

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 10, 2013, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Vice Chair Angela Olsen
 Commissioner Bridgett Barr
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Richard Chubb
 Commissioner David Minke

Commission Members Absent: Chairperson Melody Shryock (excused)
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten (excused)

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Olsen called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

Vice Chair Olsen acknowledged the high school students who are present.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated November 8, 2012

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 8, 2012.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Recommend Play Structure for North Commons

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood presented the staff report on the recommended North Commons play structure. He confirmed that the play structure meets all of the requirements that were presented at the neighborhood meeting. He presented slides of the recommended play structure and park. He explained that they are working to create an ADA compliant park.

Motion by Commissioner Chubb, seconded by Commissioner Minke to recommend to City Council that a not-to-exceed amount of \$48,000 be allocated for the North Commons playground

Further discussion:

Commissioner Barr asked about using the Lawful Gambling Fund versus the Parks Capitol Improvement Fund for funding. She requested an explanation of each. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained that the Lawful Gambling Improvement Fund is collected from a minor percentage collected from lawful gambling pull-tabs. He added that the fund exceeds \$100,000 currently. This money can only be used to benefit Ramsey programs and improvements that benefit youth. He reviewed that the Park Trust Fund receives fees for new development which are either residential, commercial or industrial. He reported that building new homes creates a need for recreational outlets. He noted that the Park Trust Fund received new development funds. He explained that the 17 new homes in the COR 3 project will pay into this fund. He advised that this project uses the Lawful Gambling Fund. He reviewed that this is also a restricted funding source. Councilmember Chubb suggested including the wording that the Lawful Gambling Fund is being used for funding in an amended motion.

Motion to amend by Commissioner Chubb, seconded by Commissioner Minke to recommend to City Council that a not-to-exceed amount of \$48,000 be allocated for the North Commons playground project for 2013 implementation from the Lawful Gambling Fund.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Minke asked about the balance of over \$100,000 in the Lawful Gambling Fund. He questioned what typical uses are for this money. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained that the fund balance, which is included in other Capital Improvement Plan monies, is approximately \$164,000. He added that interest accrues on this and the fund balance changes as additional money is collected. He noted that this is why it was referred to as being in excess of \$100,000. Councilmember Minke inquired if this fund is used exclusively for park capital improvements. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that there is a small Youth First fund and a matching fund in their annual operation funds. Councilmember Bennett questioned if there will be additional discussion on the

play structure at Elmcrest. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood offered to cover this during Commission input later in the meeting. Councilmember Minke asked about the North Commons playground gaining support from Council. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood advised that he cannot speak for Council but there was consensus to move forward with park platting. He reported that there are a lot of families in this neighborhood. He suggested that adding the park will help the lots sales as well.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: Commission/Staff Input

Commissioner Chubb stated that he would like information on skating rink use this year.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he has not had an opportunity to get skating numbers together. He explained that the rink attendants have counted an increase of 16 percent over last year. He commented that even on days where there is not an attendant an increase in use is noted. He noted that this was observed at the rinks located at Central Park, the Ramsey Elementary School and Bear Park.

Commissioner Barr stated that Central Park has a very good learn to skate opportunity. She reported that there is equipment to push around while learning and a nice spot for parents to go inside.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that the tongue and groove paneling was salvaged from inside of another building. He explained that the skate walkers are being well used.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed that at Central Park many people are participating in cross country skiing and sledding. He reported that there are groomed trails at Rum River Central through Anoka County. He described that they are initiating plans for the Mississippi River trail with a grant through MN/DOT. The trail goes from Kings Island over to Mississippi West Park. The city has secured the \$388,000 grant. He detailed that the City of Anoka and Ramsey are working toward construction on this trail which should be completed in 2013. He noted for the 2013 Parks Capitol Improvement Plan they are scheduled to go before Council during a work session meeting on February 5 at 5:30 p.m. He indicated this will be a joint work session. He asked for Commissioners to attend if possible. He reviewed that there were requests for lighting at Alpine Park in the off-leash area. He commented that there is a motion sensed light in an area where people gather. He indicated that there are solar lights set up along the side of the fence which gives some soft lighting. He added that recently a resident was viewing the website and asked whether this park had lighting. They were able to answer yes, there is lighting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Beth Bostrom
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.