

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 12, 2017, at Ramsey City Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Matthew Logan
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Andrew Fyten
 Commissioner Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Jon Trappen
 Commissioner David Troy

Commission Members Absent: None

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Trappen, Sis, Bayer, Fyten, Logan, and Troy. Voting No: None. Absent: None

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 10, 2016

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Fyten, Sis, Bayer, Logan, Trappen and Troy. Voting No: None. Absent: None

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Review Concept Plan for Pearson Farm: Case of Capstone Homes

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the purpose of this case is to provide preliminary feedback for a future plat currently known as Pearson Farm. The development will be a combination of single family homes and townhomes. Mr. Riverblood indicated the location of the proposed sub-division on a map. He showed the proposal for the sub-division. The southern portion of the development would be developed first. There would be approximately 98 townhomes and over 300 single family homes within the entire proposed plat, after all the phases would be complete.

Three private open spaces were indicated on the map. These private open spaces are proposed by the developer to be available for community use. These open space areas are typically not included in Park Dedication. Mr. Riverblood showed examples of another Capstone subdivision in photographs of homes having their own small play structures, and summarized the City's policy relative to pocket parks. The greenway corridor, which has been previously discussed with the Commission, was indicated on a map. Staff feels that Park Dedication may include improvements to the Lake Itasca Park. A public meeting regarding the development of Lake Itasca is suggested to be held sometime this summer. Park Dedication proceeds could also be used in some of the other park areas including the water-centric park. A splash pad has been requested by the residents during the public engagement process leading up to the acquisition of the land for Lake Itasca Park and would be consistent with a water-centric park within The COR.

The 4 acres to the north near Puma Street and Alpine Drive may also be considered as part of the Park Dedication agreement. These 4 acres are currently owned by the City. A larger greenway could extend from the COR along the wetland to Lake Itasca. An underpass for pedestrians is being considered under Alpine Drive. The cost for this is estimated to be \$400,000 - \$500,000. This would provide safe access for residents. Wildlife also typically uses these types of underpasses. The Mississippi River Trail is also along Puma Street, and could also have some landscape improvements associated with the trail (which is also United States Bikeway #45) as part of the Park Dedication agreement. Agreements could be made with the developer for either cash or construction of amenities.

The Park and Recreation Commission will be addressing access to parks and trails (geographic's and design), as well as specifics pertaining to how the Park Dedication and Trail Fees are satisfied within the future Development Agreement. Staff is forwarding at this stage to introduce the concept early. The Developer is asking for initial feedback on the concept before starting the official review process.

Chair Bennett thanked Mr. Riverblood for his report. Chair Bennett noted he is part of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for the City. He noted this plan would be key to the

Comprehensive Plan components. He reviewed the goals of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. There has been more use out of the larger community parks rather than the pocket parks. The community has indicated they would prefer the larger community parks.

Commissioner Sis referred to the underpass on Alpine Park and asked if there is data available indicating this would be helpful to the wildlife. Mr. Riverblood stated there has not been a large number of wildlife deaths along Alpine Drive. This would not be the primary reason for the underpass. The primary purpose would be safety for young people. A signalized intersection would cost the same amount of money but crossing under the road may be safer. Commissioner Sis was concerned the property would be isolated as far as emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Logan noted there are many options for this area and appreciated bringing in the residents to the planning process. The developer would like to receive Park Dedication credits for the open spaces areas but the Commission must balance between past practices, policies and how the whole community would be in the best served. Mr. Riverblood stated the water-centric park features are costed out today in excess of \$6M. The splash pad would be a community-wide destination and accessible to families that may live in the project being proposed.

Chair Bennett stated the consensus of the Commission is that where staff is looking to with respect to the allocation of Park Dedication proceeds appears in line with where the Commission would like to see, including not investing in pocket parks.

Commissioner Sis asked about a diagonal greenway through the City serving a dual purpose to increase bike traffic to the City parks. Mr. Riverblood stated the trail and greenway would not be redundant and would serve residents for different purposes. They would be complimentary and have completely different character.

Commissioner Troy asked if an over-pass would be a substitute for the under-pass. Mr. Riverblood stated bridges are much more expensive than box culvert under-pass. Roughly speaking, a bridge would cost ten times more than an under-pass. All the preliminary engineering has not been researched to see if the grade would allow for an under-pass. Mr. Riverblood stated a sketch plan will come back before the Commission.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided the following updates:

Update on the Comprehensive Plan Process – Chair Bennett reported the City has established an ad-hoc Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee. Once every ten years, the City is required by Minnesota Statute 473 to update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Aside from the statutory obligation, the City's existing plan has become dated in terms of policies, demographics, and land use vision. In order to freshen the City's vision for land use, including systems such as transportation, housing, economic development, natural resources, and parks/open space to name a few, now is an appropriate time to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Steering Committee has met twice so far on the project to set the stage and agree on a

framework moving forward. The primary next step in the process is to finalize a working draft of the City's land use Vision Statement and Future Land Use Map.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will begin discussing a new format for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Currently the plan comprises of a future improvement/planning map alongside the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is an important financial planning tool for the City and is intended to be complimentary to the Comprehensive Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission along with the City Council desire to bolster the Comprehensive Recreation Plan into a more thematic and visionary document, looking more long term and comprehensively at the community's recreation needs, rather than simply a chronological financial planning tool. The Steering Committee is development a list of values for the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan consists of ten – eleven chapters.

Mr. Riverblood stated the comprehensive plan process is all about public engagement and all meetings are open to the public. He encouraged residents to get involved if desired to plan for what the community will look like in the future. Mr. Riverblood reported since the last Comprehensive Plan was done much has been accomplished. He will outline the accomplishments and improvements made since the last Plan. A larger Park and Trail Comprehensive Plan will be developed and will include showing what the neighborhood parks will look like in the future. Work on the Comprehensive plan will continue through 2017.

Commissioner Troy asked which peer cities the Ramsey Comprehensive Plan is sent to and Mr. Riverblood stated Ramsey's neighbors. Ramsey also reviews the neighboring communities Comprehensive Plans.

Update on 2017 Recreation Opportunities – Mr. Riverblood stated the City Council has deemed Recreation Opportunities a strategic initiative for the City. He referred to the City website under the Park and Recreation Calendar area. He reviewed some of the noted events. Ideas for recreation programming should be suggested to City Staff by residents.

Commissioner Troy asked if the events listed are included on the facebook page. Mr. Riverblood stated announcements will be regularly posted on the City's facebook page.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Logan, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett, Commissioners Troy, Logan, Bayer, Fyten, Sis, and Troy. Voting No: None. Absent: None

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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