

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on October 8, 2020, at the Alpine Park, 6600 Alpine Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

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.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park Commission Minutes of Regular September 10, 2020 Meeting.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Introduce 2021 Capital Improvement Planning, Including Proposed Improvements to Alpine's Dog Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood presented background information on the capital improvement planning process. He recognized that not all the 2020 projects were able to be completed in part because of COVID impacts, and highlighted some of the planned 2021 improvements including suggested improvements to Alpine's Dog Park.

Sue Brockman, 15631 Ramsey Boulevard NW, stated that she is a dog owner and frequent user of the park. She obtained input from several users of the dog park and provided details on the suggestion she brought forward to expand the fenced in area.

Chair Bennett thanked the resident for her suggestion and the extra work she puts in at the dog park.

Commissioner Loss asked if people often use the repurposed bus shelter.

Ms. Brockman replied that the shelter is used when the weather is not as pleasant, but it can only hold a few people.

Commissioner Sis asked if the resident believes that there is a need for the shelter to be expanded or whether the funds budgeted for that purpose would be better used for expansion.

Ms. Brockman stated that she has never heard a need for it when discussing the topic with other users of the park. She commented that the higher priority for users of the park seems to be increasing the size of the fenced area.

Chair Bennett commented that people love the dog park and want more of it. He agreed that the shelter comment has not come up as much since the repurposed shelter was added. He commented that the park typically has at least five or six users at any given time of the day.

Commissioner Loss asked if the City has another shelter that could be repurposed and added to the expanded area.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the City does not have another shelter and did not believe that duplicating that in another location would be desired. He commented that lighting may be helpful. He stated that if the Commission recommends expanding the park, he would also suggest adding LED or solar lighting along the north side.

Ms. Brockman commented that many users continue to use the park after daylight savings time when it begins to get dark around 5 p.m.

Chair Bennett commented that it appears that everyone seems supportive of at least looking into the cost.

Commissioner Leistico stated that she gives higher priority to things that citizens have invested their own time in and bring forward, especially when they are realistic in terms of cost.

Chair Bennett stated that it would appear the next step would be to direct staff to continue to move forward and determine the most efficient and effective manner to expand the dog park and possibly add lighting.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that staff will look into the potential cost further and bring it back to the Commission at its November meeting. He stated that he will also provide a more detailed map with gate locations and perimeter, noting that one triangle area proposed to be included would be left out because of its use for sports.

Commissioner Sis asked if there would be interest to separate areas for small and large dogs.

Ms. Brockman commented that small dogs tends to “out boss” and out run larger dogs and noted that in her discussions with users she has not heard that request.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he has asked users that question as well and has not heard much support for that idea. He stated that some people come with both small and larger dogs and like to have them together.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to explore the expansion of the dog park including estimated costs.

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

5.02: Recommend 2021 Park Development Fees and Rates and Charges

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that each year the Commission makes a recommendation to the Council related to parks and trails fees. He stated that staff recommends that there be no increase in the park dedication or trail fees for 2021. He noted that modest increases were last made in 2018.

Chair Bennett commented that the rates are still competitive and sometimes even better than other communities and would support keeping the rates steady.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Loss, to recommend to City Council to maintain Park Dedication and Trail Fees at the existing rates, for 2021, 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 Sis, Loss, Barnes, Barten, Guck, and Leistico. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that a summary of programming was included and highlighted an upcoming event, A Day at the Farm at the Pearson's Farm, that the City is a partner in. He stated that fall soccer and football is currently occurring. He stated that it appears that the skating season will go forward.

Chair Bennett commented that Commissioner Bayer has submitted his resignation and thanked him for all of his efforts and work on the Commission over the past several years.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.