

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on October 15, 2015, at the Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present:      Chair Pro Tem Thomas Mobry  
   Commissioner Richard Chubb  
   Commissioner Jon Trappen  
   Commissioner David Troy

Commission Members Absent:      Chair Shane Bennett  
   Commissioner Bridgett Barr  
   Commissioner Andrew Fyten

Also Present:                              Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
   Park and Recreation Intern Zack Ellsworth

**1.      CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pro Tem Mobry called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

**2.      CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.      APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:    Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 13, 2015.

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

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: 2015 Summer Event Series Recap**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed The Draw 2015 Summer Event Series kicked off with the City of Ramsey's own RJM Distributing and Killebrew Root Beer on June 11<sup>th</sup> and continued through the summer ending with the Park Patron Picnic on September 3, 2015. Commission feedback or comments are requested on the update. Mr. Riverblood reviewed the sponsors in 2015 that helped cover the full cost of the events throughout the season. Park and Recreation Intern Zack Ellsworth presented additional detail on the successful 2015 season at the meeting.

The series events included: Roadhouse Blue, Shane Martin, Highbrow and the Shades, Two Hicks and a Chick, Bad Girlfriends, Rhino, Cherry Gun, Elvis Todd Anderson, Church of Cash, Rubber Soul, Devon Worley Band, and Tumblin' Dice.

Mr. Ellsworth stated there was a record attendance this year.

June 11 – Roadhouse Blue Band – 225 people

June 18 – Shane Martin – 501 people

June 25 – Highbrown and the Shades – 431 people

July 2 – Two Hicks and a Chick – 457 people

July 9 – Bad Girlfriends – 568 people

July 16 – Rhino – 135 people 1 hour rain delay – 1<sup>st</sup> day of farmer's market

July 23 – Cherry Gun – 490 people

July 30 – Elvis Todd Anderson – 700 people

Aug 6 – Church of Cash – 154 people – only event rained out – cancelled

Aug 13 – Rubber Soul – 585 people

Aug 20 - Devon Worley Band – 510 people

Aug 27 – Tumblin Dice – 550 people

Sept 3 – Park Patron Picnic – 148 meals served

This was a 45% concert increase from last year. Total attendance 5472.

Mr. Ellsworth thanked all the sponsors.

Chair Pro Tem Mobry asked if there was any feedback on the Farmer's Market from the concert attendees.

Mr. Ellsworth stated he notice quite a few people went to both Farmer's Market and the concert.

Mr. Riverblood stated the Ramsey Foundation looks for input on the concert series. They are in the process of setting acts for next year and obtaining sponsors.

Commissioner Chubb asked if the sponsor covers the total cost of the groups. Mr. Riverblood stated the Foundation needed to put in \$3000 to help cover the total cost of the groups of \$13,000 the amounts not paid by the sponsors. The City Council may use some of the charitable gambling funds to help cover this.

Mr. Bill Kingston asked how much the City paid for the concerts. Mr. Riverblood stated the EDA sponsored the concert when Allina was honored for receiving the Business of the Year award. This is also an economic development piece bringing people into the community. Parks maintenance staff did mowing of the area.

The Commission thanked Mr. Ellsworth for his work on the Concert Series.

### **5.02: Recommend Acceptable Park Dedication Resolution for Remaining Northfork Development; Case of Northfork, Inc.**

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the purpose of this case is to review the August 13, 2015 public workshop examining the potential of some or all of Outlot E, MOORS ADDITION (associated with the North fork Subdivision) to be developed as a park owned and maintained by the City as a community park. Outlot E is approximately 37 acres. The Outlot is identified as Future Park in the Master Park and Trail Plan and is zoned as Park.

There are two components to consider relative to Park Dedication for Northfork, Inc.

1. The City approved a deferred Park Dedication contribution for previously approved portions of Northfork. The deferred contribution equates to two (2) acres. Additionally, there was within a previous agreement the acknowledgement that in any future land use, the City would receive at a minimum, from NorthFork Inc. a 50' corridor from Alpine Drive to the existing city park approximately 800' feet to the north.
2. Northfork Inc, desires to construct, or sell for development, approximately 21 to 31 new lots on undeveloped portions of Northfork's holdings on either side of Alpine Drive. The land equivalent for Park Dedication appears to be at least 3.35 acres.

