

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on October 10, 2019, at the City Council chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Trixy Barnes
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Russell Bayer (excused)
 Commissioner Jennifer Shoemaker

Also Present: Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 Recreation Specialist Abby Proulx

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the September 12, 2019, Park and Rec Commission meeting minutes as presented.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: 2019 Summer Event Series Review

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood pointed out that this summer was the ninth year of the concert series, and staff will be planning something special for the tenth year next summer. He then invited Park Recreation Specialist Proulx to review the concert series.

Recreation Specialist Proulx provided an overview of the summer concert series, which included such performers as Roadhouse Blue, Darlene and the Boys, Rhino, Revolution, Skirts and Skins, Free and Easy, A Girls Journey, The Holy Rocka Rollaz, Church of Cash, and The Crown Jewels for last concert of the year.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented on the many local partnerships and sponsors who make this concert series a success each summer.

5.02: Consider the 2020 – 2029 Parks Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted the Park and Recreation Commission will provide a recommendation to the City Council. Each project under the Commission's charge then comes forward as an individual project with more specificity on things like operational costs and any implications for other aspects of the organization. Most projects are funded from the Park Trust Fund, which is funded through new developments in Ramsey.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood contrasted the Supplemental CIP plan, noting those are the projects not programmed specifically within the next ten years. But tonight's presentation will focus primarily on those projected to happen within the next ten years, and more specifically, for 2020. The Elmcrest Park and the Draw monument and sign are the first projects under view. Ford Brook Park playground renovation is also under consideration. The Commission previously met with residents in that neighborhood, and those discussion and priorities will be culminating into an RFP. There is a placeholder budget of \$50,000-\$70,000 for Ford Brook. Also, on the list are an observation boardwalk at Lake Itasca, trail connections, park development in The COR, a dog park shelter at Alpine Park, Northfork north trail connection, Amphitheater lighting and audio enhancements, and aeration for Sunfish Lake and the Draw.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood also clarified that new park improvements are usually funded by the Park Trust Fund, whereas maintenance is provided through the General Fund. Occasionally the lawful gambling funds can be used when youth are the primary audience of the park improvements, as is the case with Ford Brook.

Commissioner Leistico asked about park development within The COR, specifically whether there may be advantages to breaking up the dollar amount and the time frame.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that staff is working on a staging and phasing plan for the park improvements in Ramsey's down town. He noted it is important to work on the splash pad, which takes a lot of project development. Another element of the staging plan is identifying funding sources. A lot of development in The COR has provided park development fees that will be re-invested. Private development follows public investment downtown.

Commissioner Sis asked about the Mississippi observation deck.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that the land around it is vacant. He does not know the exact zoning around it, though it is some level of residential.

Chair Bennett commented this list includes a really good mix of projects and also includes important elements like monuments and wayfinding. The equipment at Ford Brook is definitely needed. He expressed appreciation for the list for the 2020 projects, stating it is a good combination of diverse elements needed in the City.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood thanked Chair Bennet for that observation and responded that the geographical spread and the diversity make this a good plan.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to move ahead with the CIP plan as presented.

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

5.03: Recommend Cash Contribution Rates for Park Dedication and Trail Fees for 2020

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained how the Park Dedication and Trail Fees are gathered and noted the modest increase that occurred last year. Because there have not been substantial increases in development activity nor substantive changes to the CIP, staff is recommending no change in any park or trail fees for 2020 over and above the 2019 rates.

Chair Bennett noted staff has illustrated in the past how the Ramsey fees compare to other communities of similar size. This fee structure allows Ramsey to remain competitive and not stifle appropriate development.

Commissioner Sis asked if the current fees would allow all the CIP projects to be built.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that is not possible, as the full CIP would be over \$30 million. There are usually \$2 or \$3 million available in any given year. However, there is a diversity of opinions on the level of development in Ramsey, and the park dedication fee rate attempts to balance out the competing aspects of thoughts on how Ramsey develops. It is a complex topic. The fees allow Ramsey to remain competitive and also attract quality development, while serving the needs of both existing residents and new residents.

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to recommend to the City Council maintaining each of the 2019 cash Park Dedication and Trail Fees for 2020, to include the residential per unit fees - and including the per acre rates for the commercial/industrial subdivision of land.

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

5.04: Introduce Recreation Policy Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he and Recreation Specialist Proulx will be working on a draft recreation plan, which will be presented to the Commission no later than January.

Commissioner Barten asked about Ramsey staff working with other communities, as it relates to Park and Rec programming.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that back in 2013/2014, staff identified what was currently available in terms of programming and then looked at what is available within approximately a 15-minute drive. Staff is looking for low-hanging fruit and also to partner with any and all manner of organizations. One goal is also to partner with private businesses to help them do what they do best.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided updates on park shelter reservations.

Recreation Specialist Proulx also provided several updates on programming this fall including the photo contest, a star watch party, and line dancing,

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr
TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.