

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on May 9, 2024, at the Solstice Park, 14770 Erkium Street NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Megan Ealain
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent: Vice Chair Brandon Sis

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Barten called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes date April 11, 2024

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Recommend Park Dedication for Haviland Fields

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that this proposed development was discussed in depth at the April meeting with the decision ultimately tabled to this meeting to allow the Commission to meet at the park location to further discuss the potential amenities. He provided an overview of the proposed mix of units for development and identified the proposed land for park dedication and area proposed for pickleball courts. He also identified the proposed trail location as well as area intended for parking. He recapped the recommendation for trail fees and park dedication.

Chair Barten stated that he counted at least 20 additional spaces of on-street parking available currently, which seems to be more than enough.

Commissioner Bennett commented that he had the same observation, and the on-street parking does not seem to be a long walk. He stated that the only confusion is that if you Google the park location, it will bring you to the cul-de-sac. He noted that most of the park users will come on foot.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that when staff adds the pickleball court amenity to the website and park map, the City could include parking opportunities to provide that clarity to residents and park users.

Commissioner Leistico asked if the trail would be extended to make it evident that the courts are part of the park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that they would orient the gates on the north and south side of the courts, with trail connections on both sides to make it clear the courts are for both residents of that development and for general park users.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there would also be parking on the streets near the twin homes or whether that would be private parking.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that those would be private streets with private parking.

Commissioner Bennett commented that while parking was a concern at the last meeting, after seeing what is available on street, he is no longer concerned with the availability of parking.

Chair Barten summarized comments provided from Commissioner Sis in email, as he was unable to attend. He provided comments again on his concern that park users could be confused as to

whether the courts are part of the park and that parking be more adjacent to the courts/park but overall supported the recommendation of staff.

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, to recommend to City Council that Park Dedication for Haviland Fields be a combination of land dedication and cash, with credit for park improvements constructed, and that Trail Fees consist of a cash payment of \$1,500 per residential dwelling unit (the 2024 rate).

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

5.02: Consider Alpine Park for a Municipal Sand and Fill Stockpile Location

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information on road and other projects, explaining how some of that material is reused in other projects. He stated that staff has looked for alternative locations for storage and Alpine Park was identified as an option. He stated that the specific location would be in the undeveloped area near the sledding hill where the loose material could be placed and then trucked in and out.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there were any safety concerns or concerns with potential dumping.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that staff is not concerned with dumping as much as staff is there quite often picking up trash. He did think children would be attracted to the area with bicycles.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she is not thrilled with the proximity to other developments and the truck traffic. She asked if there is an area near the public works building where there would be less activity from children.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that there is not significant available space at the public works building campus. He stated that the construction projects would be throughout the city as they go forward with road projects and ditch projects. He stated that there could be concern from residents on Garnet if contractors are backing up, which has a noise, at early or later times of day.

Commissioner Olson asked if there would be space near the water tower where the water treatment plant is being constructed.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that there will be a pond for stormwater treatment and therefore did not believe there would be sufficient space.

Commissioner Bennett commented that this is obviously not an ideal activity for the park for a multitude of reasons, but also recognized that there may not be another location available.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided additional input on the MPCA property, which could be another location but noted that the State is often not receptive to allowing things on their property.

Commissioner Bennett commented that while it is not ideal, if it is the only option, then it would seem to be okay.

Chair Barten agreed that it would seem an inappropriate use of park land, but he also could not think of an alternative.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that Traprock Park has been used in the past for wood waste, but noted that there are residential properties in proximity to that park as well. He stated that there is not a deadline for this decision and therefore this could come back.

Commissioner Bennett commented that he would prefer to have more information on possible alternatives.

Commissioner Arts asked and received confirmation that this would have a different access than the baseball fields, but would use the same access as the skate park. He stated that perhaps this would be a good topic to discuss when the Commission meets at Alpine later this summer.

Chair Barten noted the consensus that this was not a great idea and to postpone this discussion to a future meeting.

5.03: Recommend Park Dedication for Harmony Farms

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood presented an overview of the proposed development and noted that because of the existing park amenities and trails, park dedication and trail fees would be proposed to receive in the form of cash in lieu with the exception of one trail connection to the school property.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Arts, to recommend to City Council that Park Dedication be satisfied by a cash contribution, and Trail Fees the same, with credit for the trail connections to the school, for the plat known as Harmony Farms.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided a recap on recent consideration of the amenities around the proposed Waterfront area within the COR. He reported that bids were opened and the trail portion of the project and the low bid was over \$100,000 less than the estimated budget. He stated that bid will be awarded at the Council's next meeting and the project should be completed later this summer.

Recreation Coordinator Proulx provided flyers for upcoming events. She also highlighted upcoming events, activities, and programming opportunities. She also provided additional explanation on the benefit provided by partnering with other entities.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for an update in the future on the wood duck houses and then noted interest she has received on an adult broomball league.

Recreation Coordinator Proulx stated that all the houses have been installed and they will be creating a map which will identify the family or group that built the house. She stated that the intention is to continue to grow the project each year. She stated that she did look at broomball last season but did not have enough time to put together the program offering. She stated that she will look into it for the next season. She stated that she had also been thinking about an adult kickball league.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Arts, seconded by Commissioner Ealain, to adjourn the meeting.

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

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.