The City has been approached by Northfork, Inc. to consider accepting land dedication to satisfy Park Dedication and trail development fees in lieu of a cash contribution. Northfork, Inc. desires to dedicate all or a portion of Outlot E, MOORS Addition. The purpose of this case is to react to this request.

Staff recommends pursuing discussions with Northfork, Inc. on solutions and alternatives for satisfying existing Park Dedication obligations (land dedication), and future Park Dedication (land or cash) together with Trail Fee satisfaction – clarifying that, the goal would be to arrive on a public land configuration suitable for a community park southeast of Lake Itasca.

Staff further recommends that no future plat be approved for areas presently owned by Northfork, Inc. until the existing Park Dedication obligation(s) are reconciled with the proposed community park southeast of Lake Itasca, shown conceptually by the City's Zoning Map.

Mr. Riverblood reviewed the current Community Park system within Ramsey. He indicated their locations on a map. He reviewed the parcels being considered for development on a map. Staff requests Commission consensus that staff with Council direction secure additional property for Lake Itasca Park keeping in consideration the current trail—and expanding the existing designated park area, south to Alpine Drive.

Commissioner Troy asked about the outstanding obligation, and Park Dedication structure. Mr. Riverblood stated for every new lot that is created there is Park Dedication fees due (\$2600) per dwelling unit, if not land. If a new subdivision is completed within the community, additional demand for park resources is needed—and this is the nexus between demand and park and trail development costs. Accordingly, the trail fee is \$700 for each developed residential dwelling unit. The need for park land and trail infrastructure is very high. Since Northfork has developed over 20 years, and a private park was developed, two acres of park land was deferred and ‘owed’ for Park Dedication.

Commissioner Trappen asked who maintains the private park, and Mr. Riverblood replied it is owned and maintained by the Homeowner’s Association.

Motion by Commissioner Chubb, seconded by Commissioner Troy, to recommend to City Council that, negotiations occur between Northfork Inc. and the City on solutions and alternatives for satisfying existing Park Dedication obligations (land dedication) and future Park Dedication (land or cash), together with Trail Fee satisfaction – with the goal being to arrive on a public land configuration suitable for a community park southeast of Lake Itasca and that no future plat be approved for areas presently owned by Northfork Inc. until the existing Park Dedication obligation are reconciled with the proposed community park southeast of Lake Itasca shown conceptually by the City’s Zoning Map.

Further discussion: Mr. Bill Kingston, President of Homeowner’s Association, asked to see a map of the Lake Itasca area. He showed the golf course and the private park along with the city-owned parkland. He showed the 37 acres that borders the city-owned parkland. The developer’s requirement for park dedication is 5 acres. The residents of the City of Ramsey would still not have access to the lake. He is concerned who will pay for 37 acres and he as a taxpayer does not want to buy 37 acres of land.

Mr. Riverblood stated the motion this evening is not to decide what land to purchase specifically. This would be subject to negotiation. The current city-owned parkland is only accessible by the trail. Commissioner Trappen asked if a goal would be to have access to the lake. Mr. Riverblood stated one point is that the trail is in place, and additional land to access the lake may be viewed as unnecessary unless there were to be activities on the lake. If you are standing on the lakeshore, you cannot see the water due to the dense vegetation. Lake access could ultimately be part of what is required. This motion is just to allow investigation of all the options and alternatives. Mr. Riverblood stated the acquisition of the land would not be paid by the general fund in terms of property taxes.

Mr. Kingston stated he does not want to see development stopped until this park decision is made. Mr. Riverblood responded the Commission recommends items to the City Council. The City Council makes the ultimate decision. Staff is trying to provide solutions for all the moving pieces under one examination. Tentatively this will be discussed at the City Council Meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. That would be tentative upon staff and Mr. Peck having successful discussions on a number of outstanding issues. Commissioner Trappen noted if the two parts of the motion are looked at together, it may eliminate some of the time.

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

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

Mr. Riverblood stated last weekend was Super Soccer Saturday. The MYSA Boy's soccer playoffs were held at Elmcrest Park a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Chubb asked for an update on the pedestrian bridge over Highway 10.

Mr. Riverblood stated there is no new funding on the horizon.

Acting Chair Mobry suggested it be included in the newsletter to encourage residents to use the trails for bicycling instead of riding on the shoulders.

Mr. Riverblood stated safety recommendations were recently published within the Ramsey Resident.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

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