

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on February 11, 2021, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood 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  
   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 Sis, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was performed:

Commissioner Barten	aye
Chair Bennett	aye
Commissioner Guck	aye
Commissioner Leistico	aye
Commissioner Loss	aye
Commissioner Sis	aye

Motion carried.

#### **4. APPROVE MINUTES**

##### **4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated January 14, 2020

A roll call vote was performed:

Commissioner Barten	aye
Chair Bennett	aye
Commissioner Guck	abstain
Commissioner Leistico	aye
Commissioner Loss	aye
Commissioner Sis	aye

Motion carried.

#### **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

##### **5.01: Affirm 2020 Photo Contest Winners**

Recreation Specialist Proulx commented that these photos are used in different manners on the City website and in different publications. She stated that this is the fourth year hosting the contest and the largest number of entries, noting over 100 submissions. She reviewed the entries for the categories of industry and commerce, life in Ramsey, nature of Ramsey, and parks and trails. She thanked all of those that entered the contest and reviewed the recommendations for first place, second place and runners up for each of the categories along with the grand prize winner.

Chair Bennett recognized that there were many great photos and congratulated all of the winners. He stated that this program continues to grow with twice as many entries as the previous year.

Commissioner Sis stated that it is great to see the diversities in nature and around the community.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Guck, to affirm the 2020 Photo Contest winners.

Further discussion: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that there is a wide range of resident participation and this is always a fun contest and report.

A roll call vote was performed:

Commissioner Barten	aye
Chair Bennett	aye
Commissioner Guck	aye

Commissioner Leistico        aye  
Commissioner Loss            aye  
Commissioner Sis              aye

Motion carried.

**5.02: Consider Potential Expansion for Loral I Armstrong Delaney Central Park**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the consensus of the Commission following the last discussion was to direct staff to ghost plat the property owned by the church that could include possible expansion of the park. He stated that staff sketched the area using R-1 zoning, as that is the current zoning for the property and recognized that there are many ways that land could be subdivided. He reviewed three possible scenarios and highlighted some of the differences between the sketches and the benefits that could be created for each scenario. He stated that the minimum land donation for park dedication of a residential development would be ten percent but could be higher in the case of higher density or under a PUD and therefore park dedication could provide the City with the land necessary to expand the park in the future. He reiterated that the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association has stated that in the near term there is not a need for outdoor fields and instead desire additional indoor space for volleyball and basketball and that if changes are made to outdoor fields the association would request conversion of a field to artificial turf which would have less impacts by use and weather.

Riverblood continued, that he recognized that the configuration of the church parcel is not fully known as this time, therefore the layout of a future development and land available for Park Dedication could obviously vary from the scenarios reviewed. He noted that there would be options that would present cost-savings and shared parking options for the park and church and the church seems open to continuing discussions and potentially bringing a land developer onboard to review options for synergy and more comprehensively review the development opportunity. He stated that the Planning Commission is holding a work session tonight and will discuss residential land use for that area in a similar planning activity for the site. He stated that there are five scenarios the Commission could consider related to possible purchase of land and/or expansion of the park which were included in the case. He stated that staff supports options three, four or five noting that option five would seem to be the most straightforward. He stated that this will go forward to the City Council as soon as March in order to secure more formal direction for the church as it looks towards the future.

Chair Bennett stated that it seemed there was consensus that the City would not need the full amount of land, nor would that purchase seem logical in terms of expense. He stated that it would seem that looking for a land and/or land plus cash Park Dedication contribution when the parcel develops.

Commissioner Leistico referenced the flex-use athletic fields stated that perhaps that language would be too specific for what may be needed in the future in terms of park needs.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained that flex-use is the largest size and that is why that was suggested as it would provide the most flexibility. He stated that this would not lock the City into any certain type of park/land use.

Commissioner Sis stated that he would support some of the ideas proposed that explore the shared use between the church and community need for parking and therefore supports option five which would be the minimal expansion of park land with additional opportunities for shared use facilities and parking.

Chair Bennett stated that he also agrees with that comment as this would help to solve the issue of parking and leave room for potential expansion. He agreed that he would want to see flexibility as well.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that when the additional 65 stalls were added a few years ago, that did help to alleviate some of the issues with parking on that site. He recognized that there could be pros/cons to connecting the parkway to the residential development that will be further explored throughout the planning process.

Commissioner Loss asked the difference between options four and five and whether that difference would be that Park Dedication is negotiated prior to subdivision.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the options are very similar to each other and provided additional explanation on the difference between the two options. He provided additional details on the pros and cons of locking in an agreed upon amount of Park Dedication prior to a subdivision request being presented. He stated that no matter the action of the Commission tonight, that option could continue to be discussed and the ultimate decision would be between the City and the landowner as discussions continue.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Loss to recommend to City Council that, the future subdivision of land east of Loral I Armstrong Delaney Central Park include a park expansion consisting of a minimum of two new areas for flex-use athletic fields, additional public access, and parking, to be considered as fulfilling Park Dedication obligations.

A roll call vote was performed:

Commissioner Barten	aye
Chair Bennett	aye
Commissioner Guck	aye
Commissioner Leistico	aye
Commissioner Loss	aye
Commissioner Sis	aye

### **5.03: Tennis Court Maintenance and Consider Adding Pickleball Courts**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided background information on the typical tennis court maintenance schedule. He stated that the City has continued to receive requests for pickleball noting that staff previously striped pickleball over the tennis court at Central Park and has noted pickleball having much more activity. He stated that staff recommends completing the typical court maintenance along with conversion of two tennis courts into six pickleball courts. He displayed the proposed design and conversion, detailing the work that would

be necessary. He stated that the court maintenance would have a cost of \$28,028 along with an additional expense of \$16,939 for the creation of the pickleball courts.

Chair Bennett recognized the increased popularity of pickleball and stated that the courts that have been converted are well used. He agreed that it would make sense to complete the conversation at this time when completing the maintenance in order to create dedicated courts.

Commissioner Leistico asked if there are other pickleball courts in the parks.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that this is the only location at this time. He noted that they can continue to look at options for conversion in other parks.

Commissioner Leistico commented that this seems to make sense and follow the demand in use.

Commissioner Sis asked if this maintenance activity was included in the budget and whether the conversion would be an additional expense.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood explained that the maintenance would be funded through the Capital Maintenance Fund while the conversion would be funded through the Park Trust Fund as that is essentially a new park improvement.

Motion by Commissioner Barten, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to recommend to City Council, the reconditioning of courts at Central Park in the amount of \$28,028 to be funded by the Capital Maintenance Fund, and adding 6 pickleball courts at the park for \$16,939 with proceeds from the Park Trust Fund.

A roll call vote was performed:

Commissioner Barten	aye
Chair Bennett	aye
Commissioner Guck	aye
Commissioner Leistico	aye
Commissioner Loss	aye
Commissioner Sis	aye

Motion carried.

## **6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

No additional comments.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*