

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday, July 9, 2020

6:30 pm

Rivers Bend Park - North Shelter, 5000 142nd Lane NW
(access at 142nd Avenue and Waco Street)

In the event of inclement weather, meeting will move to City Hall

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
- 5. Commission Business**
 1. Review 2020 Parks' Capital Improvements
- 6. Commission/Staff Input**
- 7. Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 07/09/2020

Submitted For: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

By: MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Purpose/Background:

Approve the following meeting minutes.

1. Public Works Committee meeting minutes dated June 11, 2020.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

n/a

Recommendation:

To review and approve meeting minutes dated June 11, 2020.

Action:

Motion to approve meeting minutes date June 11, 2020.

Attachments

Minutes

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 07/02/2020

Reviewed By

MaryJo Warner

Date

07/02/2020 03:41 PM

Started On: 07/02/2020 10:19 AM

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on June 11, 2020, at Emerald Pond Park, 6000 142nd Avenue NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Matthew Guck
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Justin Loss

Commission Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Council Liaison Nadine Heinrich
 Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

Dan Schultz, 14345 Tungsten St NW, stated that he lives close to the park and walks through it most days. He stated that in the past 14 years he has seen positive improvements and some elements that he questions. He questioned the City's long term plan the vision of all the parks and for maintenance. He pointed out maintenance that is needed at the park related to overgrown plants and the pergola. He stated that the pond is also in need of dredging because of the sediment that has accumulated. He commented that it appears the City is too busy building new parks and forgetting about the maintenance needs within the existing parks. He also highlighted some of the improvements that he has enjoyed at Emerald Pond Park and other parks in Ramsey.

Chair Bennett thanked the resident for his input. He explained that the purpose of holding the summer meetings in different parks is to gather information from residents on the specific parks.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that he has ongoing communication with Mr. Schultz and appreciates his input. He provided details on the stormwater ponds and their intent, noting that the pond accumulates vegetation over time. He commented that there is not a system or plan for dredging stormwater ponds. He agreed that there is a need to cut

back some brush. He noted that he has had difficulty finding a contractor to repair the pergola and provided an update on the water feature improvements. He noted that the City is short on workers and has struggled to find enough seasonal workers to even apply for the temporary positions. He stated that he noticed the irrigation system at the park is apparently not working at present and noted that staff will follow up with that repair.

Mr. Schultz suggested that perhaps the City reach out to residents around the parks that would perhaps be willing to volunteer or contract to complete the repairs.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that there are volunteer opportunities within the parks but noted that some repairs are more complicated and require a contractor.

Chair Bennett noted that park maintenance is an ongoing discussion and thanked the resident for his input and feedback.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 21, 2020.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Leistico, Barnes, Sis, Bayer, Guck, and Loss. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Approve Planning Framework for Highway 10 South Planning Area – Riverstone South

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the purpose of the case is to provide high level direction for the subject property and establish a policy framework that will assist the future developers in providing sketch plans that would meet the guidelines. He noted that the Planning Commission reviewed and approved the framework at their last meeting. He stated that this Commission will focus on the park and trail elements and could also provide comments on tree preservation. He advised that the Environmental Policy Board will also provide

input on tree preservation. He stated that once all the Boards and Commissions have provided their input, the City Council will review the document. He provided details on the existing conditions and adjacent property uses and identified future land uses. He provided details on the road connection that would be proposed for Bowers Drive and other elements discussed by the Planning Commission including density transitioning. He stated that Capstone is proposing to build a similar development to that of Riverstone, north of Highway 10, on the parcel.

Councilmember Heinrich referenced the connection to Bowers Drive and asked if there would be a barricade rather than an actual road.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that there was a neighborhood forum held online to gather input. He stated that the Planning Commission further discussed the topic at their meeting the previous week and it was his understanding that the neighborhood was generally okay with a connection that is more narrow, at 20 feet, rather than a full width street. He stated that although barricades were discussed previously, he did not believe that idea moved forward, as the additional connection will provide a benefit in terms of public safety and public works.

