

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on March 11, 2021, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Justin Loss

Commission Members Absent: Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Matthew Guck

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 6:33 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

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 Meeting dated February 11, 2021.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that each year the Commission appoints a Chair and Vice Chair for the year.

Chair Bennett opened the floor for nominations.

Motion by Commissioner Barten, seconded by Commissioner Loss to nominate Shane Bennett as Chair and Brandon Sis as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission.

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

Chair Bennett thanked the Commission for the position and commented that he is sure Commissioner Sis will be appreciative of the continued appointment as Vice Chair as well.

5.02: Approve Chapter 3 of the Park System Plan – Recreation Programming and Partnerships

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the Commission has reviewed this draft document at multiple times throughout the creation to provide input that has been incorporated by staff. He stated that Chapter 3 focuses on recreation programming and partnerships.

Recreation Specialist Proulx stated that the Commission last reviewed this content about one year ago and the draft has been updated with more up to date information related to programming. She stated that the intent is to create the foundation for recreation through programming and partnerships and further explained the purpose of the chapter noting that it was designed to evolve with the City. She stated that staff anticipates that Ramsey will continue to grow and therefore they kept that in mind when designing the chapter in order to continue to build on that momentum. She stated that the chapter is broken up into six sections and provided a brief overview of the content within each section. She provided additional details on the fee setting framework within section five as that has been developed since the last review. She also provided examples of where different programming opportunities would fall within the fee setting framework. She stated that staff developed a Ramsey RecPass program and provided examples of how that could work for both residents and non-residents. She noted that there are a few grammatical changes and images that will be added but otherwise the content of the draft is complete and welcomed input.

Chair Bennett thanked staff for the presentation noting that he likes the balance of the visual aspects with the flow and believed that this draft is much improved from previous renditions.

Commissioner Leistico commented that this is well done and liked the graphics added. She thanked staff for the substantial amount of information they compiled.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood applauded Recreation Specialist Proulx for the informative graphics and improved flow of the document.

Chair Bennett agreed that the graphics help to keep readers interested as they go through the chapter.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that under community health there is a factor of youth diversion. He noted that if children are productive and learning life skills, it helps to reduce mischief and other negative activity that can reduce the quality of life community wide.

Commissioner Barten agreed that this helps to highlight the benefit of recreation and the parks program as a whole.

Recreation Specialist Proulx thanked the Commission members for their input throughout this process.

Chair Bennett noted that comment that additional graphics may be added along with grammatical changes but believed that the Commission could entertain a motion to accept Chapter 3.

Motion by Commissioner Loss, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to approve Chapter 3 of the Park System Plan.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided an overview of the winter skating season, noting that it was reduced in length because of warmer weather conditions both in the beginning and end of the winter season.

Commissioner Barten commented that there were also three weeks in February which made it difficult to skate because of the cold temperatures and therefore felt the numbers were okay for the shortened season length.

Recreation Specialist Proulx highlighted upcoming programming including the Monarch Pollinator Series, Virtual Art, and Birding Hike. She stated that staff is also working on a series for the Bluebird Recovery Project, Yoga in the Park, the Elmcrest Art Fair, and Summer Concert Series. She provided additional details on the event staff is working on for the re-naming dedication of Central Park.

Chair Bennett stated that staff mentioned that there could be potential for the Commission to hold its April meeting in conjunction with the re-dedication of Central Park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the event is tentatively scheduled for April 8th, which is the regular Park Commission meeting date. He stated that could be an opportunity for the Commission to hold the meeting at Central Park to conduct its regular business and participate in the dedication event.

It was the consensus of the Commission to support that suggestion.

Chair Bennett asked if the Summer Concert Series information is available on the City website and whether it would be sent to residents.

Recreation Specialist Proulx confirmed that staff just drafted the flyer this week and will be sharing that information with the public through multiple platforms.

Chair Bennett stated that he recently received the *Ramsey Resident* which includes the map of the park and trails system. He encouraged residents to save that portion of the mailer as it provides easy access to the City parks and trails system.

Commissioner Loss asked when the dog park expansion would occur.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he will meet with the contractor the following week and anticipated that would be complete prior to the May Commission meeting. He noted that the goal would be to hold the May Commission meeting at Alpine Park in order to conduct a dedication at that time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.