

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on February 14, 2019, at Ramsey City Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

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

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 6:35 p.m. He also welcomed Councilmember Musgrove to the Commission meeting.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2018.
- 2) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 10, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Trappen, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes from November 18, 2018, and January 10, 2019, as presented.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Approve Promotional Magazine for Proposed Parks in The COR

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided an overview of the proposed promotional magazine. He noted this is an iteration of the park plans that the Commission has been working on for a number of years, and the community has been working on for 15 years, with respect to the downtown area. The magazine is intended to communicate the plans to the public, and also to serve as a reference point for the Capital Improvement Plans each year. It will also be a communication device to investors in The COR, both commercial and residential. He then highlighted each page of the magazine page by page, commenting on the priority of balancing the rural character of the community alongside responsible urban growth. He also highlighted the importance of walkability, street furniture, pedestrian scale buildings, and connect-ability throughout, as well as the larger greenway system that connects the whole community. The parks in The COR are intended to serve residents throughout the community, not just those who live in proximity to downtown.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood continued that the many millions of private dollars invested in The COR are directly related to the significant public investment so far. He discussed how the various iterations evolved into the final design of the Municipal Plaza. He also focused on the prioritization of natural resources. Parking was also discussed, particularly that parking density may increase in future years when it becomes necessary. Surface parking is vacant much of the year, so it is important not to use up valuable land for parking. The impact of Ride Share on parking needs is under consideration as well. He also pointed out the outdoor hearths, which will allow for an extension of the shoulder seasons.

Chair Bennett stated it is great to see the concept drawings all put together in a cohesive document.

Commissioner Leistico asked whether this magazine will be mailed to all residents.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated it could be mailed to each address, but it is probably not an effective way to get the message out, due to the high cost of production and mailing. If the Commission approves this as a communication piece, it is important to bring it to the Planning Commission as well as the Economic Development Authority. When the Commissions have recommended it, he would like Council to acknowledge its existence, and then it can be broadcast far and wide throughout the community.

Vice Chair Sis asked if there will be a specific call to action or if it is just an informational piece.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded the primary purpose of the magazine is to demonstrate that the City listened to the community and that the park plan reflects what has been heard over the years. This will also illustrate to the community that the CIP is aligned with what has been voiced by residents. This document is much easier and more attractive to read than the CIP.

Commissioner Bayer stated this is a great starting point.

Motion by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the Promotional Magazine for Proposed Parks in The COR.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Park & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reported on the photography contest, highlighting the many outstanding submissions. This item will be taken up again at the March Commission meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr
TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.