

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 12, 2023, 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
 Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Brian Walker

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Director 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

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated November 10, 2022

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Removal Without Replacement of the Flintwood Terrace Boardwalk

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the purpose of this case is to determine the disposition of a small 300-foot boardwalk which was constructed over the winter of 2004/2005. The boardwalk was well received and fulfilled the purpose of allowing people to enjoy the wetland. He stated that over the past few years the ice has shifted the boardwalk and broken it up. He provided photos showing the condition in disrepair. He stated that staff asked a contractor for the cost for disposal, which would be \$12,000 and with replacement, would be over \$100,000. He noted that the boardwalk could be removed at this time and rather than replacement, and potentially a similar amount of funds could be better used on another boardwalk project. He stated that staff recommends removal of the boardwalk.

Chair Bennett confirmed that there is existing trail which the boardwalk juts off and therefore removal of the boardwalk will not create a trail gap. He asked if there is a way to prevent this situation from happening again on future boardwalk projects.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that a floating boardwalk system may move with the ice, but this system was within the mud and therefore the boardwalk could not move with the ice. He stated that the issue they encountered with a floating boardwalk was straight-line winds actually over-turning the boardwalk.

Commissioner Loss asked the original cost of construction for the boardwalk.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he is unsure of that cost but noted it would have been much lower because of the decreased material and labor costs at the time.

Commissioner Olson commented that because of safety this needs to be removed.

Chair Bennett agreed that the boardwalk is in such a state of disrepair that it needs to be removed. He commented that there could be alternative solutions if they want to do something in the future.

Commissioner Leistico agreed the boardwalk should be removed and that it would not be the best use of resources to replace it. She asked if resident feedback has been received on the potential removal.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the neighborhood has enjoyed the boardwalk and the swing that existed. He noted that there were numerous issues with vandalism of the swing. He stated that staff had put trail closed signs at the entrance to the boardwalk because of the poor condition and those would often be removed and thrown into the wetland.

Motion by Commissioner Loss, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to recommend to the City Council the removal of the boardwalk without replacement.

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

5.02: Recap of 2022 Recreation Programming

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided a brief update on the winter skating season, noting the decline in use of the Ramsey Elementary skating rink. He commented that they have not had enough staff for the warming house there and therefore the warming house is not typically open during the weekdays.

Recreation Specialist Martinez-Flynn provided an overview of the 2022 recreation programming including different events and new programs. She provided details on program fees and highlighted some new events proposed to occur in 2023.

Chair Bennett commended staff for the great slate of offerings in 2022, noting that impressive list that has been created. He stated that he also likes the concepts and ideas for 2023. He applauded staff for the great work.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that staff was able to secure \$3,300 in funding for the giant waterslide from a Ramsey business. He stated that the upcoming snowshoe program has been filled to capacity, which is a first.

Chair Bennett asked if most of the program offerings from 2022 will continue into 2023.

Recreation Specialist Martinez-Flynn confirmed that as long as there was good participation and feedback, the programs would continue to be offered.

Commissioner Leistico commented that she believes residents will appreciate a city-wide garage sale event.

Chair Bennett commented that coupling that event with the City recycling event is also a great idea.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

No comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.