Chair Bennett asked if the road connection could be used by vehicles and pedestrians or whether it would only be used by public safety and public works.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the Mississippi River Trail will not go through that location. He stated that he believed the recommendation of the Planning Commission was that the connection would be a narrow street that vehicles could travel on. He did not believe that many others, outside of those on Bowers Drive, would choose to use the connection. He stated that the City has the wherewithal to site parks and communicated that with the developer, noting that the intent would be to preserve the beautiful wooded area on the site within the parks area. He asked if the Commission also believes that the park should be within the wooded area and not in the open area of the development. He stated that it is the opinion of staff that a small neighborhood park would be warranted in this development. He noted that the wooded area could provide the theme for the park, using the suggestion of a tree fort concept.

Commissioner Leistico asked the number of homes that would be within the development.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that there is not yet a count of the homes, noting that the intent is to establish this framework that the developer could use to develop their sketch plan.

Vice Chair Sis stated that he would agree that the wooded area is an asset and would support locating the park in that area.

Commissioner Guck asked the size of the wooded area.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the wooded area is between 16 and 20 acres. He stated that he has communicated to the developer that the park would only need to be about one acre. He noted that it is likely that when a development plan comes forward, additional tree preservation may be required along the 50-foot buffer. He stated that staff

will work with the developer to site the park around specimen trees in order to preserve the highest quality trees.

Commissioner Bayer asked if there is a location within the development that would not only fit with the intent to preserve high quality trees, but also connect to the trail system to allow residents from other neighborhoods to access the park as well.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that there would be sidewalks along each street in the subdivision. He noted that the Commission could recommend a trail in lieu of a sidewalk to connect to the park. He noted that type of recommendation would be helpful at this point, as the desire is to provide broad direction that the developer can incorporate into their sketch plan.

Commissioner Barten stated that if one acre or even five acres were used for park, would the remaining treed area be preserved or removed.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that the area for the park would typically receive Park Dedication credit. He stated that the developer also desires a zoning amendment, which provides the City with additional leverage. He explained that he would want to see the developer provide the land for the park without receiving Park Dedication for that. He stated that instead the trees included in the park area would count towards the tree preservation requirements. He noted that arrangement would allow the City to use the Park Dedication funds to build a creative park. He stated that because the developer is requesting a zoning amendment, there is opportunity to negotiate for things the City would desire such as preservation of the trees, park land, and Park Dedication fees that could be used to build a creative park. He commented that the developer could submit a sketch plan as early as August, with plans to potentially begin construction in spring of 2021.

Chair Bennett referenced an adjacent area that could be developed in the future adjacent to the Riverstone subject property and asked for input on the vision for park use in that area.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood referenced the grey area that is not part of this proposal, noting that there is a public/private park desire identified within the Comprehensive Plan along the river. He noted that the neighborhoods could be connected through trails to allow residents to access both proposed park areas.

Chair Bennett stated that he would agree with the ability to preserve the largest number of trees possible, focusing on the higher quality trees for the park location. He stated that perhaps the park be located somewhat closer to the connection to Bowers Drive as that would provide the ability to connect the different neighborhoods with trails.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood identified the areas with the higher quality trees, per the tree inventory work completed thus far and his walk through of the property.

Councilmember Heinrich asked if there was feedback from the Bowers Drive neighborhood related to a park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he was unsure if the park element was discussed as the focus seemed to be on density transitioning, tree preservation and the connection road. He stated that there will be more opportunities for public comment as this moves forward.

Chair Bennett noted that some elements will be dependent upon the goals of the developer, as empty nesters would have different desires in a park.

Councilmember Heinrich commented that it seemed the developer desired to place high density units near the solar array with the larger lots adjacent to Bowers Drive.

Chair Bennett agreed that would be a logical layout.

