

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on April 13, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico (arrived at 6:31 p.m.)
 Commissioner Justin Loss
 Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent:

Also Present: City Council Liaison Debra Musgrove
 Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood

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

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

Commissioner Leistico arrived.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes date February 9, 2023

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Initiate Playground Development for Neighborhood Park in the Riverstone South Subdivision

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood presented background information on the Riverstone South subdivision and playground concept that had been approved by the Commission. He stated that staff is now in the process of finalizing the design and ordering equipment. He recommended that the zipline be ordered as it has an eight-week delivery time and although part of the playground would in itself be a standalone item. He displayed the concept plan for the playground and highlighted different features. He noted that the items on the State contract will not need to be competitively bid and could be directly purchased.

Commissioner Sis asked if the intent would be to install the zipline prior to the other equipment.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that is the intent.

Commissioner Sis asked if the Park Dedication contribution of \$350,000 would be the total budget for the park.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the \$350,000 is available in the park trust fund today. He stated that the preliminary budget for the concept plan was approved by the Commission last fall and believed that most items would still fall within that budget.

Commissioner Sis stated that his concern would be if the totality of the developer contribution is spent on this park it would do nothing to assist with more community driven parks, such as the park proposed within The COR.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the Park Dedication contribution came from a neighborhood that does not currently have an accessible park. He stated that of the 243 homes in the development, he would anticipate the majority of the homes would have small children that would be served by the playground. He stated that when the Commission first reviewed the Riverstone South subdivision it was recommended to have identifiable trails that would connect to other areas and although that was not well received by the developer, it was provided. He believed that the budget was necessary to support the play equipment to serve the area.

Commissioner Bennett stated that the zipline is similar to a project that was funded and intended to go in at Brookside Elementary but was removed because the School District decided that it did

not meet ADA rules. He stated that he is excited to see the feature added to the parks system. He stated that the whole park is different and will be used by other members of the community outside of the neighborhood.

Chair Bennett stated that he drove through the neighborhood last weekend and noticed the sign identifying the future park location. He believed that the residents would be very excited about these amenities and supported getting started. He asked the timeline for buildout of the park.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he is finalizing the RFP and reviewed the timeline going forward. He anticipated that a few items may be backordered and may not be installed right away. He stated that timing would be dependent on the contractor bids received. He stated that staff brought this recommendation forward to get started with the zipline as the timeline for the rest of the equipment would most likely be a few months out after bid approval.

Commissioner Olson commented that when the Commission toured the property, he liked the old growth forest that will be preserved. He commented that this will be a unique park and will serve as an amenity for those residents south of Highway 10.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there would be fencing or delineation between the zipline and area being constructed.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that during construction the entire area may have a safety fence to prevent children from entering that area where construction is occurring. He noted that until construction begins, children would be free to play in that area.

Motion by Commissioner Barten, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to recommend to City Council a not to exceed amount of \$29,000 for the zip line for the neighborhood park in Riverstone South.

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

5.02: Consider Park and Recreation 2023 Outdoor Meeting Schedule

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that for the past three decades the Commission has conducted its summer meetings at different parks to review the condition in order to make recommendations for improvements and to meet residents in the parks. He provided some suggestions for meeting locations.

Chair Bennett commented that he enjoys holding the meetings in the park where they are able to see people using the parks and check out some of the projects that have been completed or discuss proposed projects. He agreed with the four locations proposed by staff.

Commissioner Loss asked the timing for the replacement of the parking lot at Central Park.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that is scheduled for late summer and would most likely be completed in September.

Commissioner Olson agreed that he would like to continue to meet in the parks.

Commissioner Loss asked if there were any thoughts on future park projects for 2024 or 2025.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that there are two parks scheduled for playground replacement which will use a large amount of the budget and may already need to be spread between 2023 and 2024.

Commissioner Sis asked for an update on the tree carving progress.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the Council will be discussing public art at the April 25th worksession at which time they will discuss that project. He noted that if that is approved in concept by the Council at that time, he would proceed with bringing forward a request to order the project.

Chair Bennett confirmed that Riverstone was proposed for September.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the Commission had not visited Riversbend for a year or two and noted the proposed improvement for the shelter, which could be a good location for a meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Loss, to approve the outdoor meeting schedule as follows: May at Alpine, June at Solstice, July at The Draw, August at Riversbend and September at Riverstone South.

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

5.03: Nominate Chair and Vice-Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission

Commissioner Sis thanked Chair Bennett for his years of service as Chair.

Chair Bennett explained that the City Council adopted a policy to not allow someone to serve as Chair or Vice Chair for more than two consecutive years in order to provide more experience to others. He commented that he was nominated and elected as Chair in 2015 and is excited to pass this opportunity to someone else. He did not believe that Commissioner Sis would be eligible for the position of Vice Chair under that policy either.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he was unclear as to whether the policy would apply to the position of Vice Chair.

Chair Bennett thanked Commissioner Sis for serving in the Vice Chair position as well.

Park & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that after further review of the policy it appears the policy only applies to the Chair position.

Chair Bennett commented that he believes any member of the Commission would be equipped to handle the position of Chair. He asked if anyone was interested in holding one of the two positions.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Chair Bennett to designate Nathan Barten as Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission from April 2023 through March 31, 2024.

Commissioner Barten accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

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

Commissioner Barten was appointed as Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Arts, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to designate Brandon Sis as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission from April 2023 through March 31, 2024.

Commissioner Sis accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

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

Commissioner Sis was appointed as Vice Chair.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he will provide a summary of the ice-skating season at the next meeting, along with recommendations for future seasons. He provided an overview of recent events and recreational programming. He also highlighted upcoming programming and event opportunities.

Commissioner Sis stated that he has enjoyed participating in the birding bingo.

Commissioner Loss stated that he attended the recent egg hunt event and noted that his family and dog enjoyed the event. He thanked staff for continuing to come up with new events and recreation opportunities.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.