

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on July 9, 2020, at the Rivers Bend Park – North Shelter, 5000 142nd Lane NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Matthew Guck

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 6:37 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2020.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Review 2020 Parks' Capital Improvements

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided background information on the capital improvement plan and the ten recreational districts. He noted that within each recreational district there should be an opportunity for recreation along with trails that connect to other destinations. He reviewed the priority trail system and provided details on the system. He noted that the proposed improvements for 2020 are geographically spread throughout the City and include a variety of different projects.

Councilmember Heinrich referenced North Commons and Brookside Elementary that could be added to the map.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained that the purpose of the Capital Improvement Plan is to be a planning document that identifies future projects along with associated operation and maintenance needs that will arise in the future. He explained that each individual project or improvement would still come forward at its time to receive consideration, review, and a decision on approval. He reviewed some of the signage included in the plan which could move forward in the next year or so in conjunction with other projects, such as a monument sign that could be replaced during a road improvement project. He stated that the Ford Brook project is wrapping up and distributed a document identifying the actual costs thus far. He noted that \$85,000 was authorized for the project and as of date the \$51,100 has been spent. He stated that remaining is the installation of the shelter which could bring the total to \$66,000. He asked if the Commission would be interested in proceeding with a sign at Ford Brook with the remaining funds. He noted that the Ford Brook sign could be packaged together with the other signs proposed to move forward in the next year.

Chair Bennett asked if the intent would be to bundle together the Rivers' Bend and Ford Brook signs.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that he would recommend bundling that sign together with Rivers Bend and the Hwy 47 entrance monument sign.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that perhaps a rock boulder sign would be a good fit for Ford Brook.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that he does like those type of signs because they are durable. He stated that there was previous consensus from the Council related to standardized signage in the parks. He stated that perhaps both options could be brought forward to the Council and perhaps there would be consensus that the rock boulder signs would be okay for smaller parks.

Chair Bennett agreed that perhaps the rock boulder become the standard for the smaller parks, as those types of signs already exist in many parks and the more standard sign could be used for the larger, more community type park destinations.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided details on the proposed observation boardwalk and related pedestrian and parking improvements at Lake Itasca Community Park.

Councilmember Heinrich asked if Ramsey would pursue partnership with Anoka County for the canoe system, similar to Sunfish Lake.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided details on the funds used for the Sunfish Lake project and did not believe that Anoka County had not to accepted additional funds SHIP from the legislature for that purpose. He continued to review projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan including a trail, the Mississippi River observation deck and other trail segments. He noted that some of the items included in the plan are opportunity driven and will be reviewed when development occurs. He reviewed details on Municipal Plaza, the dog park, North Fork trail connection, amphitheater lighting, and aeration for Sunfish Lake and The Draw.

Chair Bennett thanked staff for the update, noting the challenges that 2020 has brought including whether projects could be completed. He commented that there is a good diversity of projects for 2020.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed the consensus of the Commission to pursue a smaller sign for Ford Brook because there was available funding within the budget for that project. He stated that he will be working with the Community Development Department on the different signage projects in order to package them together and hopefully complete in conjunction with the Bunker Lake Boulevard and TH 47 road project in fall of 2021.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood summarized the memorandum that was distributed from Recreation Specialist Proulx. He highlighted virtual art events and art in the park programming. He stated that art in the park reduced the number of participants from 40 to 12 in order to meet social distancing requirements and advised that the available spots filled immediately. He provided an update on Emerald Pond and Rivers' Bend shelter maintenance. He stated that if desired, the Commission could meet at Alpine Park later this year.

Councilmember Heinrich commented that there was a good discussion at the June 23rd meeting related to Riverstone South. She stated that an idea came forward at the meeting where the developer could consider additional tree preservation that would remain natural rather than developing a park. She stated that she has provided her notice of resignation to the City Council as her family will be moving out of state. She stated that it has been a pleasure to work with the Commission and to serve the community.

Chair Bennett commented that the Commission appreciates the representation that Councilmember Heinrich has provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Loss asked if a determination was made on Happy Days.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that the Council discussed the topic and will continue the discussion related to modified events that could move forward. She noted that the larger events, such as the parade, could not occur but smaller events, such as the car show, could occur with social distancing.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the case at the next Council meeting will recommend canceling Happy Days. He noted that the official cancelation was needed in order to reschedule the entertainment for the following year. He reviewed some of the event ideas that are being considered for a modified event.

Commissioner Loss suggested a medallion hunt type event that could be completed with social distancing and could even occur in future years.

Commissioner Bayer commented that he attended the drive-in movie and thought that was a successful event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.