

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on May 11, 2023, at Alpine Park, 6600 Alpine Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Nathan Barten
 Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Justin Loss
 Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent:

Also Present: City Council Liaison Michael Olson
 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 Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to amend the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda moving Item 6.2 to be considered as Item 4.1.

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

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes date April 13, 2023

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Playground Replacement Policy – Considerations for Alpine Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood referenced the playground replacement policy the Commission established in 2021, with implementation beginning in 2022. He stated that in 2022 they were able to replace two playgrounds within the allotted budget. He stated that moving into 2023, Alpine Park is the next playground scheduled to be replaced and noted that Riverdale Park is also in disrepair. He stated that the goal is to direct staff to look into the process for the replacement of the Alpine Park playground. He stated that they could go through an RFP requesting a wide range of proposals for the playground to review and the process could then be further refined.

Commissioner Sis asked if any part of the playground would be salvageable or whether the entire playground would need to be replaced.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that he did not believe that the playground could be reused, but perhaps the swings would be able to remain in place.

Councilmember Olson asked for details on the playground replacement plan.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided details on the scoring system that is used to rank replacements. He explained that in 2022 they were able to fit two playground replacements into the allotted budget. He stated that Alpine Park is a community park and therefore it would not be anticipated that they would be able to fit a second park within that budget.

Commissioner Barten acknowledged that Alpine Park is next on the list, but it appears that Riverdale Park is currently in the worst condition.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that to be true.

Commissioner Loss commented that he likes the features designed for younger children and older children. He stated that if he had kids playing baseball, he would not feel comfortable having them go further away to play on features designed for older kids.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the areas could be connected, or perhaps different areas are identified for a play area for smaller children and older children.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to direct staff to move forward in the process to review options and begin the RFP process for playground replacement at Alpine Park.

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

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that staff will aim to bring the RFP back to the Commission for review and input.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided an update on the planning for the Summer Concert Series along with summer programming and recent events. He noted that the Recreation Specialist has accepted a different position and will be leaving Ramsey. He noted that in the last ten years there have been 16 different individuals trained for the position, which is a large investment to bring someone on board for a short period of time. He stated that staff will be discussing the compensation for the position with the City Council, as higher compensation could prevent this situation from continuing to occur. He stated also that staff will be providing a report to the Commission in the coming months related to the past skating season and recommendations for potentially decommissioning the skating facilities at Ramsey Elementary in the future.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.