

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chair Bennett, Commissioners Mobry, Barr, Fyten, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Chubb.

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed each year, City Council makes appointments to their various subcommittees, with commissions and boards also expected to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for their respective entity. The purpose of this case is to establish the Commission's Chair and Vice-Chair for 2015. The process Staff proposes is nominations for first the Chair, and then after approval by the majority of voting Commissioners, the Vice-Chair is also administered in the same manner. He pointed out that, in that there is no official protocol for this process, the Commission may perform the nominations and/or voting by paper "ballots" forwarded to the Ex Officio as part of this case, if desired.

While there is a vacancy on the Commission, it is unlikely that a newly appointed Commissioner, (anticipated to occur later this winter or early spring) would be nominated and supported to serve as Vice-Chair without some experience serving on the Park and Recreation Commission – therefore it seems appropriate to move forward at this time with Commission selection of both Chair and Vice-Chair. The Terms of the Boards and Commission are from April 1st through March 31st of the respective year(s). So for the nominations being discussed in this case, the positions should be considered to be valid until the April regular Commission meeting at which time the Commission may address the positions for April 2015 – March 2016 by consensus or vote.

Motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Fyten, to appoint Shane Bennett Chair, of the Park and Recreation Commission through March 31, 2015.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chair Bennett, Commissioners Barr, Fyten, Mobry, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Chubb

Motion by Commissioner Mobry, seconded by Commissioner Fyten to appoint Bridgett Barr as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission through March 31, 2015.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chair Bennett, Commissioners Mobry, Fyten, Barr, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Chubb

5.2 Begin Process of Public Engagement for the Proposed Municipal Plaza

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the purpose of this agenda item is to invite public engagement for the proposed Municipal Plaza, and also discuss concepts and configurations. The park has been envisioned to be on the north side of Sunwood Drive with its position being in many ways, the center, of the Center of Ramsey or The COR.

As the Commission will recall, a similar invitation for ideas and public comment was issued for the lake feature in The COR, and the Commission held an open house explicitly for this purpose. Much planning and visioning for the park space called Lake Ramsey on the City's development plan remains.

There is a strong beneficial value to commercial and residential properties that abut quality parks. For this reason, expressing what either of these two proposed parks ("Lake Ramsey" and Municipal Plaza) may look like is useful in attracting developers. Additionally there can be cross-easements and shared uses for certain amenities and infrastructure, e.g. a park may accommodate stormwater from an adjacent residential property, or a restaurant site may have public/private paths that lead customers to the business, or an adjoining park may provide seating or programming beneficial to a particular business.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood continued another reason that exploring concepts for the two proposed park together is timely, in that given their close geographic relationship (and eventual connection in some manner), the public spaces should be complimentary in opportunities for residents and visitors, and should have minimum redundancies in what they offer patrons in terms of programming and experience.

Riverblood provided three alternatives for the proposed Municipal Plaza. Staff is seeking any and all feedback from the Commission, residents and the business community. This invitation shall be extended via the city's website, and each commission, board and City Council will be asked to engage as well. In the end, the park space may look and function like one of the concepts presented, a hybrid of the three – or something quite different. There is no timeline per se, however a buyer may be found for the land adjacent to the park(s) and a park development plan may be crafted that is synergistic with the new residential or commercial land use.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated Staff will continue to assimilate all comments on parks and public spaces within The COR – and it is Staff's recommendation for Commissioners to have discussions with residents, friends and neighbors on these planning endeavors, and share the feedback with Staff, within or aside from the regular Commission meeting.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood showed the location of the Municipal Park. He provided a drawing of the Current Master Plan of the area.

Concept 1 – To include a water feature with a large open field. This would provide an opportunity to have a tree lighting with the planting of a tree. This concept would be 1.8 acres.

Concept 2 – This would be a different, more rectangular shape and more linear. There would be a green connection with the lake feature. A water feature may be at the entrance of the park. This would include a promenade, forest walk and a prominent entryway.

Concept 3 – This concept would include a woonerf & commercial edge, fountain, iconic tree and open field and entryway. There would also be a shared street that could be closed to motorized traffic at certain times.

The request for public input for Municipal Plaza would be done in conjunction with the lake feature. These concepts will be placed on the City website for resident review and comments.

Chair Bennett thanked Mr. Riverblood for the presentation and stated he likes all three concepts. He stated he likes the idea of a water feature.

