

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on June 12, 2025, in the Lake Itasca Room at The City Hall, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Megan Ealain
 Vice Chair Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Garth Anderson
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Dean Olson
 Commissioner Brandon Sis

Commission Members Absent:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ealain called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:38 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 Ealain; Commissioners Barten, Sis, Anderson, Arts, Bennett, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sis noted that he was not at the meeting and should be listed as absent.

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 8, 2025

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: The Waterfront – Water-Play and Eastern Park Development Process

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood presented background information on the concept planning for The Waterfront and the progress that has been made in the past few years. He stated that residents are excited about the park and water play feature planned and have voiced support for the project. He stated that the City Council has taken action based on that support and recently authorized the work plan for the water play. He stated that tonight the Commission is asked to approve the same plan.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided additional information on the seven community parks and features throughout the parks system, which are geographically placed around the community. He noted that The Waterfront is a community park that is meant for all residents, not just those within The COR area. He recognized the cost for the water play area and the community building, noting that because of that cost, they would plan to move forward with the water play area first and follow in a later stage with the community building. He estimated a 13-month schedule, which, although aggressive, would allow for a grand opening of July 1, 2026, for the water play. He noted that the design team has begun to meet biweekly on this project and highlighted some of the details they will be working out during that planning process. He stated that the bid documents should be prepared this winter, and the bid can include liquidated damages to ensure the project is completed prior to the July 1st deadline. He hoped that the Commission could begin to review some recommendations at the July meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to recommend City Council approval \$268,900 from the Park Trust Fund for the next steps on the Waterfront project.

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

Councilmember Buscher provided additional input on the information presented to the Council on this project and different elements that could potentially be added to the project, such as a wading pool. She asked that staff speak to the Council sooner rather than later, related to the community building. She noted that she has received comments in support of higher taxes in return for a community center, but realized those positions may change. She realized that the community building would not meet the same aggressive timeline as the water play, but perhaps could move forward faster than anticipated. She stated that she was not tied to the July 1st deadline and would prefer to make sure the project is completed correctly.

Commissioner Bennett commented that the phased approach could provide benefit. He noted that if the water play is opened and successful, that could bring pressure to move forward with the community building. He also noted the broader benefit to the local businesses that is created when people come from outside the community to local features.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided additional information on similar facilities in other communities that benefit from public/private partnerships between cities and companies that can assist in operating the facility. He noted additional opportunities that may be available for the City to partner with other local businesses, such as the Hilton, to provide community hours.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: May Recreation Program Update

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the report provides links and information on the recreational programming. He noted a grant received for \$84,000 from the Metropolitan Council for emerald ash borer replanting. He stated that at the July meeting, he will provide the Commission with additional information on the grant the City received for The Waterfront.

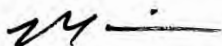
7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.