

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on July 14, 2022, at The Draw park and amphitheater, 7401 Ramsey Parkway, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Justin Loss

Commission Members Absent: Chair Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Dean Olson
 Commissioner Brian Walker

Also Present: City Council Liaison Debra Musgrove
 Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood
 Recreation Specialist Marla Martinez-Flynn

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Sis called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

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 Minutes dated May 12, 2022

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Proposal for a Remote-Controlled Car Track at Alpine Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that remote controlled cars are increasing in popularity and a goal of the parks and recreation system is to have a variety of offerings for all residents. He stated that presently the remote-controlled vehicles are being used in the grass areas and a proposal has been made for a car track. He stated that staff agrees that Alpine Park would be suitable for this use and provided details on the proposed area.

Kevin McLain provided a layout of the proposed track which would not take up that much space. He stated that they would like to get kids and families involved as many kids in the area have remote controlled cars and this would be a place for those kids to gather.

Acting Chair Sis asked if there would be grading needed or whether the track would be constructed with volunteers.

Mr. McLain replied that he would love to see volunteers used. He commented that they would need dirt/clay to be brought in as the soil is mostly sand in this area. He noted that there are tracks in other communities nearby as this is becoming a more popular activity.

Acting Chair Sis noted that it would be nice to have the track as an amenity especially as a local business sells the equipment. He asked for details on maintenance.

Mr. McLain replied that he would organize a group to complete monthly maintenance but would have some concern with kids attempting to use four wheelers on the track and the damage that could be done.

Acting Chair Sis asked what would prevent four-wheeler activity.

Mr. McLain commented that he and resident Duane Gerdes that live nearby could police that activity.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that public works could make a sign stating RC cars only and no bicycles or other motorized vehicle use.

Commissioner Loss asked how many users could utilize the track at one time.

Mr. Gerdes replied that ten cars could race at once as proposed.

Commissioner Leistico asked if the courses mentioned in other communities are well used.

Mr. Gerdes confirmed that those tracks are well used.

Commissioner Barten asked if there is electrical available in the area and whether vehicles would need to be charged.

Mr. McLain replied that it would be nice to have access to power if available and water as well for wetting the track.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the cost for developing a water system to the site would be several thousand dollars.

Mr. McLain replied that he could bring water to the site when needed.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that he could follow up with Connexus to determine if an electric outlet could be added for little to no cost.

Acting Chair Sis stated that he is in support of doing a course at one of the parks, but it would not necessarily have to be Alpine.

Commissioner Leistico stated that she likes the location at Alpine Park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the Commission could make a motion to proceed with the development of a remote-control vehicle track and if there was a significant expenditure involved, it would need to come back to the Commission. He stated that it seems that there would be minimal cost, and this would not be a permanent improvement.

Acting Chair Sis commented that there are small parks like Titterude Park that would have utilities available and could perhaps create a nicer track amenity.

Councilmember Musgrove asked what would occur if the parking at Alpine needed to be expanded but recognized that there may be another park that could be more suited because of access to utilities.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director commented that he does also believe Titterude could be a great location.

Commissioner Barten commented that Titterude would also eliminate the adjacent skate park concerns.

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Barten to move forward with siting and investigating options for a remote-controlled car track in Ramsey and direct staff to find the most feasible location, bringing that information back for consideration.

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

5.02: Affirm and Update Policy Relating to Non-Programmed Activity as Part of the Summer Concert Series

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood explained how things have evolved since the summer concert series began in 2010 related to sponsorship and outside sellers. He stated that in 2014, the City developed a policy in attempt to control the unsolicited vendors that show up. He stated that recently the City Council has been reviewing policies and this seems like a good opportunity to update the policy.

Acting Chair Sis welcomed any comments on the draft policy. It was noted there were minimal changes. He asked whether they wanted to leave the door open for potential sponsorship in the future.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that the language would allow for one sponsorship at a time in The Draw and that advertising shall be limited to direct sponsors.

Motion by Commissioner Loss, seconded by Commissioner Leistico to approve the updated policy to Preserve Leisure and Quality of experience for Park Patrons.

Further discussion: Councilmember Musgrove asked for additional details on how the sponsorships would be determined. Acting Chair Sis clarified that City staff would handle that work. Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that additional clarification may not be needed within the policy and provided details on how the bands and sponsors are selected and negotiated.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Recreation Specialist Marla Martinez-Flynn provided an update and highlights of summer programming that has occurred thus far and those yet to come. She stated that next week, The Draw will feature Minnesota's largest inflatable water slide next week from 4 to 8 p.m.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided an update on playground replacement progress and resident involvement and contributions

Commissioner Loss noted a recent posting on social media where a resident that took the pickleball lessons is attempting to coordinate times for residents to play together.

Councilmember Musgrove congratulated Recreation Specialist Marla Martinez-Flynn noting that the Council recently approved an increase in her hours.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.