Commissioner Sis referenced the 50-foot buffer and asked if that would remain wooded.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the 50-foot area is owned by the City and the City would maintain control rather than an HOA, so that area would remain wooded.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to recommend that the City Council adopt the document as an official, yet nonbinding policy document, together with park and trail recommendations to guide future conversations pertaining to Riverstone South as discussed by the Commission.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood highlighted upcoming recreation programming and modified summer events.

Commissioner Bayer commented on the dog park and stated that it would be helpful to have tables in the shade for residents.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that he will look into it to determine if there would be a seating option within the proposed new addition to the off-leash area.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Meeting Date: 07/09/2020

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Review 2020 Parks' Capital Improvements

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to review the various proposed park and trail improvements within the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and 'Check in' on the ultimate implementation of each project. Staff will verbally highlight each potential project and offer opportunities and relevant aspects of each project for the year ahead.

Notification:

The 2020 City-wide CIP was adopted following a formal Public Hearing in December of 2019.

Observations/Alternatives:

Of the ten, 2020 projects to be reviewed, the Ford Brook playground renovation is largely completed. Additionally, a Ramsey resident attended the Commission's March meeting to advocate for a particular improvement(s) for the off-leash area of Alpine Park. Her summary memo to this affect is attached. At the June meeting, the Commission discussed meeting at Alpine Park in October to fully consider that proposal.

Funding Source:

Each Capital Improvement work sheet specifies the corresponding funding source.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends a brief discussion of each 2020 project—for the purpose of a consensus understanding on the expected timeline and relevant particulars of implementation of each capital improvement, in the coming months.

Action:

Based upon discussion

Attachments

2020 CIP projects

Resident proposal

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 07/02/2020

Reviewed By

MaryJo Warner

Date

07/02/2020 03:41 PM

Started On: 07/02/2020 03:08 PM

Proposed 2020 Parks Capital Improvements

Capital Improvement Program

2020 *thru* 2029

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

Project #	04-PARK-003
Project Name	Elmcrest Park & The Draw Entrance Monument & Sign

Department	Park Improvements
Contact	Unassigned
Type	Improvement
Useful Life	20 Years
Category	Park Improvement
Priority	2-New Addition (High)
Status	Active

Description	Total Cost \$80,000
Entrance signing for Elmcrest Park would consist of a substantial way-finding sign and associated landscape sited near the intersection of Quicksilver Street and 167th Avenue.	
For the Draw, the sign would function as a monument for the park name and also as a location to advertise upcoming events.	
Justification	
The 100+ acre Elmcrest community park may warrant an attractive entrance monument benefiting the park's prominence in the community. Additionally, there will be continuing events where many hundreds of out-of-Ramsey visitors will come to the city. The monument will function as a way-finding sign and also to remind visitors that they are in Ramsey.	
For The Draw, the monument would describe for the community the name of the park and amphitheater (a minor issue presently). Plus, if the advertising space was digital (versus posters), there could be a modest revenue stream from non-municipal sources.	
Note: The planning for this project may be an useful exercise in evaluating the costs of materials following the Design Framework relating to signs and monuments in the community.	

Expenditures	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Improvements Other than Building Cost	80,000										80,000
Total	80,000										80,000

Funding Sources	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Park Improvement Trust Fund	80,000										80,000
Total	80,000										80,000

Capital Improvement Program

2020 *thru* 2029

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

Project # 06-PARK-011
Project Name Observation boardwalk - Lake Itasca

Department Park Improvements
Contact
Type Improvement
Useful Life 20 Years
Category Park Improvement
Priority 2-New Addition (High)
Status Active

Total Cost \$60,000

Description

A boardwalk or pier in the southern portion of Lake Itasca will allow trail users and visitors to the Lake Itasca Community Park to view the lake which is mostly obscured by cattails.

Justification

The Lake Itasca is an important resource along the Mississippi Flyway for migratory waterfowl and home to many types of wetland fauna. Providing access to the open water portions of the lake will provide birdwatchers and trail users a relaxing rest point and destination along the Lake Itasca Trail.

