

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on February 9, 2023, 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 Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Justin Loss

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Dean Olson

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 Sis to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes date January 12, 2023

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Disc Golf Course – a Proposed 2023 Capital Improvement Plan Project

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information on the Capital Improvement Plan and the previous request from residents for a disc golf course, which had been added as a potential CIP project for 2023. He stated that staff reviewed the locations of existing disc golf courses and noted locations of disc golf courses in neighboring communities. He stated that because of the availability of nearby courses, staff recommends not moving forward with a disc golf course at this time noting that would also allow staff to focus on other projects.

Chair Bennett recalled the continued discussion of the Commission to ensure there is a wide variety of recreation opportunities in the community, and/or surrounding communities. He agreed that not moving forward on this project would allow additional time and effort to be spent on other higher priority projects at this time.

Commissioner Sis agreed.

Commissioner Leistico asked when this project was placed on the CIP.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the project was added in either 2021 or 2022.

Chair Bennett recognized that there has been input related to a disc golf course but noted that there has been more input and desire on other amenities. He commented that while this could come back in the future, he agreed it would not be a priority at this time.

Commissioner Loss asked if the project could be moved to a later date on the CIP rather than removing the project.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that could be moved to the placeholder section. He noted that the Commission will review the CIP later this year and can review where the disc golf course could be placed on the CIP.

Commissioner Barten agreed that they should continue to explore opportunities for different recreation amenities. He stated that he would like a mountain bike pump track personally. He commented that a disc golf course would be a different amenities and it is nice to explore similarly different ideas to provide variation in the recreation system.

Chair Bennett agreed that they continue to look at destination opportunities as that will draw residents and non-residents. He stated that because of the availability of nearby disc golf courses, he did not think they would bring a lot of attention.

Commissioner Sis stated that he would think River's Bend would be the best location for this type of amenity, which is very close to the Anoka course at Greenhaven and therefore would not seem to add a lot of value.

Consensus of the Commission was to acknowledge that staff will not be working on the proposed disc golf course at this time.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico to remove the disc golf course from the 2023 projects within the Capital Improvement Plan.

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

5.02: The Waterfront – Status of Community Building/Splash Pad Planning

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information noting that this project has been under discussion for more than a decade. He stated that they are at the point where they are going to develop more real design plans. He stated that the Commission has focused on ensuring there are recreation opportunities and amenities spaced throughout the city and this amenity would focus on a community park in the center of The COR. He presented some concepts for the community building, splash pad, and other amenities. He stated that the next steps will be to refine the concept plans, better define materials and estimated costs.

Chair Bennett commented that this would be an amazing opportunity for the City and community, as these are desired amenities. He stated that he likes the thought and planning that have gone into this thus far and is excited to see it move forward in the planning process.

Commissioner Leistico suggested that perhaps there is space available in the building for a child's birthday party.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that he would envision space available that could be rented for that purpose.

Commissioner Loss commented that the layout and renderings are amazing. He stated that the wading pool and indoor playground would provide a desired amenity for Ramsey residents and would also draw users from adjacent communities.

Commissioner Sis echoed the comments made thus far. He stated that this development within The COR has been a focus for many years. He stated that a feature like this would help to spark additional development within The COR. He looked forward to this progressing and where more information will be available on potential costs.

Chair Bennett commented that this will elevate The COR and the recreation opportunities already provided in The Draw and amphitheater, along with Municipal Plaza. He stated that this would be an amazing amenity as part of the broader strategy and is very exciting.

Commissioner Loss recognized that it would be difficult to say at this time but asked if there would be an estimated completion date.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the Public Works Committee and City Council will be presented with development costs for grading, infrastructure, and the park project. He speculated that there would be support for a good amount of the project. He stated that they will first work on developing more real costs and could then create a funding package. He provided details on a potential timeline noting that grading and plan development could occur concurrently over a one-year period and noted that construction would most likely take one additional year.

Commissioner Sis asked if there are civic groups that would have needs that could be addressed through the project, or if there would be opportunity for partnership.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that staff could reach out if desired, as could the members of the Commission if they have those connections. He recognized the contributions that the Lions have provided throughout the community, noting the most recent contributions in Central Park.

5.03: Affirm 2022 Photo Contest Winners

Recreation Specialist Martinez-Flynn provided background information on the photo contest, noting that over 100 submissions were received in 2022. She reviewed how the photos from the contest are used by the City. She reviewed the proposed winners of the contest for each category including industry and commerce, life in Ramsey, nature of Ramsey, and parks and trails.

Chair Bennett thanked everyone that submitted photos and congratulated the amazing photographers.

Motion by Commissioner Barten, seconded by Commissioner Loss, to affirm the 2022 Photo Contest Winners.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the photo contest winners will be recognized at the City Council meeting on Tuesday.

Recreation Specialist Martinez-Flynn stated that the flyers for upcoming park and recreation activities were included in the Commission packet. She provided more details on the first annual City of Ramsey Winter Celebration and the different events that will be held this Saturday.

Chair Bennett stated that on Tuesday, February 14th, the City Council will be considering an item on its agenda for the ARAA dome and site plan. He stated that ARAA has done a tremendous job in the community providing youth sports programming. He stated that this project will be unique

for the community that will provide economic benefits and youth sports programing. He stated that those supportive of the project could attend the meeting or express their support to their Council member.

Commissioner Sis stated that the City has been advertising recruitment for the Boards and Commissions and encouraged interested residents to apply.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.