

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2013, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent:      Commissioner Richard Chubb (excused)

Also Present:                              Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

**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 Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Barr to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

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

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated January 10, 2013**

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 10, 2013.

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

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Recommend the Decommission of Titterud Park's Tennis Court.**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted one of the City's first improved parks was Titterud Park. In the late 1970's several improvements occurred in the park, including the installation of a two-court tennis court (with lights being added later). The courts have been color-coated several times over the decades and in 2007, staff routed the significant vertical cracks in the court and patched with bituminous in an attempt to extend the courts useful life. This did extend the time the courts could be used for play for a short while until the color-coating began to spall off in increasingly larger pieces. In the Spring of 2012, staff inspected the courts and deemed them no longer safe for play and did not install nets.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reported shortly after the courts were deemed unsafe for play. Staff posted a notice at the entrance asking potential patrons to contact staff if they had questions or concerns with the court's closure. Two inquiries were received from residents and they were directed to the other tennis courts in the City.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained that replacement of the courts would cost a minimum of \$50,000. The City also has four courts at Rivers' Bend Park, four at Central Park, and a single court each at Riverdale and Fox Parks. The primary users of these tennis courts at Rivers' Bend and Central are seniors.

Riverblood continued that the removal of the courts and recycling of the materials can be performed in-house with Public Works Staff as time permits. The lighting relocation from Titterud Park to Central Park is being investigated. No supplemental funding is required at this time as the equipment and trucking time to remove the courts would be absorbed by the Parks operating budget. Funding for the relocation of the lights will be addressed separately, if found to be feasible. Staff recommends that the tennis courts at Titterud Park be removed and disposed of, as appropriate, and to look at relocating the lighting system. This would cost approximately \$8,000. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated he does not believe tennis play is increasing in the City at this point in time nor nationally as a trend.

Chairperson Shryock asked what the \$8,000 cost to move the lighting consisted of.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed what was entailed in moving the lighting. One question is whether the lighting for a two-court system would be able to light a four-court system. It is staff's belief it would and staff will look at using the same power supply as used by the hockey rink lights; however, more cable will be needed.

Commissioner Bennett asked what the cost would be for the removal of the fencing.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated staff would remove the fencing and the bituminous would be hauled away. Any equipment that could be salvaged would be salvaged and the remainder would be scrapped.

Commissioner Barr asked if putting a volleyball area in place of the tennis courts was considered.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated a volleyball court may be better suited in a park with bathroom facilities.

Chair Shryock asked if the existing fencing would remain when the tennis courts are removed to ensure safety on the construction site.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated he has not considered the details of security that as of yet, however, public safety is always the first priority in project planning.

Motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to recommend to the City Council that the tennis courts at Titterud Park be removed and disposed of as may be appropriate.

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

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

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

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated he had hoped to provide a report on skating rink usage but the usage numbers were not yet available due to a staff member's vacation. He stated the ice is skateable and is being used.

Commissioner Barr thanked staff for their work on the skating rinks.

Commissioner Minke asked if there was any feedback on the capital improvement meeting held.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the meeting went very well and lasted approximately one and a half hours. It was found the best method was to provide a group of choices. He suggested a subcommittee be formed from the Commission to investigate options for Elmcrest Park's playground project.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood led a discussion on a Subcommittee to Refine Components/Theme for Elmcrest Park's Playground.

Commissioners Bennett and Olsen offered to serve on the subcommittee.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated it might take a month or so to get to the point where the subcommittee would start their work. There was discussion about

locations of the concession plan, building orientation, pedestrian traffic flow, containment border. It was noted that \$75,000 will be invested in the project. Inquiries have been received from residents on the other side of Highway 47 about the park.

Chair Shryock suggested boulders be added to the park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the boulders fit well in these projects and a lot of play is done on the boulders.

Chair Shryock stated another park spot this week was recorded and a winter edition was done featuring cross country skiing and skating. She stated trails continue to be groomed within the City.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the trails are plowed as soon as possible after a weather incident. He stated the sliding hill at Alpine Park is being utilized regularly and noted the North Commons sliding hill is also being used.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*