

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on June 13, 2024, at the River's Bend Park, 5000 142nd Lane NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Megan Ealain

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she received a request from a resident for another park bench on the other side of the playground in addition to the park bench that already exists.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda with the notation that there were no minutes to consider for approval tonight.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Park and Trail Related Project Informational Updates

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that earlier this year the Commission suggested that two playgrounds be selected for improvement this year, Alpine and River's Bend. He stated that the play structure at River's Bend was in great shape but needed refurbishment. He stated that all the decking was replaced, the play equipment was pressure washed, and the wood fiber was freshened as well.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Arts, to briefly recess the meeting to complete a ribbon cutting.

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

The meeting was recessed at 6:34 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided an update on the status of the Hollow park project, Central Park landscaping, River's Bend prairie improvements, St. Francis Boulevard trail segment, boardwalk replacement, and Waterfront improvements. He also provided an update on recent development projects including the Take5 Oil Change business and Skyline Apartments noting that those projects will contribute park dedication and trail fees.

Commissioner Arts asked for more information on the Waterfront project.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that an opportunity was brought forward to the City Council, to use the park trust fund to develop schematic designs and the Council chose not to move forward with schematic design at this time for the community building and water play area.

Commissioner Sis asked if there was a reason from the Council as to why it should not move forward.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that part of the concern was spending \$200,000 on the design seemed like a big ask. He stated that for a project of that scope and scale, the estimated cost was \$20,000,000. He stated that perhaps the schematic design could move forward for the water feature as that would have a lower cost with perhaps a design light option for the community building.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that the community center is on the 2033 CIP and therefore did not want to spend money on the design now as it may not be current when the feature is actually constructed. She believed that there was support for moving forward with the water play area, but also recognized that they did not want to construct the water play area only to shut it down shortly after for construction of the community building.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood noted that the community center was placed at the end of the CIP as a placeholder and therefore could move forward whenever the Council decides. He stated that it could be an option to complete the splashpad independent of the building, but explained that if a \$1,000,000 splashpad is being built they would most likely want to have the restrooms and concessions available rather than using plastic portable toilets. He confirmed that it would also be unpopular to shut down the water feature in order to construct the building. He commented that it may make sense to construct both amenities together rather than one before the other and noted that more discussion will come on that topic.

5.02: Consider the Replacement of River's Bend Park Shelter

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that five years ago the Commission added the River's Bend shelter replacement to its CIP. He stated that the shelter could be replaced and could include fire pits or a pizza oven to attract more rentals. He stated that staff is seeking input from the Commission on whether to proceed with design development and a cost estimate. He stated that \$100,000 was placed in the CIP as an estimate for the project.

Commissioner Sis asked if it would be foreseeable that other communities could be consulted, that have recently completed park shelter improvements, as they could provide design details and cost information.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he would follow the RFP process to obtain concepts and cost estimates from architectural firms. He stated that he would also like to consider a full-service restroom somewhere in the park, noting that there would be an opportunity to tap into the watermain from the City of Anoka that exists on that side of the park.

Commissioner Sis asked how flooding has been in recent years.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the entire parkway floods to the point where the parkway is closed off. He commented that the elevation of the shelter flood would be raised to assist in placing that at a higher elevation. He confirmed that there would be a few days per year when that shelter would not be available for rental because of flooding.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she received input from a resident related to the roof of a gazebo off 142nd.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that project is on the list for replacement and provided an update on the status of design development. He noted that will most likely go forward to the Public Works Committee as that is a maintenance item.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Olson to acknowledge that staff would put the replacement of the south shelter at River's Bend Park into the work plan for design development.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: June Recreation Updates

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commended the Recreation Coordinator for the excellent work she does to provide a wide array of programs and offerings for residents of all ages and highlighted some upcoming events and activities.

Commissioner Bennett thanked the parks staff. He commented that his family recently rented The Draw for a graduation party and the parks staff were able to put out picnic tables for the event, even though they typically would not be added for the summer series until the following week. He stated that his family received a lot of positive feedback about the park and wanted to share that with staff and the Commission.

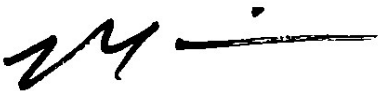
7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.