Commissioner Trappen stated he likes Concept 3 with the shared street and also likes the open space in Concept 1.

Vice Chair Barr stated she likes the interaction with the nearby restaurants and businesses. This would be a great way of connecting the parks and trails within the City.

Chair Bennett stated he also likes the shared road concept. He has seen that elsewhere and it works well. He especially likes the way Concepts 2 and 3 tie into the other features within the COR.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated these concepts will be shared with potential developers and costing will be done. Park Dedication fees will be one funding source for the Municipal Park. Grant funding may also be available.

Commissioner Trappen stated this would be appealing to future businesses and developers in this area.

Nine students from Elk River High School were present at the meeting and welcomed to make remarks on the concepts.

Megan Hetterick stated she likes Concept 2 and 3

Morgan Shryock stated Concept 3 is her favorite as she believes parks should go along with the area. She sees benefits of the other concepts also. More restaurants are needed in the area.

Hanna Ganru stated she would like to see this in Ramsey and she would be willing to put tax monies toward it.

Megan Hetterick stated she liked the elevated picnic area in Concept 2. She seems it would be more family oriented.

Cole Moening stated he likes in Concept 3 the transition from stores to the park is more graduated.

Ethan Nangle stated he likes Concept 3 with the shared street and would be a beneficial to residents and businesses nearby. It would draw people to the park.

5.3 Strategic Plan Update/Review Resident Survey Results

City Administrator Kurt Ulrich provided an update to the Commission of the Strategic Plan process. This is the reason the Resident Survey was done to be included in the strategic planning effort. He reviewed a PowerPoint presentation including the Vision, Mission and Goals/Imperatives. He reviewed financial stability showing Total Property Tax Levy. The Bond rating for the City is AA+. A stable tax rate has been maintained. A certificate of achievement in financial reporting for 2013 was received and noted this is the 20th consecutive year. There has been a continued emphasis on economic development. A connected community will begin with the interchange on Highway 10. There is an effort to reduce access points along Highway 10 to Anoka. This would help the flow of traffic. An effort for Smart, Citizen-focused Government with Collaborative Processes. Some economic development examples were the old municipal center, the 167th/47th business node and Armstrong West Planning/Future Business Park Planning. An Effective Organization where the City adopted and implemented Vision, Mission, Goals and Action Plan. A balanced scorecard for accountability and staff positions aligned with priorities. Four different areas reviewed are Fiduciary Perspective, Customer/Stakeholder Perspective, Internal Perspective and Learning and Growth Perspective.

Chair Bennett thanked the City Administrator for his update. He noted the Park and Recreation Commission feels like a part of the process.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed during the 2013 City Council Strategic Planning process, discussion ensued related to initiating a resident surveying process. Generally speaking, survey results would benefit the City in a wide range of applications. However, relating to the Strategic Plan specifically, a resident survey allows the City to clearly analyze organizational performance measurements; including, the City's Strategic Plan balanced scorecard.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the City Council selected a "Third Party Mail" survey method for a regular resident survey program; and directed Staff to select a broker to complete said work. The National Research Center from Colorado was selected and authorized a set of survey questions/survey format. On November 12, 2014, the City Council received the preliminary report and authorized the preparation of the Final Report.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided the survey results:

Community Livability Report – This is intended to be an easy to read/follow comprehensive overview of survey results. This specific document is based on all comparisons nationally. The National Research Center designs this document to be stand alone and intuitive. Included in the report are answers to a set of standard questions and also custom questions. The survey also includes a conclusions section.

Dashboard Summary of Findings – This is intended to provide a quick and condensed version of National Citizen Survey results outlined in the Community Livability Report.

Technical Appendices – This document includes all technical survey information (scientific data), raw survey results and all materials utilized. This document also includes a local benchmarks/comparisons section to Minnesota and western Wisconsin cities.

In conclusion, Ramsey residents enjoy a high quality of life, Ramsey's Economy is an important focus area for the community and Residents feel safe in Ramsey.

Chair Bennett stated the survey is full of great information and the Commission will continue to utilize it when discussing Parks within the City.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood reviewed the following:

Mississippi Skyway – Preliminary Engineering – The preliminary engineering was done at the end of December.

Winter Recreation in Ramsey – The rink season started a week early then due to warm weather was closed for an extended period. This has been the slowest rink patronage he can remember. There are groomed cross-country trails at Rum River Central Regional Park.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Vice Chair Barr, Commissioner Fyten, Mobry, and Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Chubb.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.