

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on September 11, 2025, at River's Bend Park, South Shelter, 5000 142nd Lane NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Megan Ealain
 Commissioner Garth Anderson
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Dean Olson
 Commissioner Brandon Sis

Commission Members Absent: Vice Chair Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Shane Bennett

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ealain called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 14, 2025

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: River's Bend Park Shelter Replacement – Issue Request for Proposal

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information on the idea to replace the shelter. He stated that the idea is to replace it with a modern shelter with a flagstone floor, a fireplace with a pizza oven, a dino dig, and a hand pump for water. He estimated a cost of under \$130,000.

Commissioner Anderson referenced flooding that previously occurred at this park. He asked if the new materials would be flood-resistant.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that the materials that could be prone to flooding would be designed to accommodate that, and the other elements would be built up at a higher elevation.

Councilmember Buscher agreed that this sounds like a good idea.

Commissioner Sis asked how they would publicize this new opportunity.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented on the different marketing they would use, but also believed that word of mouth would do a sufficient job of advertising as well.

Commissioner Olson commented that he likes the addition of the water for washing and pets.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Arts, to proceed with issuing an RFP for the replacement of the south shelter at River's Bend Park as discussed.

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

5.02: Recommend 2026 Park Development Fees

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that each year the Commission makes a recommendation to the City Council related to Park Dedication fees. He provided background information on development fees in general as well as Park Dedication fees. He stated that Park Dedication fees were recommended to be raised in 2023, and staff does not recommend any additional increases at this time.

Commissioner Sis agreed that it would be reasonable to leave the fees as is at this time.

Councilmember Buscher asked if there is a comparison to other communities.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that the comparison is done, but explained that should not be the sole factor, as there must be a link between the Park Dedication fees and the funding required for park elements of the Capital Improvement Plan for the City.

Councilmember Buscher asked if the fees should increase given The Waterfront project and the anticipated community center.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that The Waterfront improvements are being funded through the Park Trust Fund, which was funded almost solely by Park Dedication fees. He commented that the community center is beyond the scope of parks and trails proper and could not be solely funded through Park Dedication.

Commissioner Olson recalled that this item was thoroughly reviewed and discussed a few years ago when the increase was recommended.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to recommend no change to the Park Dedication or Trail Fees for 2026, as represented in the 2025 schedule of development fees.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: The Waterfront; Water Play Project Progress Report

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the written progress report was provided within the packet and provided a brief overview.

Commissioner Sis noted that this will be his last meeting and commented that it has been a great nine years on the Commission as he is moving to Anoka.

The Commission thanked him for his service.

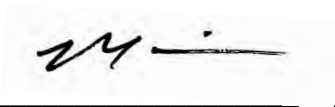
7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.