

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on June 13, 2013 at Alpine Park, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Angela Olsen
 Vice Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Richard Chubb
 Commissioner Thomas Mobry

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Bridgett Barr (excused)
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten (excused)
 Commissioner David Minke (excused)

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Mark Riverblood
 Intern, Andrew Langholz
 Resident, Jill Johns

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Olsen called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 9, 2013

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

1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 9, 2013.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Volunteer Landscape Improvements for Fox Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the Volunteer Landscape Improvements for Fox Park. Fox Park is an approximate 22 acre neighborhood park (largely wetland) located in the northeast quadrant of Ramsey. The park was dedicated in the early 1990's and soon thereafter developed with playground, tennis court, and trail with boardwalk connecting the north and south portions that are separated by wetland.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted in 2012, Excel Energy cleared all trees under the transmission line that is over the south property line of the park - leaving that prominent portion of the park stark in appearance. Neighborhood resident Brooke Beaton is proposing landscaping this area in a manner that is consistent with vegetation under power lines, and one that is not unduly labor intensive. It was noted that Ms. Beaton was present to describe her ideas, which include a neighborhood fund-raising plan for the landscape materials. At this time there are no municipal funding needs known.

Brooke Beaton, resident near Fox Park, presented her ideas for landscaping at the park. Because of the loss of trees, much of the wildlife has disappeared. She is pulling members from the Anoka Ramsey Women of Today to help with this project. She provided photographs for the Commission review. Ms. Beaton has been working with Green Valley Greenhouse and has developed a proposal showing plantings, etc. The plan would be to remove the tree stumps and fill the area in with plantings. The plants selected will attract the wildlife back to the area. Perennial gardens will also be planted. Some plantings around the outhouse would also be added. The estimated price for the full scale planting totals \$6000. The women she works with would do as much of the planting as they could and so far, \$1000 has been raised by the group. She believes this is a great project for her group. She has received positive response from the neighborhood around the park.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there was an estimate on the cost of stump removal.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the City could do it with a backhoe or with a stump grinder, which would be a slow process.

Chairperson Olsen asked if there are any monies in the capital improvement fund.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated he would like to meet with Brooke and go over the scope of the project and possibly come up with some City monies that may be available. He suggested the Anoka, Ramsey, Andover Women of Today adopt the park.

Ms. Beaton stated that has been discussed.

Jill Johns, 6043 174th Avenue NW, asked if there is a grant available.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated there is and the cap is \$5,000.

Chairperson Olsen thanked Ms. Beaton for her work on this.

Commissioner Mobry asked if Green Valley may donate some of the plantings.

Ms. Beaton stated Green Valley may be open to that as they have been very good to work with. They have offered 20% discount on all plants purchased for this project.

The consensus of the Commission was to further explore this project.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the plan can be looked at more closely with possible revisions to the types and locations of some of the plants.

Ms. Beaton stated possibly with the planting plan the stumps could remain.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated some top soil could be brought in to cover the stumps.

Commissioner Bennett suggested a meeting be held before the next Commission meeting at the Park to look at the suggestions with Ms. Beaton.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Commissioner Chubb noted at Fox Park, some of the boards along the walkway are loose and need to be secured.

6:01: ARAA's Proposal to Contribute Batting Cages for Alpine Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed he met with ARAA yesterday and they are proposing to contribute 2 or 4 batting cages at Alpine Park. Staff will be working with ARAA to determine specifications. They may need a little money to close the gap. The location of the batting cages will need to be determined.

6:02: Status of 2013 Parks Capital Improvements

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed last month they had met at Elmcrest Park to look at the proposed plan for improvements to that park. The City Council met in Work Session and good input was received from the Council on the Parks Capital Improvement Plan.

6:03: Upcoming Planning for the Proposed Lake and Public Space within The COR

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted the Plan 5.0 for The COR does not include a detailed plan for the proposed lake and public space. The City needs to decide how the lake would be designed. The Park Commission will be reviewing the specifications for the next six months and will be reviewed with other commissions within the City and the City Council. Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood will keep the Commission up to date on the progress. Collection of digital plans from other City developments similar to what is imagined for The COR.

6.04: Review May 18 Volunteer Tree Planting at North Commons

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reported the tree planting was done in the rain. All trees were planted and mulched. One resident showed up.

Chairperson Olsen asked if the North Commons playground would be constructed.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated it was approved by the City Council. Additionally, the playground for Elmcrest will be part of the building project there but the footprint design and traffic flow needs to be decided. Vendors will be asked to help with developing plans for the playground and the associated landscape at Elmcrest.

6.05: Update on The Draw Summer Event Series

It was noted that a couple more sponsors were secured for the Draw Summer Event Series and Andrew Langholz, Park and Recreation Intern, will be handling the events. The first concert is June 20th.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.