

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on February 8, 2018, at Ramsey City Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Andrew Andrusko
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Charles Tchuinkwa
 Commissioner Jon Trappen

Commission Members Absent: None

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Mark Riverblood
 Anoka County Parks Planner, Karen Blaska

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Chair Bennett apologized for the late start to the meeting due to technical difficulties. He also noted that the agenda will have to be changed as a result of the ongoing technical difficulties.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Chair Bennett explained Items 5.02, 5.03, and 5.04 will be tabled until the next Park and Rec meeting, due to the aforementioned technical difficulties.

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Trappen noted that the first page of the January 11th meeting minutes indicates he was absent, though he was in fact present and accounted for as part of the voting record.

Motion by Commissioner Trappen, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the following:

Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2018 as amended to reflect Commissioner Trappen's presence.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Recommend to City Council Support for the Realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood recalled that the project purpose is realignment of the 26-mile long regional trail that runs through the center of Anoka County. He noted that the City Council is ready to vote on this realignment proposal next Monday, February 12th, so he recommended the Commission proceed with hearing Ms. Blaska's presentation, even without the visual slides (unavailable due to technical difficulties). He added that the slides will be available at the Park and Rec Commission's March meeting, so Commissioners will then have the chance to review the images not available tonight.

Mr. Riverblood introduced Karen Blaska, long-time parks planner for Anoka County.

Ms. Blaska provided a verbal overview of the 26-mile-long regional trail, noting that about 15 miles of the trail is actually built. The piece under consideration tonight is in the City of Ramsey, along Center Street. The draft master plan highlights the proposed change. She provided a verbal description of the proposed change, which would result in a much safer way to cross Highway 10. Currently the trail runs south along Ramsey Boulevard down to Highway 10. The proposal is to remove that designation and switch it to Center Street.

Commissioner Sis asked if the change presents any financial impacts to the City.

Ms. Blaska responded there are no financial impacts of the realignment at this time.

Mr. Riverblood noted there is no monetary impact negatively, but probably a favorable one related to the City's ability to obtain infrastructure grants relative to The COR. It is favorable in all ways. This really is a favorable development also for the places the public will become connected to (retails, transit, restrooms, and other facilities). In the March meeting, the Commission will be able to see the images that show the intersection of Ramsey Blvd and

Highway 10. At such point as the pedestrian bridge happens over Highway 10, it will be safe, seamless, well-integrated systems of public facilities.

Commissioner Andrusko asked how this change will align with the National Park Service's plan for this area.

Ms. Blaska noted the National Park Service has established Alternative Transportation nodes that tie to public transportation. Presumably, Ramsey will be included in the next round of establishing nodes. Thus, the realignment plan ties nicely into the NPS's transportation program.

Chair Bennett expressed support for the potential changes, specifically as it relates to connectivity to the parks, leveraging the proposed pedestrian bridge, moving the trail off a less-usable area that does not connect certain elements of Ramsey. He concluded by stating this is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Bayer asked about the timeline for the City and the County, and the starting point of the alignment project itself.

Mr. Riverblood stated the trail along Bunker Lake Blvd is in place. The new section of Center Street has been constructed with a 10' wide sidewalk in anticipation of the realignment of the County Trail. Case No. 2 will fill in the blanks relative to that question, wherein the Water-Centric Park space is built. The municipal pass-through area next to City Hall is in place. Very little of this is not ready to go or will not be very soon.

Commissioner Tchuinkwa asked when the project will begin.

Mr. Riverblood responded the project will begin as soon as the City receives the money. He added that the City plans to apply for a grant in June 2018 for the pedestrian bridge.

Chair Bennett noted there will be an informational open house about this topic on February 12, 2018.

Mr. Riverblood encouraged the public to attend the open house or send in written comments about the project.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Tchuinkwa, to support the realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail as proposed

Amendment offered by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Andrusko, to specifically include Resolution No. 18-039, a resolution supporting the realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail.

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

~~5.02: Recommend 2018 Parks Capital Improvement Project(s)~~

~~5.03: Update on the Schematic Design Process for Municipal Plaza and the Water-Centric Park~~

~~5.04: Select Winning 2017 Photo Park and Trial Category~~

Due to technical difficulties, these agenda items were not addressed.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided an update on rink usage, which has been down considerably from previous years, with no real explanation. There have been cold periods, but that is not unusual. He encouraged the public to utilize the last few weeks of the ice skating season.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr
TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.