that there are a variety of aerodynamic shapes.

Consensus of the Commission was to go ahead and develop some partners for a disc golf course at Elmcrest Park.

### **5.03: North Common's Tree Grant Planting – October 18, 2012**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood presented that \$13,000 from the Minnesota DNR was granted for trees planting in North Commons. Trees native to Minnesota will be planted with placards. They will meet goals of a neighborhood arboretum so the community can see what trees are like when making decisions for their neighborhood. He reviewed that at one o'clock on Thursday they are having a tree planting event. He noted that North Commons is a neighborhood park about three-quarters of a mile north of City Hall. He explained that this was the first year for community gardens. He reviewed that they are making decisions about the playground. He explained that this Thursday was chosen for the tree plantings as it is MEA and children are off of school. The rainout date is Friday.

## **6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

### **6.01: Commission/Staff Input**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated for trail priority ranking there was a discussion with Council about missing trail sections and gaps. He added that residents are asking for more connections and this is a community priority. He noted that Council has requested they create a formalized priority list to rank trails. He stated that staff will work on this.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that for the Minnesota DNR Trail Grant they submitted a request to cover a trail from Central Park down to Alpine Drive. He noted that there are many completed connection to the COR for shopping and beyond. He announced that a check for \$100,000 was received from the Minnesota DNR and construction will occur over the next year. He noted that along with the grant, new development contributes to trail funds.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that the Mississippi River Trail goes from New Orleans to Lake Itasca Park. He explained that they are working on the connection to this through the area and addressing funding issues. He noted the continuation of the trail will be from the Municipal Center at the Regional Park. It goes eventually to Elk River and beyond. He noted that the wayside rest is open 24 hours a day, which will function as a trailhead. He reviewed that almost a year ago a grant was applied for which has been received. He presented a \$1,120,000 check from the Metropolitan Council. He reviewed the detailed grant application process.

Commissioner Barr commented that over the summer she was at Elmcrest Park for soccer. She commented that the grass was brown and her feet were completely wet. She commented that there were sink holes. She asked how this can be improved.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that there was a festival at this park a week ago and the park has thousands of users. He noted that next week fall fertilization will take place. He noted that the wear pattern results in a lot of mud. He noted that depending on the event schedule and rain it can turn the park to mud quickly. Riverblood further added that

clay can impact the fields and affect drainage. He added that he will be checking on another type of soil coring. He reviewed that a moisture sensor is used versus a time sensor for watering. He commented that a different technology is being reviewed that looks at the length of day and participation rate. He stated that maintaining athletic fields in good condition with a lot of play is a complex process.

Commissioner Barr stated that she now understands the issues better.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Beth Bostrom  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*