Additionally, lake access was cited as desired by several participants in the public engagement process as part of the acquisition of the Lake Itasca Community Park.

Expenditures	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Improvements Other than Building Cost	60,000										60,000
Total	60,000										60,000

Funding Sources	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Park Improvement Trust Fund	60,000										60,000
Total	60,000										60,000



Capital Improvement Program

2020 thru 2029

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

Project # 06-PARK-019
Project Name Trail Connections

Department Park Improvements
Contact
Type Improvement
Useful Life 20 Years
Category Park Improvement
Priority 5-Opportunity/Unfunded/Placeholder
Status Active

Description

Total Cost \$910,000

This project would include the installation of one or more of the several high priority connections linking segments of the city's trail system as opportunities and funding become available.

Examples:

- 142nd Ave, east of TH#47, north to Xkimo Street (Est \$80,000)
- Armstrong Boulevard Trail from Central Park to Trott Brook (Est \$800,000)
- North Commons Neighborhood Trail Link at Zeolite Street - Projected for 2020 (Est.\$30,000)
- Boardwalk parallel with Trott Brook, west of Variolite Street (Est \$110,000)

Justification

The increase demand in use of the city's trail system compells the continued development of the trail system.

Resident requests for improved trail system connections are reflected in priority projects. Trails will also move people off high speed roadways and improve transportation and safety - an objective that is aligned within the strategic goal of a Connected Community.

Expenditures	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Improvements Other than Building Cost	30,000		80,000	200,000	400,000	200,000					910,000
Total	30,000		80,000	200,000	400,000	200,000					910,000
Funding Sources	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Park Improvement Trust Fund	30,000		80,000		200,000						310,000
To Be Determined				200,000	200,000	200,000					600,000
Total	30,000		80,000	200,000	400,000	200,000					910,000

Capital Improvement Program

2020 *thru* 2029

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

Project # 08-PARK-005
Project Name Park Development in The COR

Department Park Improvements
Contact
Type Improvement
Useful Life 20 Years
Category Park Improvement
Priority 2-New Addition (High)
Status Active

Description

Total Cost \$1,350,000

This proposed capital improvement represents additional park development in The COR, beginning in 2020. The project may be grading, landscape restoration at Municipal Plaza and/or first phase development of The Waterfront to include a splash pad.

Justification

A splash pad continues to be requested by residents, and mass grading for The Waterfront park would generate fill for areas of The COR the city desires to sell.

Note: See also the public improvements considered as part of the completion of Pump House #3 elsewhere in this plan.

Prior	Expenditures	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
150,000	Improvements Other than Building Cost	1,200,000										1,200,000
Total	Total	1,200,000										1,200,000

Prior	Funding Sources	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
150,000	Park Improvement Trust Fund	1,200,000										1,200,000
Total	Total	1,200,000										1,200,000

To: Mark Riverblood, Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Fr: Sue Brockman, Ramsey Resident

Sub: Expansion of Alpine Park Off-Leash Dog Park

Da: February 5, 2020

Proposal for the Expansion of the Alpine Park Off-Leash Dog Park

This proposal is to expand the park to the West of the existing fence line up to the wetlands and the West edge of the soccer field.

The South side would be using the existing fencing that is the border of the landfill acreage.

The North side would need to have fencing added that would extend from the furthest west baseball diamond across the South end of the soccer field.

The West end would need to be fenced.

Gates added as necessary.

A future addition would be lighting towards the West end.

Alpine Park Off-Leash Dog Park
Expansion Proposal 2/5/2020



Reasons for Expansion

- Reduce confrontations amongst dogs, because the park is just large enough for a dog to feel it is their territory.
- Increase options of entering the park to avoid the “Welcoming committee” of dogs at the gate- which is intimidating for some owners and dogs.
- Dog owners walk the perimeter of the park for exercise and to keep their dogs moving to help avoid confrontations.
- Increased running room for larger dogs and high energy breeds, could give a more natural separation of sizes.
- It would help reduce some of the wear on the turf of the existing park.