

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on May 12, 2022, at Alpine Park, 6600 Alpine Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent:      Commissioner Dean Olson (excused)

Also Present:                              Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
   Recreation Specialist Marla Martinez-Flynn

**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**

Chair Bennett requested to change the order of Item 5.1 and 5.2.

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

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

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

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

Commissioner Sis noted that he watched the City Council meeting and up to \$8,000 was added an additional line item for a gaga pit. He noted that was in addition of what was approved by the Commission.

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

- Park and Recreation Commission minutes dated April 14, 2022

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

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.02: Affirm Park Dedication for PACT Charter School**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that this item does not require action tonight. He noted that the applicant has submitted preliminary and final plat requests to the City, which staff is currently reviewing. He stated that the EPB and Planning Commission will be reviewing those requests at their May meetings. He noted that the Commission previously reviewed the land around Central Park to determine Park Dedication and ultimately it was decided that a parcel of land northeast of Central Park should be obtained to satisfy Park Dedication. He noted that would allow the expansion of ball field six to serve as an additional flex use field. He stated that the applicant's plans included a little under one acre of Park Dedication land in its sketch plan, which satisfies that recommendation previously made by the Commission.

Commissioner Barten asked if that Park Dedication would satisfy both parcels, or only the PACT site.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that was an astute question, and noted that would only be for the PACT site and additional Park Dedication would be due when the church develops the remainder of the parcel. He did not believe that land would be desired for Park Dedication in that scenario.

Chair Bennett welcomed any comments from the public.

Ron Lindenburg, 7600 163<sup>rd</sup> Lane NW, asked if the change in land use would change the access point at 163<sup>rd</sup> and Yolite.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that there has not been an additional access proposed from Yolite.

Commissioner Barten asked if the new flex field would be accessed from existing park access roads.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that access to the new field area would be similar to the access to field six.

Commissioner Walker stated that this request came before the Planning Commission less than 90 days ago and asked how all the engineering would have been done to get from sketch plan to

preliminary and final plat in that amount of time. He expressed concern about the wetlands and neighboring properties.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that there is concern with all the engineering, but there is a lot of people working on it because they would like to begin grading in August. He stated that staff will be reviewing those plans to ensure they are complete and noted that the Lower Rum River Water Management Organization will also be reviewing the plans. He recognized the wet conditions recently due to the large amount of rain.

A resident expressed concern with drainage because of the wet conditions in the area.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that does not fall under the role of this Commission. He recommended that the residents reach out to the developer to ask about more information on the ponds and water treatment.

### **5.01: Review Fitness Courses as a Potential New Capital Improvement Project**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood presented a concept for an element that is not currently included in the City's park and recreation system, nor within the Capital Improvement Plans.

Mike Basich of St. Croix Recreation commented that he has worked with the City on different recreation projects in the past. He provided information on Elevate which is a fitness recreation course. He also provided different cost options noting that the intent is to provide active, challenging, sports play activity targeted at people 13 plus years of age.

Chair Bennett stated that the Commission has desired adding unique elements to the park system and believed this would be a good concept if there was an update or new playground/park design. He agreed that the ninja warrior courses are gaining in popularity.

Commissioner Loss commented that his family will travel to parks and noted a similar park concept in another community that his family has visited. He stated that people love those types of opportunities and will travel to visit it.

Commissioner Walker commented that he would understand the reason to have the equipment at Elmcrest or Alpine as those parks are well used but would also wonder about placing the equipment in a lesser used park because it is not already busy. He stated that perhaps this type of equipment is placed in an underutilized pocket park.

Chair Bennett commented that this would be a tool in the toolbox and the Commission could consider this use when thinking of new playground ideas or equipment replacement. He noted that this could be a unique amenity that could draw people to a community park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that 18 to 20 percent of Ramsey's population is retired and that is why some of the ergonomic equipment seemed appealing as it would provide recreation and socialization opportunities for the older population.

Chair Bennett agreed that those pieces of equipment could be good to locate near senior living areas.

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

Recreation Specialist Martinez-Flynn provided an update on recent recreational events and programing. She also highlighted upcoming events and activities.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided additional information on the upcoming Art Fair. He commented that two residents were unhappy about playground equipment removal at a park.

Commissioner Walker asked if any resident were notified that the equipment was going to be removed.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that they did not as the density threshold for notification was not met.

Commissioner Walker commented that communication would have been an important step in that process.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided additional details on the policies related to playgrounds.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

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