

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on October 12, 2017, in the Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Brandon Sis

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Jon Trappen
 Commissioner Charles Tchuinkwa

Also Present: Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Sis, Bayer, Leistico. Voting No: None. Absent: Trappen, Tchuinkwa.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Leistico wanted to amend the meeting minutes on page 8 first paragraph to change ‘the Boy Scout are a good place to start’ to ‘the Girl Scouts are a good place to start’.

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes as amended:

1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 10, 2017.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Leistico, Sis, Bayer, Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Trappen, Tchuinkwa.

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Goals and Objectives-Comprehensive Plan, and Park Master Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the purpose of this case is to move the goals and objectives along. He is asking the Commission for any new goals or strategies. Any draft goals that are supported by the Commission by consensus or motion tonight will be titled draft and made available for the October 26, 2017 Comprehensive Plan open house at City Hall at 5:30pm.

Mr. Riverblood started with page 6 of the June 8, 2017 meeting minutes listed in the agenda packet.

a) A comprehensive, balanced park and trail system consisting of large and small scale parks, active and passive parks, natural preserves, and recreation facilities.

Strategies:

1. Incorporate planned parks and trails into all new development where appropriate. Discussion: This reads well.

2. Design for connectivity with local and regional parks. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood suggested adding in description of greenways and trails.

3. Improve coordination of park and trail planning with City and adjacent communities. Discussion: Reads well.

4. Establish a regional trail along the Mississippi River. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood stated this has been established. This is an opportunity to expand that to either call attention to the potential for Trott Brook trail being a regional trail. Also, exploring the discussion of a pastoral element of the Mississippi River trail as we have it mapped out on our plans. The regional trail would follow the most direct route east and west in Ramsey as we have it today.

5. Develop a Trott Brook Trail Corridor being a regional trail.

6. Explore providing pedestrian access from the Mississippi River to the north side of Highway. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood would like to firm it up and we are beyond exploring this. Revise strategy to explore partnerships for funding and operations of the pedestrian bridge.

7. Design trails with a variety of surface appropriate for different uses. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood stated this is not useful to have listed under a strategy because it does not really address much. The Commission agreed with this as well. Strike this.

8. Seek out alliance and partnerships with non-profit and governmental agencies to assist in securing funding and other resources that will assist in implementing the park and trail plan. Update – Rec programming. Discussion: Chair Bennett said he would like the language included for recreation programming because that is what we have been hearing from the community.

9. Improve quality of existing parks, through careful planning, continued maintenance and adequate funding. Discussion: This works well.

10. Explore options for an additional community park. Discussion: This one is good.

11. Where appropriate, consolidate existing parks to improve quality and provide more efficient service. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood would like to strike this. Chair Bennett agreed and stated opportunities are going to be few and far in between and the use and the mix we have right now is pretty good.

Mr. Riverblood stated this review of the strategies is a good example of how we want to clean this language up for clarity.

Chair Bennett wanted to continue with the review of the Strategies listed under b) A system of safe parks and trails to see they fit the purpose and intent of the system of safe parks and trails.

Strategies:

1. Locate trails where appropriate in greenway corridors and natural areas. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood stated this might not fall under the category of safety related; this can be more descriptive. Chair Bennett stated unless the thought process was on roadway options. The 2030 plan had some specific language in it around the width of trails and this may be where this is playing in a little bit.

2. Promote Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED: Mr. Riverblood felt we naturally already try to do that and recommended to leave this as is.

3. Where appropriate, use existing power/utility easements for the trail system. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood stated this is fine and recommended to leave this as is.

4. Provide adequate signage and pavement marking to warn automobile traffic of park and trail traffic. Discussion: Chair Bennett feels this language is pretty close to a good strategy. Mr. Riverblood recommended a standalone one to address shared streets.

5. Explore use of pedestrian-activated signals, continuous flashing signage, and mid-block crossing where safe and appropriate. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood asked the Commission to be mindful this is expensive. Chair Bennett stated the intent of Strategy 4 is to capture signage and things in a safe manner, calling out those components that are expensive, in a separate sub bullet. The strategy is to look for cost effective ways to ensure the safety through signage and signals, so we don't have to call out the specifics in which types.

6. Minimize at-grade crossing of trails and roads and other interactions between trail users and automobiles, with underpasses or overpasses. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood stated this is a worthy goal and worthy strategy but expensive.

Park and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood continued the discussion with c) A variety of park facilities and programs that meet the life cycle needs of residents.

Chair Bennett felt this is important in this section because as part of the comprehensive planning sessions and public engagement that is something many people talked about, parks for all, amenities for all, programming for all. It is important to capture that language.

Strategies:

1. Work with the schools and community organization to plan for athletic fields and facilities that will accommodate the growing community. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood said this makes a lot of sense.

2. Explore options for a revenue source for recreational facilities and programming. Mr. Riverblood agrees with this.

3. Study the need for a Community Center that offers a variety of recreation uses for all age groups. Discussion: Mr. Riverblood agrees with this.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the following Commission/Staff Input items:

- Native Landscape Renovations: Alpine, Sunfish Lake Parks and Monarch Trail
- Greenway Planning – Resilient Communities Project
- Trott Brook Trail, boardwalk project

Commissioner Sis wanted to add to the Commission Input that in talking to residents in Brookfield they are excited for the trail and are asking when is it going to be here.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
Engineering & Public Works Administrative Assistant