

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on April 9, 2015, at the Council Chambers, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Vice Chair Bridgett Barr
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten
 Commissioner Thomas Mobry
 Commissioner Jon Trappen
 Commissioner David Troy

Commission Members Absent: Chair Shane Bennett (Excused)
 Commissioner Richard Chubb

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Barr called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

No one appeared to address the Commission

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2015

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2015.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Converting the Oak Savanna Area Landfill from Restricted to Passive, Public Use

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed that, following the decades of the “Anoka” landfill receiving waste from garbage haulers around the Anoka County area, the “dump” was closed in the 1990’s under an agreement between Waste Management and the City of Ramsey. The landfill was subsequently declared a Superfund Site, and the ownership transferred to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) – with the responsibility of capping the landfill to prevent infiltration of water. Additional water wells were drilled around the perimeter of the site for both monitoring and also to remove the pollutants that had already made their way into the groundwater.

The contaminated groundwater is primarily contained to the area under the land owned by MPCA. The landfill will need to be managed for near-perpetuity to maintain the systems that prevent or limit pollution. This management plan is titled the Closed Landfill Use Plan, Anoka-Ramsey Landfill and is attached for Commission review. The first attachment provided is titled Open Space Area and is the subject of this case.

A unique feature of the land owned by the MPCA is the Oak Savanna area in the southwest portion of MPCA’s holding that is most visible from the intersections of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive. Under the Closed Landfill Use Plan, Anoka-Ramsey Landfill, MPCA has determined that passive, public use of the Oak Savanna area would be consistent with the Closed Landfill Restrictions, and not be detrimental to the MPCA charge of protecting public health and safety.

While MPCA will not sell or bequeath the Oak Savanna to the city, they will lease the site with certain conditions. The first step in considering this is to ascertain the Park and Recreation Commission’s position on the value to the public this site may have as unique open space, and for certain, passive uses to be determined.

Staff recommends that the Commission recommend that City Council direct Staff to explore options and partnerships in obtaining a lease for the Oak Savanna site and develop a long-term plan for its management as a unique and valuable natural resource in the community.

Anoka County Parks has managed the area for invasive plants and this would need to be continued. Mr. Riverblood mentioned some of the low impact uses that could be developed.

Vice Chair Barr stated it would be nice to utilize the land that would normally be not used. Mr. Riverblood stated one concept he had recommended in the past would be a warming house, sliding hill cross country ski trails and a couple sheets of ice at Alpine Park—the ski trail could ‘loop’ through the Oak Savanna area.

Motion by Commissioner Mobry, seconded by Commissioner Trappen, to recommend that the City Council direct Staff to explore options and partnerships in obtaining a lease for the Oak Savanna site and develop a long-term plan for its management as a unique and valuable natural resource in the community.

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

5.02: Consider Park and Recreation Commission Outdoor Meeting Schedule

Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood reviewed for many years, the Park and Recreation Commission have held regular meetings outdoors in the months of May through September (weather permitting). This provided the Commission an opportunity to inspect and comment on parks and projects as a group, and it afforded residents' access to the Commission on a neighborhood level. On the occasions of inclement weather, the Commission would hold the regular meetings at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. The purpose of this case is to confirm the Commission's desire for outdoor meetings in 2015 and, if so, what the locations will be.

Mr. Riverblood presented a partial proposed schedule with an opportunity noted in brackets as a rationale – if the Commission agrees to continue meeting in parks for the summer.

May: Elmcrest Park (Potential playground review and selection)
June: Woodland Green Park (Inspect drinking fountain installation)
July: Mississippi River Trail (Location to be determined)
August: Central Park
September: The Draw (proposed Park Patron Picnic)

Mr. Riverblood noted after the Commission decides where the meetings will be held, their locations will be published in the Ramsey Resident newsletter and on the web.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Highlight Development Projects for which Park Dedication shall be cash (general information) – Harvest Plat area and new apartment construction.

Trott Brook Trail – grant submittal for boardwalk east of Variolite Street. Grant was submitted on the due date.

Recreation offering in May – “Learn to Kayak” – Partnership has been developed with an outfitter to provide this program. Article will be in the City Newsletter.

May Football Booster Day – 31st year and 3,900 volunteer hours contributed to date. This will be Saturday May 16th for the Anoka High School Football players to volunteer.

Sponsorships available for The Draw Summer Event Series. The Lions have made a contribution and will be at the event each week to offer beer. ARAA will be making a contribution.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.